CITY OF VENTURA

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Lorrie Brown, Councilmember District 6
Cheryl Heitmann, Councilmember At-Large
Erik Nasarenko, Councilmember District 4
Barry Fisher, Deputy City Manager

REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2019, 5:30 P.M.
VENTURA CITY HALL, 501 POLI STREET, VENTURA
CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM

The public has the opportunity to address the Legislative Committee on any item appearing on the agenda. Persons wishing to address the Committee should fill out a “Speaker Form.” If a member of the public wishes to comment on an item and does not want to speak before the Committee, the person may complete a “Comment Form.” The Chairperson will acknowledge comments for the record.

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. **Select a Chairperson & Vice Chairperson**

   **ACTION:** Select a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from the Legislative Committee.

2. **Legislative Process**

   Discuss the California League of Cities current legislative process.

3. **Previous Legislative Committee Structure**

   **RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Receive and file previous Legislative Committee Structure.
4. **Legislative Platform vs. League of Cities**

   RECOMMENDED ACTION: Direct staff to develop a draft legislative platform. Continue to use League of California legislative services.

5. **Gun Shows at Ventura County Fairgrounds**

   Discuss gun shows at Ventura County Fairgrounds.

6. **Schedule Next Meeting Date**

   RECOMMENDED ACTION: Schedule the next Legislative Committee meeting(s) if needed.

**COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Staff Reports relating to agenda items are available in the City Manager’s Office Room 205, 501 Poli Street, Ventura, during normal business hours and on the City’s website: www.cityofventura.ca.gov. Materials related to an agenda item submitted to the Legislative Committee after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public review in the City Manager’s Office. This agenda was posted on Thursday, July 18, 2019, on the City website and on the City Hall Public Notices Board.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the staff at 805-654-7740 or the California Relay Service at 866-735-2929. Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.
To: The Mayor and City Council

From: Council Member Neal Andrews, Chair of the Legislative Committee, Council Member Brian Brennan, Member of the Legislative Committee, Council Member Carl Morehouse, Member of the Legislative Committee

Subject: Ratification of the City of Ventura’s Key Priorities and Legislative Platform

RECOMMENDATION:

a. Adopt the City of Ventura’s Key Priorities: 6 Key Public Safety and Core Services Funding Priorities and 4 Key Policy Priorities as recommended from the Legislative committee
b. Adopt the Legislative Proposal as the Legislative Platform for the City of Ventura

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION

On October 17, 2011, the City Council directed staff to adopt a resolution for the creation of a City Council Standing Legislative Committee for the purpose of creating a Legislative Platform for City Council approval and to review the need for contracts for legislative advocacy efforts and other relevant legislative concerns. On November 14th, 2011 the resolution was adopted and Council Members Brian Brennan, Carl Morehouse, and Neal Andrews volunteered to serve on the Legislative Committee.

The Committee met three times in a public forum during which information was distributed, collected and synthesized to format a platform with goals for legislative action. Members of the public, the Ventura Chamber of Commerce and City Staff participated in the discussion. Resulting decisions were to refer to council the Key Priorities as previously stated for discussion, ratification and subsequent action.

DISCUSSION

In an attempt to focus and bolster the City of Ventura’s efforts at the State and Federal levels, former Mayor Bill Fulton established the Legislative Committee with consent from the City Council. During meetings on December 15th, January 10th, and April 10th, potential priorities were discussed for action and future achievement. It was acknowledged that both a long-range vision must be sought in addition to short-term initiatives. Through discussion and consideration of the needs and desires of the City of Ventura, four policy and six
funding priorities were created to become the City of Ventura’s Key Priorities. After reviewing the needs and concerns of the City of Ventura, a general legislative platform was created to best reflect a more general stance of the city on issues for future reference and guidance. This platform was formed from the example seen in other cities in addition to the principles that guide the League of California cities with amendments to better reflect the views and goals of the City of Ventura.

6 Public Safety and Core Services Funding Priorities:

1. **Waste Water** is a major duty and responsibility of our city that presents unique challenges impacted by state and federal legislation and regional regulation. These projects are vast and thus need substantial capital to complete with continued service.

2. **Storm Water** is a major duty and responsibility of our city that presents unique challenges impacted by state and federal legislation and regional regulation. Storm water is an issue that all cities must confront but has few direct customer or normalized correlation that can provide for its upkeep. These projects are vast and thus need substantial capital to complete and sustain.

3. **101 Freeway Capping project:** This project is anticipated to take place over many years to come and contribute much to our city in terms of economic vitality, and physical enhancement. It will need support from different agencies, both public and private.

4. **West Side Recreational Facilities and Pool:** The West Side’s desire for facilities, most popularly in the form of a pool, represents an investment in the life and vitality of our citizens. The committee sees this as a pressing priority that could benefit much of our city. The economic and environmental factors continue to provide challenges to this project, which has been in beginning stages for many cycles but continues to be a goal for many in the community.

5. **Gateway Project:** In response to the issue of vagrancy and the plight of those who reside in Ventura, the Gateway project has been envisioned to help those transient individuals receive assistance and become self-sustaining once again.

6. **Public Safety Staff:** Ventura has been especially affected by the economic recession in that while we have been forced to make cuts to our staff, the needs and concerns of the population grow. Ventura faces the largest crime rate in the county per person and important safety concerns continue to be a prevalent force that demands attention.

4 Key Policy Priorities:

1. **State Pension Reform including Public Safety:** The desire for pension reform comes in response to the reduced economic prosperity of both the state and city. Pensions represent an unsustainable portion of the budget if we wish to continue providing adequate services that are necessary for civic and municipal function. We need reform that will keep the commitments to those that serve while working toward a better model. A holistic approach to pension reform is required which means including all departments and employees in the approach.
2 State and National Economic Development Tools-Investment and Municipal Bond Insurance: In order to secure projects that will bring stability and function to our city and wider society, the city has lead the charge at the state and federal levels and has gained traction to stabilize the question of security for Municipal investments. With the loss of redevelopment new tools will be requested and necessary so that cities including Ventura will be able to meet their needs and find new ways to grow and thrive.

3 Ratification of the Comprehensive Transportation Bill: For decades the Comprehensive Transportation plan has been a goal of local governing agencies and this would contribute to a cohesive plan for development and structure for the city, county and nation. By urging legislators to pass a Comprehensive Transportation bill, we can further proceed with our plans and accurately project a plan to meet the needs of our citizens and the needs of the future of our nation state and county. The completion of this plan has been delayed for years due to various hindrances.

4 Redevelopment transition: In response to actions in the State Legislature and the State Supreme Court, current law dictates that redevelopment agencies must transition in anticipation of the Governor’s and Legislature’s decision to dissolve these institutions. Redevelopment provides aid to cities to redevelop struggling regions through public private partnerships to counter blight in communities. Bills such as AB 1685 have been introduced and begun their travels through the state legislature. Supporting these bills and similar measures would help us cope with the transition and evolution away from redevelopment.

These policy goals represent the issues that we feel are the most pressing for the city to address. They also represent actions that have been previously discussed by the council or concerns that have previously been identified.

Legislative Proposal:
The Legislative Proposal was constructed to reflect the needs and desires of the City of Ventura to maintain and improve its services and abilities. The proposal is divided into twelve sections (General Government, Local Control, Local Budget Community Development, Energy, Health and Family, immigration, Military Bases, Public Safety, Public Works, Telecommunications and Water) and is subsequently detailed with support and opposition stances for clarification and specification. The proposal was constructed out of guidelines provided and supported by the League of California cities. After viewing what other cities such as Oxnard, Santa Barbara and Monterey have done the overall format was created to gain substance and versatility. -See Attachment
FISCAL IMPACTS
Existing staff and resources in the City Manager's Office will support the Legislative Committee. Ratification of the Top Financial and Policy goals will not result in additional costs directly. Funds may be sought that could potentially bring revenue or funds to the city for purposes specific or germane to the task at hand.

ALTERNATIVES
- Amend the proposed City of Ventura Key Priorities and adopt the Amended list.
- Amend the Legislative Platform and adopt.
- If the City Council wishes to receive additional information, this item may be referred back to staff.

Prepared by Alex De Arana-Lemich, Administrative Aide

For

Council Member Neal Andrews
Chair of the Legislative Committee

Council Member Brian Brennan
Member of the Legislative Committee

Council Member Carl Morehouse
Member of the Legislative Committee
City of Ventura’s Key Priorities

6 Public Safety and Core Services Funding Priorities

- Waste Water: maintenance, expansion and improvement
- Construction of the 101 Freeway Cap
- Gateway Project: Planning and Construction
- West Side Recreation Facilities and Pool
- Storm Water: maintenance, expansion and improvement
- Public Safety Staffing

4 Key Policy Priorities

- State Pension Reform including Public Safety
- State and National Economic Development Tools-Investment and Municipal Bond Insurance
- Comprehensive Transportation Bill ratification
- Redevelopment Reasonable Transition and phase out
Ventura City Legislative Platform

General Government
1. Oppose legislation that diminishes local authority to regulate public right-of-way.*
2. Support legislation and programs that maintains or enhances funding for the Ventura School District's school safety and intervention and prevention programs.
3. Support alliances with counties, schools, other cities, employee organizations, other local agencies, business and professional organizations to support cooperation and joint action.

Local Control
1. Oppose legislation that mandates changes that interrupt the City's operations, services to the community, or impairs or weakens its infrastructure.*
2. Support legislation that requires the state and federal governments to provide full reimbursement for costs to cities for all programs that are required and/or result in revenue loss to cities.
3. Support legislation that will protect the ability of cities to recover the costs for mandated programs.*
4. Advocate for legislation that enhances the ability of City Council members and officials to execute local authority and control of resources and tools that address the needs of the City residents.
5. Oppose legislation and regulation that limits or interferes with City Council or local authority over local municipal affairs.*
6. Oppose legislation that eliminates or restricts the taxing authority of cities over development; weakens existing Government Code section 66000 fee authority; or redefines any development tax, condition, or other monetary change as development fees.*
7. Support regulatory processes that are not a one size fits all approach and maintain flexibility for the City to determine the best means of achieving different regulatory goals.*

Local Budget
1. Advocate for state and federal funding supporting City infrastructure projects and City programs.*
2. Support reforming the local government finance structure in a way that establishes long-term financial stability to assure future growth and provide needed public facilities and services.
3. Support discretionary revenue sources to cities over directed and limited sources.*
4. Advocate for fair implementation and distribution of state infrastructure bond funds to assure the City has access to receiving an adequate share for local improvements and programs.*
5. Oppose legislation that would negatively impact the City's financial well being by adding unfunded mandates that would cause financial burden.*
6. Oppose legislation that reduces the City's revenue base or that would limit its ability in receiving it.
7. Support legislation that provides financial assistance for local public libraries without the imposition of new taxes to upgrade, remodel, improve service and build new and existing libraries.*
8. Oppose legislation that reduces funding for libraries, including public library funds.*
9. Support state and federal funding and legislation for the development of the arts that benefits local communities.*
10. Monitor and pursue funding opportunities based on project status and need or potential benefit to the City of Ventura.
11. Support legislation that would expand use of tax credits and other financial resources for historic preservation.*

Community Development
Redevelopment/Economic Development
1. Oppose legislation that cuts state or federal grant funding for existing programs and services, e.g., Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).
2. Support legislation that would assist in transition from redevelopment and establish new tools for economic development.
3. Support actions that fully fund CDBG as a direct allocation to cities, with the broad objective of helping low and moderate-income people.

Affordable Housing
1. Support legislation that would provide financial support and incentives for programs that provide affordable housing for disabled and low-income residents, families, and senior adults.*
2. Support state and federal programs and funding to reduce and eliminate homelessness, including funding for supportive services in permanent housing.*
3. Support legislation that would protect and maintain existing affordable housing for disabled and low-income residents, families, and senior adults.*

Land Use Planning
1. Support legislation that utilizes existing infrastructure to meet the needs of citizens through retrofitting and upgrades.
2. Support legislation that would provide for shared land use determinations among counties and cities when the general plan of the city establishes a planning area consistent with Government Code provisions.
3. Support efforts that are consistent with the local exercise of police powers, through planning and zoning processes, over local land use.**
Energy

1. Support legislation that develops regulatory and market mechanisms that ensure the State achieves the greatest level of energy self-sufficiency and security as soon as practical.
2. Support legislation that establishes a market structure and rules that promote real competition and reasonable, justifiable prices.
3. Support legislation that aggressively pursues refunds to consumers for rates that have been determined to be unjust or unreasonable.
4. Support legislation that commits to and expedites the development of needed infrastructure (e.g. generation, transmission, and natural gas pipelines) to create robust and functional markets.
5. Support legislation that increases the diversity of the State and region’s energy resources, particularly increasing the use of higher-efficiency, clean distributed generation (e.g. combined heat and power) and renewable resources.*
6. Support legislation that encourages and incentivizes the adoption of new and emerging technologies that provide real-time pricing to promote better price response by consumers.*
7. Support legislation that promotes municipal renewable energy development.*
8. Support legislation that provides financial incentives for renewable energy.
9. Support legislation that minimizes adverse environmental impacts of the State and the region’s energy use.
10. Support legislation that encourages funding programs for and promotion of alternate energy sources

Health and Family

1. Support legislation that recognizes and prevents the adverse impacts affecting the public health and welfare of its citizens, and particularly minors.*
2. Support the provision of reasonable tax incentives for employers who offer child care services.
3. Support funding for the construction, renovation and/or maintenance of child care facilities.
4. Support legislation and policies that promote activities and availability of resources that support and assist families to be safe, healthy and prosperous.

Immigration

1. Support state and federal assistance to local communities attempting to address the needs of migrant workers.
2. Support legislation, which recognizes the difficult problems associated with recent legal and illegal immigrants to the United States, and that assist local communities in finding solutions to these problems in such areas such as housing, health services, education and employment.
Military Bases
1. Support legislation that provides additional funding, support or missions to the military bases in Ventura County.

Public Safety

Enforcement
1. Support legislation that promotes the efforts of the Ventura Police Department in its role to serve and protect the community with relevance to local enforcement.
2. Support legislation that allows law enforcement to better combat gun violence through investigation, interdiction, and prevention of firearm related crimes.
3. Support legislation that allows use of state and federal public safety grants for intervention and prevention efforts to curb gang crime and youth violence.
4. Support legislation to treat and assist the needs of at-risk juvenile offenders and juveniles placed on court-ordered formal probation.
5. Support legislation that would provide cities with a greater share of fines and forfeitures.
6. Support legislation that allows use of state and federal grants for public safety maintenance efforts in addition to service increases.*
7. Support measures, which strengthen present state or federal laws to increase penalties and give local governments the power to restrict or regulate the sale, manufacture, or use of dangerous drugs.*
8. Support measures that would provide a greater share of seized assets to localities and increased discretion for local spending.*
9. Support legislation that discourages, prevents, and penalizes driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.*
10. Support legislation that enhanced local agencies ability to recover costs from guilty parties for damage to public property and services in accidents involving driving under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

Crime Victims
1. Support efforts to strengthen and enforce legal protections for all individuals who are victims of crime, especially victims of family violence and sexual assault.*
2. Support legislation that provides funding for shelters, victim advocacy, trauma and crisis counseling and related services, to assist victims of violent crime, especially victims of family violence and sexual assault.
3. Oppose efforts to reduce funding for domestic violence shelters and programs.

Emergency Preparedness
1. Support legislation that provides funds and state-of-the-art technology to cities and counties to enhance Emergency Operation Centers.
2. Support efforts, strategies, and state and federal legislation that promote and fund emergency preparedness and recovery efforts for cities.

3. Support efforts to secure adequate frequencies and communications systems for multi-jurisdictional connectivity for public safety and secure the frequencies from intrusion.

4. Support an increase in Emergency Management Performance Grant funding while retaining flexibility in use of funds for emergency preparedness training, disaster events and disaster communication outreach efforts.

Public Works

Environment

1. Support measures that provide funding for community park facilities, open space, and recreation programs.

2. Support legislation and funding for energy-efficiency projects and programs for public buildings and facilities.

3. Support legislation that encourages timely action to reduce the amount of ozone depleting compounds discharged into the atmosphere.

4. Support measures, which promote the recycling/reclaiming of natural resources, including water, timber, oil, gas minerals and earth metals.

5. Support efforts for the safe and cost effective disposal of solid, hazardous and medical waste.

6. Support legislation and funding that provides for “green” facilities for LED certification.

Waste Management

1. Support legislation that promotes recycling and expands the market for recycled materials.

2. Support legislation that provides cities with financial assistance for programs that provide safe disposal of solid, hazardous, and special waste.

3. Support legislation that strengthens the city’s ability to direct municipal solid waste flow to designated solid waste facilities.

4. Support legislation that streamlines AB 939 tracking and reporting requirements.

5. Support legislation that encourages the innovative use of biosolids for regional beneficial uses, including, but not limited to, alternative daily cover for landfills and soil amendments.

6. Support legislation and regulation that would make low-interest loans and/or grants available to local agencies for programs that encourage the recycling/reclaiming of resources.

7. Oppose legislation that would restrict or limit the City Council’s authority to franchise refuse and recycling collection services, or to direct municipal solid waste flow, or to contractually require haulers to guarantee achievement of AB 939 goals.
Transportation Needs
1. Advocate for state and federal transportation funding to construct critical transportation projects in the City of Ventura.
2. Support increased funding to enhance existing public transportation programs.
3. Advocate for state and federal funding for street, road, and alleyway repair within the City of Ventura.
4. Advocate for state and federal funding for Transit Oriented Development (TOD) projects that support the goals of SB 375 (Steinberg).^ 
5. Advocate that fundamental responsibility for transportation decision making should be at the local level.*
6. Oppose any state or federal reductions to existing transportation grants and programs, including Americans with Disabilities Act funding.
7. Oppose legislation that limits and/or decreases the existing amount of retention proceeds withheld from any payment by a public entity to a contractor on a public project.

Telecommunications
1. Oppose legislation that negatively impacts the City Council's authority to manage and control the public right-of-way and for the City to receive compensation for its use.
2. Oppose legislation that diminishes or eliminates the collection of local franchise fees or diverts its collection by the federal or state governments.
3. Oppose legislation that authorizes "redlining" or "cherry picking" and precludes equal access to affordable cable television, Internet and digital services.

Water
1. Support legislation and funding to clean up contaminated soil and/or polluted water wherever found, including but not limited to, surface water, ground water, estuaries, or near shore ocean areas.*
2. Support legislation and funding to abate sources of soil and/or water pollution wherever found, including septic systems, leaking underground fuel tanks, and agricultural and residential applications of fertilizers and pesticides.*
3. Support legislation and funding to develop recycled water as an alternate water source, including treatment, storage, and distribution.
4. Support legislation and funding to develop brackish groundwater.*
5. Support legislation and funding to manage groundwater and surface water salinity.*
6. Support legislation and funding that encourages innovative and cooperative water resources projects that will be of regional benefit.
7. Support legislation that provides a mechanism to fund the construction, operations, maintenance, and administration of storm water programs.
and projects that improve quality, minimize runoff, maximize infiltration and beneficial uses, maximize flooding protection, and minimizes negative environmental impacts, and exempt fees and charges supporting these programs and projects from Proposition 218 restrictions.*

8. Support legislation that encourages the development of consistent statewide water quality policies for the development and implementation of standards for impaired water bodies (303(d) listed), including Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) allocations, National Pollutant Elimination System (NPDES) permits, and monitoring programs.*

9. Support legislation that establishes a fee-sharing program for general storm water permits issued by the State Water Resources Control Board.

10. Advocate for amendments to the existing California Water Code to support local collection and discharge of groundwater.

11. Oppose legislation that would establish drinking water quality standards or treated water quality discharge standards without sound scientific basis.

12. Support regulatory processes that are not a one size fits all approach to maintain flexibility for the City to determine the best means of achieving conservation mandates.*
* are points that were taken or influenced by the League of California Cities and National League of Cities

^ are points that were influenced by other cities' examples. Mostly from the City of Oxnard, Santa Barbara and Monterey.
January 16, 2019

Ventura County Fairgrounds Board
ATTN: President Leslie Cornejo
10 W. Harbor Blvd.
Ventura, CA 93001

Dear President Cornejo:

I am writing today on behalf of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, who on December 4, 2018, took action to support a recommendation requesting the Ventura County Fairgrounds Board of Directors cease contracting for new gun shows at the Fairgrounds. Additionally, we are supportive of both legal and legislative efforts the Fairgrounds Board may pursue to necessitate this cessation.

Unfortunately, the United States has seen more gun violence per person than virtually every other modern industrialized country in the world. The tragic shooting in Thousand Oaks on November 7th that resulted in the deaths of 12 innocent people occurred just weeks before your Board voted to contract for two new gun shows in 2019. The Board is supportive of your efforts to pursue other types of revenue-enhancing events at the Fairgrounds.

We, as the elected representatives of the people of Ventura County, respectfully request your Board cease contracting for additional gun shows at the Ventura County Fairgrounds and pursue any necessary legal or legislative remedies to accomplish such action.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (805) 654-2703 or steve.bennett@ventura.org.

Sincerely,

Steve Bennett, Chair
Board of Supervisors

c: Governor Gavin Newsom
Ventura County State Delegation
City Managers, Ventura County Cities
June 18, 2019

Christine Vana  
Staff Counsel  
California Department of Food & Agriculture  
1220 N Street, Suite 315  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Vana

I am the Police Chief of the City of Ventura Police Department. I have served as a member of the Ventura Police Department since 1986. During my tenure, I have served in a variety of assignments including the investigation and/or oversight of violent crime investigations and criminal gang investigations.

The proliferation of gun violence is of grave concern to me. Over my career, I believe our state legislators have been proactive in enacting laws that serve as protective measures to reduce gun violence. These measures include; background checks, waiting periods, prohibiting firearm ownership/purchases of prohibited persons, and most recently gun violence restraining orders.

These measures have proven practical and effective in minimizing the problems associated with violent criminal acts resulting from the lawful and regulated sale of firearms in venues such as “gun shows” at events held at the Ventura County Fairgrounds. In my research and recollection over my years of service, I cannot identify any act of violence that was perpetrated using a firearm that was known or suspected to have been purchased at a “gun show” at the Ventura County Fairgrounds.

Over the years, Ventura Police Department has worked with other law enforcement agencies, including the California State Department of Justice Firearms Division, to inspect and monitor “gun show” operations at the Ventura County Fairgrounds. We will continue this effort in the future as well as provide any further assistance requested by the Fairgrounds management to ensure a safe and legally compliant event.

Respectfully,

Ken Corney  
Chief of Police