

ATTENTION: PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A UNIQUE PANELIST LINK BY EMAIL. PLEASE USE THIS LINK TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING.



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

**MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2022
9:00 a.m.**

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 and the findings made by CVAG, this meeting will only be conducted via video/teleconferencing.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public may use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84664860380?pwd=K09semV0QnZDZ2JONWNuTUNUNURWdz09>

Password: 517239

One Tap Mobile: +16699009128,,84664860380#

Dial In: +1 669 900 9128

Webinar ID: 846 6486 0380

Password: 517239

***This will provide listening access and ability to address the
Public Safety Committee when called upon.***

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO CONNECT VIA DIAL IN OPTION, PLEASE CALL 760-346-1127.

Public comment is encouraged to be emailed to the Public Safety Committee meeting prior to the meeting at cvag@cvag.org by 5:00 p.m. on the day prior to the committee meeting. Comments intended to be read aloud should be no more than 300 characters.

**THIS MEETING IS HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE.
ACTION MAY RESULT ON ANY ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA.**

UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, ALL ACTION ITEMS WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR FINAL APPROVAL.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Waymond Fermon, Mayor, City of Indio

2. **ROLL CALL**
 - A. **Member Roster** [4](#)

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

This is the time and place for members of the public to address the Public Safety Committee on agenda items. At the discretion of the Chair, comments may be taken at the time items are presented. Please limit comments to three (3) minutes.

5. **CHAIR /COMMITTEE MEMBER/CVAG STAFF COMMENTS**

6. **EX-OFFICIO UPDATES**

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**
 - A. **Approve the November 8, 2021 Public Safety Committee Minutes** [5](#)

8. **DISCUSSION/ ACTION**
 - A. **COVID-19 Public Health Crisis & Vaccine Distribution** – Kim Saruwatari, Riverside County Public Health Director and Bruce Barton, Riverside County Emergency Management Director [10](#)

Recommendation: Information
 - B. **Presentation on Riverside County’s Community Behavioral Assessment Team & coordination with law enforcement** – Dr. Matthew Chang, Riverside University Health System-Behavioral Health Director
 - C. **Partnership for Cooperative Land Management on Habitat Lands** – Kathleen Brundige [11](#)

Recommendation: Information

9. **INFORMATION**
 - A. **Attendance Record** [13](#)

- B. **Law Enforcement Coordination with CV Housing First** [14](#)
- C. **Human Trafficking Awareness Month** [16](#)

10. **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

This is the time and place for members of the public to address the Public Safety Committee on items of general interest within the purview of this committee. Please limit comments to two (2) minutes.

11. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Upcoming Meetings:

The next meeting of the **Public Safety Committee** will be held on Monday, February 14, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom webinar.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, January 31, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom webinar.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Item 2A

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Public Safety Committee
Member Roster
2021-2022**



Voting Members	
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Councilmember John Preckwinkle III
City of Blythe	Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez
City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Raymond Gregory
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 Waymond Fermon - CHAIR
City of La Quinta	Councilmember John Pena
City of Palm Desert	Councilmember Karina Quintanilla
City of Palm Springs	Mayor Pro Tem Grace Garner
City of Rancho Mirage	Councilmember Iris Smotrich
County of Riverside	Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Ex-Officio Members	
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Robert Bradbury, Emergency Services Manager
California Highway Patrol	Dennis Woodbury, Commander
Cathedral City Fire	John Muhr, Fire Chief
Cathedral City Police	George Crum, Chief of Police
Desert Hot Springs Police	Jim Henson, Chief of Police
District Attorney's Office	Michael Hestrin, District Attorney
Indio Police	Mike Washburn, Chief of Police
Palm Desert Sheriff Station	Dean Agnoletto, Captain
Palm Springs Fire	J. Kevin Nalder, Fire Chief
Palm Springs Police	Andrew Mills, Chief of Police
Riverside County Fire Department	Robert Fish, Deputy Chief
Riverside County Probation Department	Ron Miller, Chief Probation Officer
Riverside County Sheriff's Department	Sheriff Chad Bianco
Thermal Sheriff Station	Michael Bianco, Captain
U.S. Border Patrol	David Kim

ITEM 7A

Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes November 8, 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 AB 361 and the guidelines for virtual meetings.
2. **ROLL CALL** - Roll call taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

City of Blythe	Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez
City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Mark Carnevale
City of Coachella	Councilmember Megan Beaman-Jacinto, Vice Chair
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	Councilmember Grace Garner (arrived during Item 4)
City of Rancho Mirage	Councilmember Iris Smotrich
County of Riverside	Pat Cooper, District 4 Deputy Chief of Staff

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	Chief Andrew Mills
City of Palm Springs Fire	Chief J. Kevin Nalder
Riverside County Fire	Deputy Chief Robert Fish
District Attorney's Office	ADA Gerald Fineman
California Highway Patrol	Sgt. Rob McLoud
Riverside County Sheriff	Sheriff Chad Bianco

Members & Ex-Officios Not Present

Agua Caliente Band of	Councilmember John Preckwinkle
Cahuilla Indians	Councilmember Roger Nuñez
City of Desert Hot Springs	Emergency Services Mgr. Robert Bradbury
Agua Caliente	Chief George Crum
City of Cathedral City Police	Chief John Muhr
City of Cathedral City Fire	Chief Probation Officer Ron Miller
Riverside County Probation	Assistant Chief Patrol Agent David Kim
U.S. Customs and Border Patrol	Capitan Dean Agnoletto
Palm Desert Sheriff's Substation	Captain Herman Lopez
Thermal Sheriff Station	

Others Present

CVAG

Tom Kirk
Erica Felci
Joanna Stueckle
Beverly Newton
Kathleen Brundige
Anyse Smith
Dr. Geoffrey Leung
Mark Lancaster
Stan Henry
John Siegel
Shelley Vedrode
One other individual without full name
provided

Riverside County Public Health
Riverside County Transportation
CVCC Consultant
Individuals

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Fermon led the Committee in the pledge.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

5. CHAIR / COMMITTEE MEMBER/CVAG STAFF COMMENTS

Chair Fermon thanked local public safety departments for the work, both behind the scenes and on the ground, to ensure the success of the recent special events in the Coachella Valley. He requested that the following items be added to future agendas: information on bicycle safety and hotline information for reporting a crime.

Cathedral City Councilmember Mark Carnevale said the City of Cathedral City was in the process of replacing the ERICA radio systems with the County's Public Safety Enterprise Communication (PSEC) system.

Vice Chair Megan Beaman Jacinto, City of Coachella, noted the recent release of crime statistics and said the City had seen a decline in categories.

Palm Springs Councilmember Grace Garner introduced the new police chief, Andrew Mills, who was marking his first official day on the job and had attended the Pride Festival over the weekend.

Palm Desert Councilmember Karina Quintanilla discussed a recent tour of the training centers and encouraged members to see the facilities first-hand. She also discussed the need for more dispatch staff.

Pat Cooper, Riverside County District Four's Deputy Chief of Staff, highlighted Supervisor Manuel Perez's recent tour of the sheriff's station, behavioral health office and animal services in Blythe.

Chief Andrew Mills, City of Palm Springs, introduced himself to the Committee and said he was looking forward to addressing issues in the City as well as collaborating with the other public safety agencies in the desert.

Erica Felci noted that the Blue Light Ceremony would be a virtual ceremony this year and that the date would be shared with the members when it was announced.

6. EX-OFFICIO COMMENTS

A. Riverside County Fire Combustible Task Force project in Mecca

Deputy Chief Robert Fish provided an update on the public space closures, particularly hiking areas as a result of the drought.

Deputy Chief Fish also introduced a video that was played for the Committee, which detailed a coordinated response to a homeless encampment and green waste situation in the community of Mecca. Member discussion ensued about the impact that coordinated resources can have in addressing such concerns.

Chief Mike Washburn, City of Indio, provided a number of department updates including the passage of Measure E and the funding in a public safety campus; resources dedicated to the increased number of larger events in the community; and staffing shortages. Chief Washburn also extended a welcome to Chief Mills.

Before the conclusion of the ex officio updates, Vice Chair Beaman Jacinto noted that ordinances related to green waste can help address the concerns.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER PENA AND SECONDED BY DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF COOPER TO:

- A. Approve the September 13, 2021 Public Safety Committee Minutes**
- B. Receive and file an update on CVAG's CV Housing First program and the coordinated response with local law enforcement to provide services to the chronically homeless in the Coachella Valley**

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 10 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilmember John Preckwinkle	ABSENT
Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez	AYE
Councilmember Mark Carnevale	AYE
Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto	AYE
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	AYE
Councilmember Iris Smotrich	AYE
Deputy Chief of Staff Pat Cooper	AYE

8. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. COVID-19 Public Health Crisis & Vaccine Distribution – Dr. Geoffrey Leung, Riverside County Public Health Officer

Dr. Leung provided an overview of the COVID-19 current conditions, including the distribution of the vaccine, the vaccine rates in the Coachella Valley and resources such as <http://myturn.ca.gov> for the latest information. Member conversation ensued, including discussion of vaccine rollout for school-aged children.

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

B. Update on Riverside County Sheriff’s Department Activities in the Desert – Sheriff Chad Bianco

Sheriff Bianco provided a wide-ranging update to the committee that included the following topics: staffing shortages as a result of rhetoric around policing as well as attrition; rise of violent crime; trends of gang accessibility to guns; new technology; as well as challenges with addressing the homeless, particularly chronically homeless individuals, and its impact on parks and social services. Sheriff Bianco also noted that January is human trafficking awareness month and highlighted the upcoming educational campaign on this topic.

Member discussion ensued, including requests from Committee members that the Sheriff facilitate conversations with the community about officer training. Committee members also noted the overlap with the CVAG Homelessness Committee’s ad hoc to explore additional options for addressing homeless issues.

No action was taken as this was an informational item.

C. Partnership for Cooperative Land Management on Habitat Lands – Kathleen Brundige

Given the time, Chair Fermon inquired whether the Committee would prefer to continue this informational item to the next meeting.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER CARNEVALE AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SMOTRICH TO CONTINUE ITEM 8C TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 10 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilmember John Preckwinkle	ABSENT
Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez	AYE
Councilmember Mark Carnevale	AYE
Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto	AYE
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	AYE
Councilmember Iris Smotrich	AYE
Deputy Chief of Staff Pat Cooper	AYE

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

A. Attendance Record

B. Resources for Graffiti Abatement in the Coachella Valley

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Upcoming Meetings:

Upcoming Meetings:

The next meeting of the **Public Safety Committee** will be held on Monday, January 10, 2022, at 9 a.m. via Zoom webinar.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, December 6, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom webinar.

12. ADJOURN

Noting the next meeting will be held in 2022, Chair Fermon adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m. by extending well wishes for a safe and healthy holiday season.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Felci

Assistant Executive Director

ITEM 8A

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Public Safety Committee
January 10, 2022**



STAFF REPORT

Subject: COVID-19 Public Health Crisis & Vaccine Distribution

Contact: Erica Felci, Assistant Executive Director (efelci@cvaq.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, Riverside County public health officials have provided regular updates to the Public Safety Committee. These updates were centered on sharing the latest data for active COVID-19 cases. In recent months, the briefings have increasingly focused on distribution of vaccines.

Amid concerns about the Omicron variant and with holiday gatherings on the horizon, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) announced last month that it is requiring masks to be worn in all indoor public settings – regardless of vaccine status – through January 15, 2022. At the January meeting of the Public Safety Committee, county officials will discuss the current mask mandate and highlight the distribution of vaccines and booster shots. COVID-19 data in Riverside County is updated regularly online: <https://rivcoph.org/coronavirus>

Additionally, the City of Palm Springs has been using the laboratory at GT Molecular to measure the amount of COVID-19 virus per liter in the City's wastewater treatment sewer system. The City reported that the Omicron variant was detected in a Dec. 7 sample of the city's wastewater, although it had yet to be detected in public health data.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no cost to CVAG for this update.

ITEM 8C

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Public Safety Committee**

January 10, 2022



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Partnership for Cooperative Land Management on Habitat Lands

Contact: Kathleen Brundige, Conservation Program Manager (kbrundige@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: The Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC) is a sister agency to CVAG whose membership includes the nine Coachella Valley cities, County of Riverside, Coachella Valley Water District, Mission Springs Water District and Imperial Irrigation District. The CVCC oversees the implementation of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP). The visionary 75-year plan outlines a path to conserve nearly 240,000 acres of land valley-wide and protect 27 plants and animals, including Peninsular bighorn sheep, desert tortoises and the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard. In exchange for guaranteeing habitat conservation, developers benefit from a streamlined environmental permit process and critical freeway projects and interchanges can get built without delays.

The CVCC now owns almost 12,000 acres within the CVMSHCP conservation areas. Many of the lands CVCC has acquired are located in more urbanized areas, either adjacent to or in the vicinity of development. One of the needs to ensure effective management of CVCC lands is to provide law enforcement to address illegal and unauthorized uses.

CVCC owns and manages lands that are subject to a variety of impacts including dumping and unauthorized off-highway vehicle use. CVCC installs signage and fencing or other barriers to limit unauthorized access. Regular visits are made to the properties to attempt to control these unauthorized impacts. However, effective management of these impacts will require visits or patrols by trained and certified law enforcement officers who can issue citations to offenders. In some cases, visiting CVCC properties may present safety considerations for staff and the presence of a law enforcement officer is needed.

Since CVCC does not have law enforcement capacity, the Commission has been focused on establishing agreements with local law agencies that have trained law enforcement personnel. Last year, CVCC staff worked with former Cathedral City Police Chief Stan Henry to tour some of the CVCC lands where habitat disturbance from unauthorized OHV use, vehicle trespass, and other unauthorized activities is a significant problem. That led to agreements being approved with both the Desert Hot Springs Police Department and Riverside County Sheriff's Department, who are now working under the terms of memorandums of understanding with the CVCC to cover some of these problematic areas.

This is an example of a unique partnership that is helping protect properties throughout the Coachella Valley. The CVCC staff will provide an overview of these partnerships to the CVAG

Public Safety Committee at its January meeting, as this item was continued from the November 2021 meeting due to time constraints.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no cost to CVAG for this update.

Item 9A

COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
ATTENDANCE RECORD
FY2021-2022

Voting Members	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	ATTENDED		
Aqua Caliente			●		○								1	out of	2
City of Blythe			●		●								2	out of	2
Cabazon Band - Vacant			*		*								0	out of	2
City of Cathedral City			●		●								2	out of	2
City of Coachella			●		●								2	out of	2
City of Desert Hot Springs			●		○								1	out of	2
City of Indian Wells			●		●								2	out of	2
City of Indio			●		●								2	out of	2
City of La Quinta			●		●								2	out of	2
City of Palm Desert			●		●								2	out of	2
City of Palm Springs			●		●								2	out of	2
City of Rancho Mirage			●		●								2	out of	2
Riverside County			●		●								2	out of	2
Total Attendance Per Meeting			12	10											

Ex Officio / Non-Voting Members	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	ATTENDED		
Agua Caliente			●		○								1	out of	2
California Highway Patrol			●		●								2	out of	2
Cathedral City Fire			○		○								0	out of	2
Cathedral City Police			○		○								0	out of	2
County Probation Department			○		○								0	out of	2
Desert Hot Springs Police			●		●								2	out of	2
District Attorney's Office			○		●								1	out of	2
Indio Police			●		●								2	out of	2
Palm Desert Sheriff Station			○		○								0	out of	2
Palm Springs Fire			●		●								1	out of	2
Palm Springs Police			●		●								1	out of	2
Riverside County Fire			●		●								1	out of	2
Riverside County Sheriff			○		●								1	out of	2
Thermal Sheriff Station			○		○								0	out of	2
U.S. Border Patrol			○		○								0	out of	2
Total Attendance Per Meeting			7	8											

Scheduled Dark Month
 Vacant *
 Present ●
 Absent ○

ITEM 9B

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Public Safety Committee**

January 10, 2022



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Law Enforcement Coordination with CV Housing First

Contact: Erica Felci, Assistant Executive Director (efelci@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: At the November 2021 meeting of the Public Safety Committee, Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco provided an extensive update that covered a number of topics, including the challenges that law enforcement faces when it comes to addressing homelessness and providing solutions for chronically homeless individuals. As part of the discussion, a number of Public Safety Committee members also noted the overlap with the CVAG Homelessness Committee and its initiatives. It was suggested that staff follow up with the Sheriff and continue to provide updates on coordination of resources.

CVAG staff has reached out to the Sheriff's administration to provide the Sheriff and top officers with a deeper understanding of CVAG's CV Housing First Program. A briefing is in the process of being scheduled. CVAG staff is also working with local sheriff's stations to update the CV 200, which is the by-name list of chronically homeless individuals that is the focus of CVAG's program. These were individuals who were identified as being familiar faces to law enforcement, code enforcement and other social programs. Now that the program is entering another year, CVAG staff is working with the sheriff's department, local law enforcement and other partners to refresh the list.

At the same time, the CVAG Homelessness Committee recently created an ad hoc committee to complete a deeper exploration of whether additional homelessness resources are needed in the Coachella Valley. The ad hoc stemmed from an idea brought forward by Palm Desert Councilmember Sabby Jonathan, who had suggested creating an ad hoc committee to explore the additional services being used in other communities. The goal of the ad hoc, as outlined by Councilmember Jonathan, was to explore models that cities such as Los Angeles and Seattle have used to address homeless individuals who have refused services or who are not being helped by existing services. The ad hoc would evaluate optional programs that would be in addition to CV Housing First, then return to the full Homelessness Committee with a report and recommendations in 2022. Members of the Homelessness Committee supported the approach. The ad hoc was created with the following members: Indio Mayor Waymond Fermon – who serves as Chair of the Public Safety Committee – as well as Councilmember Jonathan, Cathedral City Councilmember Mark Carnevale, Desert Healthcare District/ Foundation Director Carole Rogers, and Palm Springs Councilmember Christy Holstege, who is chair of the Homelessness Committee.

In the initial meeting, the ad hoc members reviewed news articles and ordinances from other cities and had a conversation around the idea of solutions that get individuals off the street in a compassionate and productive manner, even if they are not ready to accept housing and services. The initial thoughts from the ad hoc members included exploring encampment policies; looking at the staffing levels of various programs, particularly for behavioral health; establishing model ordinances; and advocating for additional funding at the state and federal level. A second ad hoc meeting is being coordinated with staff from the City of Sacramento, where City officials are vetting a policy that would set a “right to housing” and a concomitant “obligation to accept housing” on the part of the unhoused.

Based on the feedback CVAG staff received at both the Public Safety and Homelessness Committees in November, it will provide opportunities for the Sheriff’s Department to remain engaged in the ad hoc committee.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no cost to CVAG for this informational update.

ITEM 9C

Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Public Safety Committee
January 10, 2022



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Contact: Erica Felci, Assistant Executive Director (efelci@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Human trafficking is the force, fear and coercion to compel another person into commercial sex acts or labor trafficking against their will. Since 2010, the federal government has dedicated the month to raising awareness about the different forms of human trafficking and educating people about how to spot it.

In the Coachella Valley, a group of organizations – including Barbara Sinatra Children’s Center and SunLine Transit Agency – have formed the Coachella Valley Coalition Against Human Trafficking. The goal is to promote public educational efforts through social and philanthropic clubs, faith-based organizations, medical providers, and key industries.

As part of this effort, SunLine launched a six-month campaign that is a "call-to-action" for anyone witnessing possible human trafficking. The campaign includes messages inside and outside of busses, in bus shelters, in print publications, and on local television stations.

Additional information about SunLine’s campaign can be found here: <https://www.sunline.org/trafficking>. To report any suspicious situation that seems like it may be an instance of human trafficking, the national human trafficking hotline can be reached at 1-888-373-7888.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no cost to CVAG for this informational update.