

Public Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2021



The audio file for this meeting can be found at: <http://www.cvag.org/audio.htm>

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order by Chair Waymond Fermon, City of Indio, at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom videoconference, pursuant to Gov. Newsom's executive order governing how public meetings are held during the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. **ROLL CALL** - Roll call taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

City of Coachella	Councilmember Megan Beaman-Jacinto, Vice Chair
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Roger Nuñez
City of Indian Wells	Councilmember Greg Sanders
City of Indio	Mayor Pro Tem Waymond Fermon, Chair
City of La Quinta	Councilmember John Peña
City of Palm Desert	Councilmember Karina Quintanilla
City of Palm Springs	Mayor Christy Holstege
City of Rancho Mirage	Councilmember Iris Smotrich

Ex-Officio Members Present

City of Desert Hot Springs Police	Chief Jim Henson
City of Cathedral City Police	Chief George Crum
City of Indio Police	Chief Mike Washburn
City of Palm Springs Police	Chief Bryan Reyes
City of Palm Springs Fire	Chief J. Kevin Nalder
Riverside County District Attorney	DA Mike Hestrin
Riverside County Probation	Christine Castro

Members & Ex-Officios Not Present

City of Blythe	Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez
City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Mark Carnevale
County of Riverside	Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Aqua Caliente	Margaret Muhr
City of Cathedral City Fire	Chief John Muhr
Riverside County Sheriff	Sheriff Chad Bianco
U.S. Customs and Border Patrol	Assistant Chief Patrol Agent David Kim
Palm Desert Sheriff's Substation	Capitan Dean Agnoletto
Riverside County Fire Department	Division Chief Eddy Moore
Thermal Sheriff Station	Captain Herman Lopez
California Highway Patrol	Commander Dennis Woodbury
U.S. Border Patrol	David Kim

Others Present

CVAG

Tom Kirk

CVAG

City of Indian Wells
Riverside County Executive Office
Riverside County District 4

Riverside County District Attorney

Riverside County Sheriff

Additional participants

Erica Felci
Tom Cox
Oscar Vizcarra
Trisha Stull
Anyse Smith
Kristen Nelson
Juan Perez
Pat Cooper
Greg Rodriguez
Joe DelGiudice
Gerald Fineman
Dennis Vrooman
Joe DelGiudice
Brad Anderson
Shelley Vedrode
One other joined video conference without
full names listed

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Members of the Committee recited the pledge.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Brad Anderson, resident of Rancho Mirage, asked about the opportunities to express comment during meeting.

5. CHAIR / COMMITTEE MEMBER/CVAG STAFF COMMENTS

Councilmember Karina Quintanilla said that she had heard community interest in continuing listening sessions around race, diversity and policing.

Councilmember Roger Nuñez said he had heard concerns from Desert Hot Springs residents about the California Highway Patrol coming into the community for enforcement, and asked about coordination between departments.

Vice Chair Megan Beaman Jacinto addressed rumors about immigration check points, and noted the recent uptick in asylum seekers.

Chair Fermon highlighted how the public safety community had come together for a recent fundraiser to help an ailing child. He also praised the response to a hiker rescue.

Committee members asked staff to put listening sessions on an upcoming agenda so it could be discussed again.

6. EX-OFFICIO COMMENTS

Chief Mike Washburn, City of Indio, provided an update on COVID-19 in the department and also addressed the influx of asylum seekers.

Chief Bryan Reyes, City of Palm Springs, gave an update that included highlighting how the use of police officers' body cameras helped identify someone who was posing as a bail agent.

Assistant District Attorney Gerald Fineman pointed out the change in California law that guides investigations into use of force.

District Attorney's Chief of Bureau of Investigation Joe DelGiudice noted the additional investigators who had been added to the division.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER BEAMAN JACINTO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SMOTRICH TO:

A. Approve the February 8, 2021 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 8 AYES AND 3 ABSENT

Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez	ABSENT
Councilmember Mark Carnevale	ABSENT
Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto	AYE
Councilmember Roger Nuñez	AYE
Councilmember Greg Sanders	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Waymond Fermon	AYE
Councilmember John Peña	AYE
Councilmember Karina Quintanilla	AYE
Mayor Christy Holstege	AYE
Councilmember Iris Smotrich	AYE
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	ABSENT

8. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Update on COVID-19 Public Health Crisis

Juan Perez, Riverside County's new Chief Operating Officer, provided an overview of the COVID-19 current conditions, particularly the availability of the vaccine. Member discussion ensued, and members expressed interest in having valley-specific statistics in addition to the countywide data. Mayor Christy Holstege also highlighted opportunities to coordinate the vaccine distribution with food distribution.

There was no action taken as this was an information item.

B. CV Housing First: Coordinated Response to Helping the CV 200

Tom Kirk, along with Tom Cox, provided an update on CV Housing First Program, which has now transitioned to an in-house program. The presentation focused on the progress being made to help the CV200, and the coordination done with local law enforcement. Member discussion ensued, and Mr. Kirk and Mr. Cox addressed questions about the program.

There was no action as this was an informational item.

C. CVAG Representative on Riverside County's Emergency Medical Care Committee

Erica Felci presented the staff report and noted that, due to a retirement, there was a need for a City Manager to serve on the Emergency Medical Care Committee. Member discussion ensued. Chair Fermon nominated Indio's new City Manager, Bryan Montgomery, for the position.

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR PRO TEM FERMON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER NUNEZ TO NOMINATE INDO CITY MANAGER BRYAN MONTGOMERY TO SERVE AS CVAG'S RESPRESENTATIVE ON RIVERSIDE COUNTY'S EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM, WHICH ENDS ON JUNE 30, 2022.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 8 AYES AND 3 ABSENT

Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez	ABSENT
Councilmember Mark Carnevale	ABSENT
Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto	AYE
Councilmember Roger Nuñez	AYE
Councilmember Greg Sanders	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Waymond Fermon	AYE
Councilmember John Peña	AYE
Councilmember Karina Quintanilla	AYE
Mayor Christy Holstege	AYE
Councilmember Iris Smotrich	AYE
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	ABSENT

D. Eastern Riverside County Interoperable Communications Authority, Public Safety Enterprise Communications and the Coordination of Radio Communications

Riverside County Undersheriff Dennis Vrooman provided an overview of the transition of the Public Safety Enterprise Communications (PSEC) into the county's Sheriff's Department. Chair Fermon also highlighted the discussion being held among cities using the Eastern Riverside County Interoperable Communications Authority for radio, and opened up the conversation to the police chiefs.

Member discussion ensued, including ex officio members. No action was taken as this was an informational item.

9. INFORMATION – The following items were provided for information only:

A. Attendance Record

B. Meeting Reimbursements for Elected Committee Members

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Anderson commented on the format of public comment.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Upcoming Meetings via Zoom videoconference:

- Public Safety – Monday, June 14, 2021 at 9 a.m.
- Executive Committee – Monday, June 7, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

Prior to the meeting adjournment, Committee members asked that CVAG staff provide the following updates on a future meeting agenda: community listening sessions and the plans for CVAG meetings once COVID-related restrictions are eased for public meetings.

Councilmember Smotrich also noted the importance of taking precautions when hiking, particularly as the weather gets warmer in the desert.

12. ADJOURN

Chair Fermon adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Felci
Assistant to the Executive Director