

ITEM 7A

Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes September 13, 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

Agua Caliente Band of	
Cahuilla Indians	
City of Blythe	
City of Cathedral City	
City of Coachella	
City of Desert Hot Springs	
City of Indian Wells	
City of Indio	
City of La Quinta	
City of Palm Desert	
City of Palm Springs	
City of Rancho Mirage	
County of Riverside	
	Councilmember John Preckwinkle (arrived during Item 5)
	Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez (present at Items 5-8B)
	Councilmember Mark Carnevale
	Councilmember Megan Beaman-Jacinto, Vice Chair
	Councilmember Roger Nuñez
	Councilmember Greg Sanders
	Mayor Pro Tem Waymond Fermon, Chair
	Councilmember John Peña
	Councilmember Karina Quintanilla (arrived during Item 8A)
	Councilmember Grace Garner (arrived during Item 4)
	Councilmember Iris Smotrich
	Juan Perez, Chief Operating Officer

Ex-Officio Members Present

City of Desert Hot Springs Police	Chief Jim Henson
City of Indio Police	Chief Mike Washburn
City of Palm Springs Police	Acting Chief Melissa Desmarais
City of Palm Springs Fire	Chief J. Kevin Nalder
Riverside County Fire	Deputy Chief Robert Fish
Agua Caliente	Emergency Services Mgr. Robert Bradbury
California Highway Patrol	Commander Dennis Woodbury

Members & Ex-Officios Not Present

City of Cathedral City Police	Chief George Crum
City of Cathedral City Fire	Chief John Muhr
Riverside County Sheriff	Sheriff Chad Bianco
Riverside County DA	Mike Hestrin
Riverside County Probation	Ron Miller
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

Caltech Seismological Lab
Riverside County – District 4

Riverside County Public Health
City of Indian Wells

Tom Kirk
Erica Felci
Joanna Stueckle
Oscar Vizcarra
Margaret Vinci
Pat Cooper
Greg Rodriguez
Kim Saruwatari
Kristen Nelson

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. Moment of Silence for U.S. Marine Cpl. Hunter Lopez

Chair Fermon led the Committee in the pledge.

Chair Fermon asked for a moment of silence to honor Cpl. Hunter Lopez, who was one of the U.S. service members killed during the Kabul attack.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

5. CHAIR / COMMITTEE MEMBER/CVAG STAFF COMMENTS

Erica Felci announced a new ex-officio member of the Public Safety Committee, Palm Springs Police Acting Chief Melissa Desmarais. Councilmember Grace Garner also provided introductory remarks before Acting Chief Desmarais made brief comments to the Committee.

Councilmember John Peña noted the upcoming funeral services for Cpl. Lopez and noted the community should remain patient as the cross-valley procession will result in traffic and road detours.

Councilmember Mark Carnevale welcomed Acting Chief Desmarais and noted how the neighboring cities work together closely.

Juan Perez provided an update to the recent storms that knocked out power for hundreds in the eastern Coachella Valley, and recapped the work that the County, Imperial Irrigation District and others were doing to restore help North Shore residents.

Chair Fermon provided details for the processional and funeral of Cpl. Lopez, which includes services from Sept. 16-18.

6. EX-OFFICIO COMMENTS

Chief Mike Washburn, City of Indio, provided information on graffiti abatement as well as the transition of radio communications to the County's Public Safety Enterprise Communication (PSEC) system.

Committee members expressed interest in graffiti removal resources in the Coachella Valley, and staff stated an informational roundup would be provided at an upcoming meeting and shared with the Committee members as well.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- A. Approve the June 14, 2021 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes**
- B. Receive and file an update on the continued conversation on race, diversity and policing**

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 10 AYES AND 2 ABSTENTIONS ON 7A, AND WITH 11 AYES AND 1 ABSTENTION ON 7B

Councilmember John Preckwinkle	AYE
Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez	AYE
Councilmember Mark Carnevale	AYE
Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto	ABSTAIN/ AYE
Councilmember Roger Nuñez	AYE
Councilmember Greg Sanders	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Waymond Fermon	AYE
Councilmember John Peña	AYE
Councilmember Karina Quintanilla	AYE
Councilmember Grace Garner	ABSTAIN
Councilmember Iris Smotrich	AYE
Chief Operating Officer Juan Perez	AYE

8. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Earthquake Education and the Great California ShakeOut

Ms. Felci introduced Margaret Vinci from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) Seismological Laboratory, who manages the Office of Earthquake Programs. Ms. Vinci provided an update to the Great California ShakeOut in October. She also discussed the importance of earthquake early warning systems and the tips to remember in reacting to a quake. Community discussion ensued, including questions about gas and electric lines.

Committee members asked that a copy of the presentation be sent to members and local school districts. There was no action taken as this was an information item.

B. Update on COVID-19 Public Health Crisis

Kim Saruwatari, Director of Riverside County's Public Health, provided an overview of the COVID-19 current conditions, including the distribution of the vaccine and the rates of hospitalization in both adults and children. Member conversation ensued, with many questions focused on the impact that COVID-19 was having on school-aged children and how contact tracing and information sharing is done with schools.

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

C. Election of Public Safety Committee Officers

Tom Kirk introduced the item and asked for nominees. The only nomination was for the current officers to serve another term. During the discussion, both Chair Fermon and Vice Chair Megan Beaman Jacinto expressed interest in continuing to serve and working with the committee to further regional coordination on public safety issues.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER PENA AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SMOTRICH TO NOMINATE INDIO MAYOR PRO TEM WAYMOND FERMON AS PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE CHAIR AND COACHELLA COUNCILMEMBER MEGAN BEAMAN JACINTO AS PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR FOR FY 2021/22

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES AND 1 MEMBER ABSENT

Councilmember John Preckwinkle	AYE
Councilmember Johnny Rodriquez	ABSENT
Councilmember Mark Carnevale	AYE
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
Councilmember Grace Garner	AYE
Councilmember Iris Smotrich	AYE
Chief Operating Officer Juan Perez	AYE

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

A. Attendance Record

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, November 8, 2021, at 9 a.m. either via Zoom webinar or in-person, depending on the State's guidance and finalization of logistics.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, September 27, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom webinar.

12. ADJOURN

Prior to the meeting's end, Chair Fermon asked for additional information on active shooter training to be included at an upcoming committee agenda. Members also expressed appreciation

for the committee's collaboration, and it was requested that staff refine the process of including ex-officio updates in the meeting.

Chair Fermon adjourned the meeting at 10:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Felci
Assistant Executive Director