



**DATE:** September 22, 2020

**CATEGORY:** Consent

**DEPT.:** City Manager's Office

**TITLE:** **Approval of Recommendation for the League of California Cities Annual Conference Resolutions for 2020**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. Adopt recommended position regarding the League of California Cities Annual Conference Resolution for 2020.
2. Authorize the City's voting delegate/alternate to cast a vote at the League of California Cities Annual Conference to reflect the position adopted by the City Council.

### **BACKGROUND**

The League of California Cities (League) regularly presents resolutions for consideration at its Annual Conference. These resolutions are intended to help guide League policy and efforts to improve local government. They are not actions on behalf of the City of Mountain View but are reflective of the positions of the League and its member cities. Resolutions are often submitted by cities to garner policy support and, in some cases, can develop through the legislative process into State legislation or voter-enacted Constitutional Amendments. Any resulting legislation would be reviewed by staff at such time to analyze any direct impact to the City. The City's vote on League resolutions is considered to be a statement of support, belief, and/or consistency with City policy goals, and the topics of the resolutions may have varying degrees of applicability to the City of Mountain View. The League's annual resolutions process includes a review and recommendation by a policy committee, which then makes recommendations to the General Resolution Committee.

This year, one resolution has been referred to the Governance, Transparency and Labor Relations, and Public Safety policy committees, which will meet virtually on September 29, 2020 to consider the resolution. The General Resolutions Committee will meet virtually on Thursday, October 8, 2020 to consider the reports of the policy committees. Resolutions can be changed substantially through this process and the positions taken by

the Council should guide the City's voting delegate. The resolution process concludes with voting virtually at the League Annual Business Meeting on Friday, October 9, 2020.

In addition to the attached resolution, the League bylaws provide for the introduction of a petition resolution. Petition resolutions require the signature of 10 percent (48 valid signatures) of all voting delegates to be considered at the annual conference. If petition resolutions are introduced at the conference and qualify for consideration, staff can review the resolutions, in conjunction with the voting delegate, to assess their impact to Mountain View. League policy also provides procedures for resolutions approved by a League policy committee but not approved by the General Resolutions Committee. Additional information on the resolutions procedures can be found in the 2020 Annual Conference Resolution Packet on the League's website at [www.cacities.org/resolutions](http://www.cacities.org/resolutions).

## **ANALYSIS**

The resolution being considered for 2020 is:

A Resolution of the General Assembly of The League of California Cities  
Calling for An Amendment of Section 230 of the Communications Decency  
Act of 1996 to Require Social Media Companies to Remove Materials Which  
Promote Criminal Activities.

This Resolution, summarized below and described in detail in Attachment 1, states that the League of California Cities should urge Congress to amend Section 230 of the Federal Communications Decency Act of 1996 to limit the immunity provided to online platforms where their forum enables criminal activity to be promoted. Ultimately, the policy objectives proposed under this resolution, if enacted, would incentivize social media companies to establish and implement a reasonable program to identify and remove content that solicits criminal activity.

The Resolution would create Federal legislation, which the City of Mountain View would not be responsible for enforcing. As part of an overall effort to prevent online victimization, the resolution is consistent with objectives supported by the Police Department. Accordingly, staff recommends that the City Council adopt a position of support for the proposed resolution and authorize the City's voting delegate/alternate(s) to cast votes at the League Annual Conference to reflect the position adopted by the City Council.

The voting delegate/alternate may gain new information at the conference that may help inform their vote as well. As noted above, the City's vote on these resolutions represents its comments on League policy and not an action on behalf of Mountain View.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommendations for the League of California Cities Annual Conference resolution. Supporting the resolution does not commit the City to specific programs or expenditures.

**ALTERNATIVES**

The City Council may provide alternate direction to the voting delegates on the League resolution.

**PUBLIC NOTICING** – Agenda posting.

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ASR-CG/4/CAM  
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Attachment: 1. League Annual Conference Resolution Packet for 2020