



## SCA Public Issues Committee

### MINUTES

October 14, 2020 – 7:00 PM

TELEPHONIC

#### 1. Welcome and Roll Call

PIC Chair Councilmember Christie Malchow, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. 31 cities had representation ([Attachment A](#)).

Guests present:

Councilmember Corina Pfeil, Kenmore (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Vanessa Kritzer, Redmond (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Tamie Deady, Black Diamond (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Jeremy Barksdale, Bellevue (PIC Alternate); Councilmember; James Jeyaraj, Auburn (PIC Alternate); Councilmember Amy Falcone, Kirkland; Diana Hart, Woodinville staff; Doug Levy, Renton consultant; Beth Mountsier, Bellevue Staff; Joyce Nichols, Bellevue staff; Tom Goff, King County staff; Jenny Huston, King County staff; Kelsey Beck, Seattle staff; Sariga Santhosh, Seattle staff; Angela San Filippo, South King Housing and Homelessness Partners (SKHHP); Briahna Murray, Gordon Thomas Honeywell.

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry provided an overview of how the meeting would be facilitated using Zoom Webinar. He noted that any discussion in the chat logs would be maintained for public records purposes and included in the PIC minutes ([Attachment B](#)).

#### 2. Public Comment

Chair Malchow asked if there was anyone in attendance who would like to provide public comment. Hearing none, Chair Malchow closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

#### 3. Approval of the September 9, 2020 PIC Minutes

Chair Malchow asked if there were any amendments to the September 9, 2020 PIC minutes. **Vice Chair Bill Boyce, Kent, moved, seconded by Councilmember Ross Loudanback, North Bend, to approve the September 9, 2020 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### 4. Chair's Report

Chair Malchow reported on a recent meeting between SCA leadership and King County Executive Dow Constantine. Among the topics discussed were a proposed study of equipping King County Sheriff's Deputies with body cameras; the recent increase in COVID-19 cases in King County and efforts to communicate the need to continue to avoid large gatherings to the public; service levels currently being operated by Metro, and prioritization of service where it is needed most.

#### 5. Executive Director's Report

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson updated members on COVID-19 levels in King County, noting that due to new cases, King County COVID-19 levels now rank as “high.” Dawson noted that SCA has been and will continue hosting calls with King County Public Health and the Governor’s Office to keep SCA members updated on the COVID-19 crisis. The next call with the Governor’s Office will be held on October 20, 2020. Starting in November, briefings with King County Public Health will be held on the first and third Tuesday mornings, with a call with the Governor’s Office set for the second Tuesday morning. Dawson thanked members for attending SCA’s Racial Equity and Justice Series, and gave special thanks to those elected officials and staff who had helped plan the events. She noted that the recordings of each session were available on the SCA [website](#) along with supporting materials. The next forum will be held on November 13, 2020. SCA is in the process of finalizing its 2021 budget. The budget will be approved by the SCA Board in November, and brought to the SCA membership for approval at the SCA Annual Meeting on December 2, 2020, which will be held virtually. Also at the SCA Annual Meeting, members may be asked to approve an amendment to the SCA Bylaws to allow elections of SCA Board Members to be held virtually. Those elections will be held in December at a date to be determined. There will be two North seats (both held by incumbents who intend to seek reelection) and three South seats (one held by an incumbent, two open) on the ballots. Dawson reported that the PIC Nominating Committee will meet on October 22, 2020 to consider appointments for regional boards and committees for 2021. Those recommendations will be brought to PIC in November.

#### **6. Appointment of 2021 PIC Nominating Committee**

Chair Malchow said that per the SCA bylaws, the Chair of the Public Issues Committee is to appoint members to the PIC Nominating Committee each year in October. The PIC Nominating Committee includes a representative from each of the four SCA caucuses and is responsible for making recommendations to PIC on who should be appointed to serve on regional boards and committee. Chair Malchow reported that she appointed the following PIC members to the 2021 PIC Nominating Committee: Councilmember Chance LaFleur, Enumclaw, representing the South Valley Caucus; Councilmember Ross Loudonback, North Bend, representing the Snoqualmie Valley Caucus; Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, representing the North Caucus and Councilmember Traci Buxton, Des Moines, representing the South Caucus. She thanked members for being willing to serve.

#### **7. Affordable Housing Sales Tax**

SCA Policy Analyst Alexis Mercedes Rinck reported on the recent developments around HB 1590 and King County's new one-tenth of a percent sales tax which will fund the Health through Housing initiative included in the Executive's proposed biennial budget.

Rinck clarified that the Health through Housing initiative is divided into two separate pieces of legislation. The first piece of legislation that imposes the sales tax was voted on and approved 8-1 by the County Council. Notably, the County Council adopted the ordinance as an emergency in order to ensure they would meet a notification deadline with the Department of Revenue to ensure tax collection begins January 1, 2021.

Rinck reported that the opportunity cities had to impose the sales tax in their own jurisdictions is no longer available now that the County Council has officially voted to impose the tax. Before

the county council voted to impose the tax, 8 SCA cities approved the tax in their own jurisdictions since the County did not after before their right of first refusal which ended on September 30, 2020.

Rinck explained that the funds from the county's imposing of the sales tax will go into their Health through Housing fund. The primary goal of the initiative is to house 45% of the chronic homeless population in King County, or 2,000 people currently experiencing or close to experiencing chronic homelessness, by October 2022. This would be done through bonding against the tax revenue to support acquisition of single-room settings like hotels, providing immediate services, funding operating and supportive services, and converting acquired single-room settings into permanent supportive housing.

Rinck noted that there is a need for a legislative change to use the funds for some of the described activities. She reported that when the Affordable Housing Committee was briefed on this, the King County Director of Community and Human Services, Leo Flor, noted that they intend to lobby in Olympia to allow for the purchase of buildings like hotels, since currently the legislation currently only allows for construction. Rinck explained a critical distinction that while the state law requires that funds raised through this must be used to serve people within the 0-60% Area Median Income bracket; the county ordinance limits the use of funds to serving individuals within 0-30% Area Median Income.

Rinck continued to explain that the second piece of legislation is an ordinance that directs the executive to create an "Initial Implementation Plan" for how the funds will be spent from 2022-2028. In addition to planning for the 2,000 units of housing, the Initial Implementation Plan will support the creation and operation of a mobile behavioral health intervention program as an alternative to the use of law enforcement. Lastly, the Initial Implementation Plan will specify the process to site affordable housing and behavioral health facilities. After 2028 and every eight years after that, the Executive will propose an update to the Implementation Plan.

Rinck reported that the Initial Implementation Plan ordinance has a mandatory dual referral to the Regional Policy Committee which offers an opportunity for SCA members to weigh-in on the Implementation plan. The ordinance has been referred to RPC but the next RPC meeting has yet to be scheduled. She also reported that some of the primary feedback SCA staff have heard is that cities want to be involved in decisions about how funds are spent in their jurisdictions.

Rinck concluded by stating that staff would like to hear from SCA members about their thoughts regarding the Health through Housing proposal, and any preliminary input they would like to provide on the Initial Implementation Plan.

Councilmember Traci Buxton, Des Moines, expressed that it seemed like the original intent of the HB 1590 funding was for affordable housing generally, but the intent of the county's initiative is to direct all the dollars to homeless housing. She also asked whether the county can still spend money in the jurisdictions that passed the tax.

SCA Policy Analyst Alexis Mercedes Rinck answered that nothing in the state law expressly prohibits a county from spending collected dollars in a city that adopted their own tax.

Executive Director Deanna Dawson noted that the county limited their spending to those with an AMI less than 30%, but the cities that adopted the tax can spend the dollars to serve people up to 60% AMI.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, explained that his city has a specific project of 175 units with wrap-around services with a \$2 million shortfall without any way to fund it. The city council adopted the tax to preserve their ability to fund the project, but included a provision that would instead allow the county to collect the tax if an agreement can be reached wherein the county would fund the project.

## **8. 2021 SCA Legislative Agenda**

SCA Policy Analyst Jackie Wheeler reported on the work of SCA's Legislative Committee in developing a 2021 SCA legislative agenda and requested input from PIC members on potential priorities for consideration as well as insight on where cities are in developing their own legislative priorities for the upcoming session.

Wheeler explained that the SCA Legislative Committee met again in September to continue refining the list of priorities. The committee agreed to separate out issues that would be legislative priorities and items that would be overarching legislative principles through which all priorities and legislation will be viewed as follows:

### *Draft Legislative Priorities*

- Invest in Economic Recovery
- Address the Fiscal Needs of Cities to Provide Local Services
- Address Housing Instability
- Invest in Transportation and Other Infrastructure
- Address Law Enforcement Reform
- Clarify the Open Public Meetings Act Regarding Remote Meetings

### *Draft Legislative Principles*

- Advance racial equity and social justice
- Limit state interference in local democracy
- Do not eliminate the social safety net
- Protect shared revenues
- No unfunded mandates to cities

Wheeler reminded PIC members that the SCA Legislative Agenda is typically comprised of issues that are found in common across cities' legislative agendas. The priorities currently identified are based on high-level discussions and feedback from members. Wheeler welcomed input from members on the draft legislative priorities and requested that PIC members share priorities identified by their cities to inform the work of the SCA Legislative Committee.

Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond, asked about the meaning of "limit state interference in local democracy." SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson clarified that there has been a lot of

discussion around framing of “local control” .and recognizing that city leaders are the most direct representatives of their communities. Dawson welcomed feedback from PIC members if there is a better way to frame this concept.

Mayor Leanne Guier, Pacific, said that when speaking with legislators, she is hearing there may be a push for a big capital budget to stimulate the economy through capital projects in the capital budget and less certainty on whether a transportation package will move forward this session budget. She stated that we repeatedly ask that the Public Works Trust Fund not get swept aside and it seems like there may be some traction around that this year. She stated that there may be some traction this year to see increased investment in the Public Works Trust Fund .

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson asked if any cities had adopted legislative agendas and requested that those be sent to SCA once they have.

Mayor Marianne Klaas, Clyde Hill, stated that the city’s legislative priorities include: maintain local authority, adjust the property tax cap, protect state shared revenue and avoid unfunded mandates, provide more fiscal flexibility, and remove burdensome requirements for small cities.

## **9. Emergency Management Zone Coordinators**

SCA Policy Analyst Jackie Wheeler reported on updates to an issue raised at the June PIC meeting regarding Emergency Management Zone Coordinators.

Wheeler explained that SCA cities and many special purpose districts in King County are served by two Zone Coordinators who operate under contracts administered by the county that are funded by State Homeland Security Program grants. The coordinators support cities in fulfilling emergency management responsibilities and planning required under state law and play an important role in acting as independent advocates on behalf of the cities they serve.

In May 2020, the King County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) made the decision to allow the contracts for the Zone Coordinators to expire and advertise them as King County OEM staff openings. Following feedback from concerned cities and the Emergency Management Advisory Committee (EMAC), the contracts were extended to the end of 2020 to allow time to engage with stakeholders on the process moving forward.

Wheeler stated that in September 2020, OEM requested input from EMAC members on the path forward for zone coordination in the region. In their request, OEM included the scope of work and current description of the zone coordinator positions. The consensus of the SCA representatives to EMAC, highlighted in a comment letter submitted to EMAC before their October meeting, was to recommend that the positions remain independent contract positions with opportunities for cities to participate in regular performance evaluations of the coordinators to ensure they are meeting the needs of their customers.

Wheeler reported that the letter was presented to EMAC members at the October EMAC meeting and will be brought back for future discussion at their November meeting. Wheeler clarified that while OEM did not indicate what their decision will be, the Director of OEM did emphasize that he was specifically seeking feedback on the scope of work for the Zone Coordinators and not the service model that was most concerning to SCA representatives to EMAC.

Wheeler explained that the SCA representatives to EMAC have asked PIC members to consider taking action to recommend a policy position on this issue at the November PIC meeting. The policy position would be focused on what overarching outcomes we would like to see in these positions. The caucus suggested the following:

- Retain the independent advocacy role that the zone coordinators currently hold to prioritize the needs of cities
- Provide opportunity for SCA cities to participate in the selection process of the positions
- Provide opportunity for SCA cities to participate in regular performance evaluations and ensure there is a feedback loop so that city needs are being met

**Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, moved, seconded by Mayor Marianne Klaas, Clyde Hill, to bring back to the November PIC meeting, the following policy position including any revisions proposed by staff:**

- **Retain the independent advocacy role that the zone coordinators currently hold to prioritize the needs of cities**
- **Provide opportunity for SCA cities to participate in the selection process of the positions**
- **Provide opportunity for SCA cities to participate in regular performance evaluations and ensure there is a feedback loop so that city needs are being met**

Mayor Marianne Klaas, Clyde Hill, explained that SCA representatives to EMAC have been very vocal in this discussion and continue to reiterate concerns that have been expressed multiple times to OEM. Mayor Klaas noted that she feels the Director of OEM does not seem receptive to these concerns and is still seeking to absorb those positions into the county. She expressed concern that as county staff, the zone coordinators would not truly represent SCA cities, the service they provide to cities would be diluted in other job responsibilities, and cities would not have a voice at the table when millions of dollars in grants are considered. Mayor Klaas urged PIC members to support the position of the SCA representatives to EMAC and bring this issue back in November for consideration.

Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond, expressed that she highly recommends supporting this motion. She agreed with the recommendation to add opportunities for quarterly performance evaluations to address concerns raised by cities. She emphasized the importance of supporting our smaller cities and ensuring they get the resources they need. Mayor Birney stated that supporting this as SCA will help elevate this issue to elected leadership at King County.

Councilmember Ross Loudenback, North Bend, stated that a member of his council sits on EMAC. He supports maintaining the independence of the Zone 1 and Zone 3 coordinators and supports bringing this issue back to PIC in November.

Councilmember Traci Buxton, Des Moines, stated that her emergency manager has great respect for their Zone Coordinator and that they would be disappointed in a change. She supported the motion.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, said that the City of Issaquah has already sent a letter in support of extending the contracts and is in support of bringing this issue back to PIC in November.

Councilmember Katherine Ross, Snoqualmie, noted that the City of Snoqualmie relies on their Zone Coordinator and strongly supports this issue.

Councilmember Kelli Curtis, Kirkland, stated that their emergency manager is in favor of the Zone Coordinators becoming King County positions. However, Councilmember Curtis explained that she would be voting in favor of this motion to support smaller cities.

Chair Malchow asked if there was any further discussion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

## **10. VISION 2050 Plan Update**

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported that the update to VISION 2050, the long-term plan for growth in the four county Puget Sound region encompassing King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Kitsap Counties, went before the PSRC Executive Board in late September for final recommendation. The Executive Board considered a limited set of amendments prior to recommending approval of the plan, which now goes to the PSRC General Assembly for final approval on October 29.

Parry said that as anticipated in last month's briefing to PIC, the Executive Board held a closely split vote that rejected an amendment proposed by Snohomish County to modify its growth targets from what was in the draft plan. The final vote to recommend the draft plan was approved unanimously by the Executive Board apart from Snohomish County, who abstained.

Parry said that PSRC has already begun work on some of the high-profile regional actions proposed in VISION 2050. These include initial work on a Regional Housing Strategy, which is intended to serve as a "playbook" of regional and local actions to preserve, improve, and expand housing stock in the region – with an emphasis on affordability; as well as a Regional Equity Strategy, that will include data, outreach, and tools to better understand how policies and actions impact the region's residents, especially people of color and people with low-incomes. King County has also begun work to implement VISION through updates to the Countywide Planning Policies.

## **11. Levies and Ballot Measures in King County**

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on local measures that will appear on the November general election ballot, including a bond measure for Harborview Medical Center; a fire and emergency services levy in Kirkland; a utility tax proposal in Newcastle; the Seattle Transportation District renewal; and a series of proposed amendments to the King County Charter, including a measure that will decide if the Sheriff should remain an elected position or switch to an appointed one.

## **12. Potential Upcoming SCA Issues**

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on upcoming webinars that will be hosted by SCA, including the fifth installment in SCA's Racial Equity and Justice Series on Friday, November 13, 2020, from 2:30 to 4:00 PM. The topic is the special challenges of running for office and serving as an elected official for Black, Indigenous, and persons of color. SCA will also be hosting a 2021 Washington State Legislative Preview on Friday, November 20, from 2:30 to 4:00 PM with a panel of local legislators. Past webinars, including the first four panel discussions on racial equity and justice can be found on SCA's [website](#).

## **13. Informational Items**

Chair Malchow noted that two information items were included in the PIC packet, one covering the 2021-2022 King County Budget, and another regarding the Local Hazardous Waste Program.

## **14. Upcoming Events**

- a. SCA Board Meeting – Wednesday, October 21, 2020 – 10:00 AM – noon
- b. SCA Public Issues Committee – Thursday, November 12, 2020 – 7:00 to 9:00 PM – *Note the November PIC meeting will take place on a Thursday*
- a. SCA Racial Equity and Justice Series #5 (Special Challenges of Running for Office and Serving as an Elected Official as a BIPOC) – Friday, November 13, 2020 – 2:30 to 4:00 PM
- b. SCA Networking Event – Legislative Preview – Friday, November 20, 2020 – 2:30 to 4:00 PM
- c. SCA Annual Meeting – Wednesday, December 2, 2020 – 5:30 to 7:30 PM

## **15. For the Good of the Order**

Mayor Angela Birney, Redmond, said that she appreciated the hard work SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson and the entire staff team, especially during such a difficult year.

Councilmember Tola Marts, Issaquah, said that he has a drone and a commercial drone license and offered to assist if any cities were looking for some aerial videography footage, and that it was a great hobby that could be done during COVID-19.

## **16. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

**Public Issues Committee Meeting  
October 14, 2020**

City	Representative	Alternate
Algona	Dave Hill	
<b>Auburn</b>	Nancy Backus	James Jeyaraj
Beaux Arts Village	Tom Stowe	Athena Howes
<b>Bellevue</b>	Janice Zahn	Jeremy Barksdale
<b>Black Diamond</b>	Erin Stout	Tamie Deady
<b>Bothell</b>	James McNeal	Tom Agnew
Burien	Krystal Marx	Nancy Tosta
<b>Carnation</b>	Dustin Green	Kim Lisk
<b>Clyde Hill</b>	Marianne Klaas	Kim Muromoto
<b>Covington</b>	Joseph Cimaomo, Jr.	Kristina Soltys
<b>Des Moines</b>	Traci Buxton	Anthony Martinelli
<b>Duvall</b>	Michelle Hogg	Jennifer Knaplund
<b>Enumclaw</b>	Chance LaFleur	Tony Binion
Federal Way	Martin Moore	Lydia Assefa-Dawson
Hunts Point	Joseph Sabey	N/A
<b>Issaquah</b>	Tola Marts	Barbara de Michele
<b>Kenmore</b>	David Baker	Corina Pfeil
<b>Kent</b>	Bill Boyce	Toni Troutner
<b>Kirkland</b>	Kelli Curtis	Toby Nixon
<b>Lake Forest Park</b>	Tom French	Semra Riddle
<b>Maple Valley</b>	Sean Kelly	Les Burberry
<b>Medina</b>	Jennifer Garone	Jessica Rossman
<b>Mercer Island</b>	Benson Wong	David Rosebaum
Milton	Jim Gillespie	Shanna Styron Sherrell
<b>Newcastle</b>	Linda Newing	Tony Ventrella
<b>Normandy Park</b>	Sue-Ann Hohimer	Ernest Thompson
<b>North Bend</b>	Ross Loudenback	Heather Koellen
<b>Pacific</b>	Leanne Guier	David Sporaasli
<b>Redmond</b>	Angela Birney	Vaness Kritzer
<b>Renton</b>	Ed Prince	Armondo Pavone
<b>Sammamish</b>	Christie Malchow	Kent Treen
<b>SeaTac</b>	Erin Sitterley	Pam Fernald
<b>Shoreline</b>	Chris Roberts	Will Hall
<b>Skykomish</b>	Henry Sladek	
<b>Snoqualmie</b>	Katherine Ross	Matt Larson
<b>Tukwila</b>	Kate Kruller	Verna Seal
<b>Woodinville</b>	Elaine Cook	Gary Harris
Yarrow Point	Dicker Cahill	
SCA	Deanna Dawson Brian Parry	Alexis Mercedes Rinck Leah Willoughby

Cities present at the meeting are **bolded**. Voting representatives present are highlighted.

**SCA Public Issues Committee – October 14, 2020**

**Attachment B – Zoom Chat Log**

- 19:05:10**      **From Semra Riddle, Lake Forest Park to Leah Willoughby (SCA)(Privately) :**  
Wendy is raising her hand in the Attendees area...
- 19:05:23**      **From David Rosenbaum, Mercer Island to Leah Willoughby (SCA)(Privately) :**  
Hi Leah, I missed the roll call, but Mercer island is here.
- 19:08:23**      **From Tom Agnew, Bothell to All panelists :** Tom Agnew is here from BOTHELL  
no video though