

Public Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 14, 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 9:05 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 Cathedral City	Councilmember Mark Carnevale
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
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Councilmember John Preckwinkle

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 Probation	Christine Castro
Riverside County Fire	Robert Fish
Agua Caliente	Robert Bradbury
California Highway Patrol	Dennis Woodbury

Members & Ex-Officios Not Present

City of Blythe	Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez
City of Coachella	Councilmember Megan Beaman-Jacinto, Vice Chair
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Roger Nuñez
County of Riverside	Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
City of Cathedral City Fire	Chief John Muhr
Riverside County Sheriff	Sheriff Chad Bianco
Riverside County DA	Mike Hestrin
U.S. Customs and Border Patrol	Assistant Chief Patrol Agent David Kim
Palm Desert Sheriff's Substation	Capitan Dean Agnoletto
Thermal Sheriff Station	Captain Herman Lopez

Others Present

CVAG

Riverside County Emergency Mgt.
Riverside County District Attorney
Riverside County Sheriff
Additional participants

Tom Kirk
Erica Felci
Joanna Stueckle
Oscar Vizcarra
Bruce Barton
Joe DelGiudice
Dennis Vrooman
One other joined video conference without
full name listed

Following the roll call, Chair Fermon recognized the Committee's new voting and ex-officio members: Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians Councilmember John Preckwinkle and Emergency Services Manager Robert Bradbury; Palm Springs Councilmember Grace Garner; and Riverside County Fire Deputy Chief Robert Fish.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. Moment of Silence for San Bernardino County Sheriff Sgt. Dominic Vaca

Councilmember John Peña led the Committee in the pledge.

Chair Fermon asked for a moment of silence to honor Sgt. Dominic Vaca of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, who was shot and killed during a traffic stop on Memorial Day weekend.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

5. CHAIR / COMMITTEE MEMBER/CVAG STAFF COMMENTS

Erica Felci announced that the CVAG General Assembly meeting would be held at 6 p.m. June 28 via Zoom.

Chair Fermon recognized Palm Springs Police Chief Bryan Reyes, who is retiring in summer 2021. The Committee members acknowledged his service to the City, Coachella Valley and nation, and wished him well in retirement.

6. EX-OFFICIO COMMENTS

A. Re-launch of Cathedral City Police Department's Gang Unit

Chief George Crum, City of Cathedral City, highlighted the new gang unit in the City, noting the effort had led to arrests in just the initial weeks.

Deputy Chief Fish provided an update on the Pinyon Pines wildfire that started the prior day. He also addressed wildfire season, and stressed that illegal firework use at the holidays can attribute to fires.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER SANDERS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER PENA TO:

A. Approve the May 10, 2021 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 6 AYES, 1 ABSTENTION AND 5 ABSENT

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

8. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Update on COVID-19 Public Health Crisis

Bruce Barton, Director of Riverside County's Emergency Management Department provided an overview of the COVID-19 current conditions, particularly the availability of the vaccine and the resulting lowered rates of hospitalization.

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

B. Riverside County's Coordinated Response to Asylum Seekers

Ms. Felci noted that the item was provided at the request of the Committee. Director Barton provided an overview to the County's response, noting how it overlaps with the precautions that are necessary to address COVID-19.

Member discussion ensued, with Director Barton answering questions on the availability of state and federal resources, as well as explaining what may be next if federal policy changes.

There was no action as this was an informational item.

C. Continued Conversation on Race, Diversity and Policing

Ms. Felci presented the staff report and recapped the recommendations from the ad hoc committee. Chair Fermon elaborated on the ad hoc committee's discussion, and encouraged members to discuss the issue with their individual jurisdictions.

There was no action as this was an informational item.

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

- A. Attendance Record**
- B. Member Survey on CVAG Meetings in Post-COVID Environment**
- C. Meeting Schedule for Fiscal Year 2021/2022**

Councilmember Karina Quintanilla inquired about the potential for the ad hoc to meet during the summer months, and Chair Fermon and Councilmember Pena indicated they would meet as necessary.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Upcoming Meetings:

The next meeting of the **Public Safety Committee** will be held on Monday, September 13, 2021, at 9 a.m. either via Zoom webinar or in-person.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, June 28, 2021, with closed session at 4 p.m. and regular session at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom webinar.

The next meeting of the **General Assembly** will be held on Monday, June 28, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom webinar.

12. ADJOURN

Chair Fermon adjourned the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Felci
Assistant to the Executive Director