

## Cozen Cities - June 29, 2023

### Gig Economy & Technology

#### DETROIT — Detroit Program Teaches Residents Tech Fundamentals, How to Find High-Paying Jobs

Durfee Innovation Society, the Detroit chapter of the national nonprofit NPower, [gives](#) participants the ability to create a dynamic new life for themselves and close the talent gap in Michigan's technology workforce.

#### LOS ANGELES — L.A. Police Have New Technology to Combat Catalytic Converter Theft

Responding to a surge of catalytic converter thefts, the Los Angeles Police Department has [unveiled](#) new technology that will make it harder for thieves to steal the valuable emission control device.

### Labor & Employment

#### CHICAGO — Alderpersons, Advocates Push for “Fair Wage” for Tipped Workers

Restaurant workers, advocates and more than 10 alderpersons [made a call](#) June 21 for the city to get rid of a sub-minimum wage for tipped workers, saying such a wage makes it hard for workers to “make ends meet” and opens them up to sexual harassment.

#### CHICAGO — FOP Demands Same 12 Weeks of Paid Parental Leave Mayor Johnson Gave Teachers

If Mayor Brandon Johnson was [willing](#) to give Chicago Public Schools employees 12 weeks of paid parental leave without demanding that it be negotiated at the bargaining table, he should do the same for police officers, according to their union president.

#### DETROIT — New UAW President Shawn Fain Issues Strongest Warning Yet About Strikes Against Three Detroit Automakers

The new president of the United Auto Workers [gave](#) his strongest warning yet Friday, June 16, that the union is preparing for strikes against Detroit's three automakers when contracts expire in September.

#### LOS ANGELES — Nearly 200 People, Including 2 L.A. Council Members, Arrested During Hotel Workers Protest for Higher Wages

Hundreds of union workers [showed up](#) in full force in downtown Los Angeles June 22 for a rally demanding an end to low wages. Another demonstration blocked traffic near the Los Angeles International Airport for several hours and led to 190 arrests, including two Los Angeles City Councilmembers, Los Angeles Police Department officials said.

#### SAN DIEGO — Mayor Gloria Signs Parental Leave Benefits Package

On June 21, Mayor Todd Gloria signed a package of resolutions, championed by City Councilmember Raul Campillo, that dramatically [expanded](#) parental leave benefits for City employees.

#### SAN DIEGO — Lack of Affordable Housing, Child Care Causing San Diego's Labor Force to Drop, Economist Says

San Diego's jobless rate [stayed](#) low in May, with job gains across almost all industries, but some labor force woes continue.



Rose Christ

Co-Chair, New York Practice, Cozen O'Connor Public Strategies

rchrist@cozen.com  
Phone: (212) 883-2248  
Fax: (646) 880-3654



John F. Dunn

Member

jdunn@cozen.com  
Phone: (312) 382-3165  
Fax: (312) 382-8910



Joseph Hill

Managing Director, Cozen O'Connor Public Strategies

jhill@cozen.com  
Phone: (215) 665-2065  
Fax: (215) 665-2013



Katie Schwab

Co-Chair, New York Practice, Cozen O'Connor Public Strategies

kschwab@cozen.com  
Phone: (212) 883-4913  
Fax: (646) 880-3652

### Related Practice Areas

- Government Relations - Cozen

## Policy & Politics

### **BALTIMORE — Baltimore City Council Passes Record-Breaking City Budget for First Time in 125 Years**

Baltimore City Council [passed](#) a record-breaking City budget for the first time in 125 years following the passing of a charter amendment allowing the body to reallocate funds from the mayor's proposed budget.

### **BOSTON — Federal Judge Won't Rule on Boston's New Redistricting Map**

U.S. District Court Judge Patti Saris, who [deemed](#) the city's old redistricting map unconstitutional, does not intend to rule on the new voting lines but advises both sides to resolve the lawsuit soon to prevent interfering with the September 12 preliminary election.

### **LOS ANGELES — L.A. City Council Member Charged With 10 Counts, Including Embezzlement, Perjury**

Prosecutors [charged](#) a Los Angeles city councilman with 10 counts, including embezzlement and perjury, Tuesday, June 13, in the latest criminal case to upend the scandal-plagued governing board of the nation's second-largest city.

### **LOS ANGELES — City Council Votes to Make L.A. a Sanctuary City**

The Los Angeles City Council [voted](#) Friday, June 9, to make LA a sanctuary city for immigrants, including prohibiting city resources from being used for any federal immigration enforcement.

### **LOS ANGELES — Mayor Bass Issues Executive Directive Four to Support Small Business Creation, Development, Growth in Los Angeles**

On June 22, Mayor Bass [signed](#) her fourth Executive Directive to urgently identify burdensome processes and fees that impede small business creation, development and growth in Los Angeles.

### **NEW YORK — Funding Cuts Threaten Services for Asylum-Seeking Kids in New York City**

The future of key programs that have [helped](#) immigrant students in New York City is at risk due to inadequate funding.

### **PHILADELPHIA — Councilmember Phillips Calls for Ski Mask Ban**

Philadelphia City Councilmember Anthony Phillips has [proposed](#) a ban on the wearing of ski masks in public as a way to make citizens feel safer and help police officers identify people who have committed a crime.

### **RICHMOND — Richmond Casino Fight Moves to Next Stage After City Council Vote**

Richmond City Council [voted](#) to add a casino referendum to the ballot this November allowing voters to decide once again if a casino will be coming to the city.

### **SAN DIEGO — Divided San Diego City Council Passes Controversial Homeless Encampment Ban**

The San Diego City Council [voted](#) 5-4 on June 13 to adopt a controversial policy to ban homeless encampments on public property after hearing hours of public testimony.

## Public Health & Safety

### **BALTIMORE — Governor Moore Announces New Vision to Address Public Safety in Maryland**

Maryland Governor Wes Moore [laid out](#) a plan addressing public safety in the state of Maryland, including an investment in law enforcement, strengthening of communities, and focus on youth through the safe summer initiative in Baltimore and the surrounding area.

### **LOS ANGELES — L.A. Metro Board Moves Forward with Plan to Create In-House Public Safety Agency**

The Board of Directors for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Agency on June 22 [voted to approve](#) a plan that would get them closer to implementing and launching an in-house safety department.

#### **LOS ANGELES — Texas Sends 42 Migrants to L.A.**

A busload of migrants [sent](#) by the state of Texas arrived in Los Angeles on Wednesday, June 14. Texas Governor Greg Abbott announced the action on social media, saying the transportation of migrants to L.A. was “much-needed relief” for the Southern border.

#### **RICHMOND — Richmond School Leaders Consider Safety, Security Following Deadly Graduation Shooting**

After a deadly shooting following a graduation ceremony, Richmond school leaders came together to [discuss](#) action that could be taken to protect students in the city and prevent another deadly shooting from happening again.

#### **Real Estate Development**

#### **BOSTON — Tighter Market: Home Sales Down, but Prices Around Boston Sky High**

Those seeking to buy in certain areas, namely [Boston](#), are facing sky-high values because of the limited number of homes on the market which is ramping up sales prices tremendously.

#### **CHICAGO — Alderperson Wants Chicago Pension Funds to Invest in Real Estate Developments**

A Northwest Side alderperson is [calling](#) for a hearing with appointed trustees from the city’s four pension funds to encourage them to explore investments in local development projects.

#### **SEATTLE — Seattle’s Cost of Living Increased 20% in Last Three Years**

Seattle’s cost of living has [increased](#) significantly faster than San Francisco, with a more than 20% climb in the Seattle metro area within the last three years. Wages in leisure, hospitality, government, and other services have yet to recover from the pandemic.

#### **Taxes & Spending**

#### **BALTIMORE — Mayor Scott Signs FY24 Baltimore City Budget**

On June 20 Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott [signed](#) the FY24 city budget that will go into effect July 1.

#### **BOSTON — Boston Mayor Wu Rejects City Council Budget Cuts to Boston Police, Veteran Departments**

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu has [rejected](#) millions of dollars in cuts put forward by the City Council in departments such as the Boston Police, Veterans Services, Boston Public Library, Public Works, Transportation, Boston Centers for Youth/Families, and the Equity and Inclusion Cabinet.

#### **CHICAGO — CPS Boosts School Budgets with Focus on Special Education, More Property Taxes**

Chicago is [boosting](#) funding for the vast majority of its public schools next fall with a particular focus on special education — and with the help of its yearly property tax increase.

#### **DETROIT — DPSCD Approves \$1.1 Billion School Budget with Hundreds of Staff Changes, Money for Buildings**

Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD) officials [approved](#) a \$1.135 billion budget for the new school year that includes about 280 personnel changes and \$235 million to fully fund \$700 million in facility projects.

#### **LOS ANGELES — LAUSD’s \$18.8 Billion Budget is Flush With COVID-19 Funds for One More Year**

The Los Angeles school board Tuesday [approved](#) an \$18.8 billion budget that includes the last major pandemic aid — government funding that will disappear in future years, putting jobs and

services to students at risk.

### **NEW YORK — To Improve Public Housing, City Moves to Tear it Down**

The New York City Housing Authority intends to move [forward](#) with a \$1.5 billion plan to knock down the Fulton Houses and Elliott-Chelsea Houses in Manhattan and build new high-rise apartments for those who reside there.

### **PHILADELPHIA — City Council Passes Final Budget of Mayor Kenney's, Council President Clarke's Tenure**

Last week, Philadelphia City Council passed the FY24 budget that will take effect July 1. It includes modest tax cuts and increased police and municipal recruitment and retention spending.

### **RICHMOND — New Hotel Tax Revenues to Promote Regional Tourism**

Starting July 1, Richmond hotels with 41 rooms or more will [add](#) a 2% fee to their nightly rates. The revenue made will go toward Richmond Region Tourism to promote visitation to the city.

### **SAN DIEGO — San Diego City Council Unanimously Approves \$5.12 Billion Budget**

The San Diego City Council Monday evening, June 12, unanimously [approved](#) a \$5.12 billion budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year, focused on improving infrastructure and including additional funding for programs intended to reduce homelessness, street paving and public safety.

### **SEATTLE — Seattle Voters to Decide on \$970 Million Affordable Housing Levy This Fall**

Seattle voters will soon decide whether to [raise](#) property taxes to fund affordable housing, higher wages for human services workers, and assistance for middle-income homebuyers.

## **Transportation & Mobility**

### **BALTIMORE — Governor Moore Relaunches Planning for Red Line Transit in Baltimore**

Maryland Governor Wes Moore has [pledged](#) to bring back the Red Line transit project connecting East Baltimore to West Baltimore before he leaves office after it was canceled in 2015.

### **CHICAGO — New Divvy Scooters Have Phone Chargers, Blinkers, AI-Powered Sidewalk-Detecting Camera**

New and improved electric scooters are [docking](#) at Divvy stations this week. The scooters have safety features and amenities not seen on previous models: Turn signals, phone holders and chargers, and a 50-mile battery range.

### **LOS ANGELES — L.A. Opens Its New Light-Rail Link**

Known as the Regional Connector, the link [allows](#) riders to travel from East Los Angeles all the way to Santa Monica without transferring.

### **NEW YORK — How E-Bike Battery Fires Became a Deadly Crisis in New York City**

An increase in e-bikes and e-scooters, an economical and efficient new way to get around, has [resulted](#) in a rise of fires from faulty lithium batteries around New York City.

### **PHILADELPHIA — Northeast Section of I-95 Reopens Less Than Two Weeks After Collapse**

Governor Josh Shapiro and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Secretary Mike Carroll [reopened](#) six lanes of traffic on I-95 in Northeast Philadelphia last Friday, less than two weeks since its shocking collapse.

### **SAN DIEGO — San Diego County Expands Free Ride Services for Low-Income Senior Citizens**

The San Diego County Senior Transportation Program has [expanded](#) its free ride service to include wheelchair-accessible transportation for low-income seniors across San Diego County, it was announced Friday, June 16th.

### **SAN DIEGO — Will San Diego Airport Get a Rail Connection? Labor Leaders to Try Again at Ballot**

## Box

Labor and environmental groups in San Diego are [relaunching](#) an effort to beef up the region's transportation system — from expanding roads and highways to moving the rail tracks off the crumbling Del Mar bluffs and linking the transit system to the downtown airport.

### **SEATTLE — Amtrak's Seattle Maintenance-Based Plans Would Take Over a Sodo Street**

Amtrak and BNSF Railway are [advocating](#) for the closure of South Holgate Street to build an enclosed train base to try and prevent injuries and improve train operations, but there are major concerns for the city.

### **WASHINGTON, D.C. — D.C. Lags as Metro Steps up Fare Evasion Enforcement; New Bill Aims to Help**

Since D.C. Metro CEO Randy Clarke pledged to increase citations last year, there has been a 600% increase in citations issued for fare evasion. To help, a D.C. Councilmember Brooke Pinto has [proposed](#) a bill making it much easier to enforce evasion.

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