

ITEM 7A

Public Safety Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
February 13, 2023



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 was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

**Members Present**

Aqua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Councilmember John Preckwinkle III ( <i>arrived at Item 5</i> )
City of Blythe	Mayor Pro Tem Johnny Rodriguez
City of Coachella	Councilmember Frank Figueroa
City of Desert Hot Springs	Mayor Pro Tem Roger Nuñez
City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Raymond Gregory, <i>Vice Chair</i>
City of Indio	Councilmember Waymond Fermon, <i>Chair</i>
City of La Quinta	Councilmember John Peña
City of Palm Desert	Mayor Pro Tem Karina Quintanilla
City of Palm Springs	Mayor Grace Garner ( <i>arrived at Item 4</i> )
City of Rancho Mirage	Councilmember Meg Marker
County of Riverside	Juan Perez, County COO

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Robert Bradbury, Emergency Services Manager
Desert Hot Springs Police	Chief Jim Henson
City of Palm Springs Fire	Acting Fire Chief Jason Loya
City of Indio Police	Chief Mike Washburn
City of Palm Springs Police	Chief Andrew Mills
Riverside County Sheriff	Lieutenant David Wright
Riverside County Fire	Deputy Chief Robert Fish

**Members & Ex-Officios Not Present**

City of Indian Wells	Councilmember Dana Reed
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	Councilmember Desiree Franco
California Highway Patrol	Commander Dennis Woodbury
Cathedral City Fire	Chief Michael Contreras
Cathedral City Police	Chief George Crum
Riverside County Probation	Cristina Castro & Crystal Nieto
District Attorney's Office	Michael Hestrin
Palm Desert Sheriff's Substation	Captain Dean Agnoletto
Thermal Sheriff Station	Captain Michael Bianco
U.S. Customs and Border Patrol	Assistant Chief Patrol Agent David Kim

### **3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **A. Moment of Silence**

Chair Fermon led the Public Safety Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the pledge, Chair Fermon asked the Committee to observe a moment of silence for Riverside County Sheriff Deputies Darnell Calhoun and Isaiah Cordero who were killed while on duty in recent months.

### **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

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

Chair Fermon welcomed new Committee members: Coachella Councilmember Frank Figueroa, Indian Wells Councilmember Dana Reed, Rancho Mirage Councilmember Meg Marker and Torres Martinez Councilmember Desiree Franco. Chair Fermon also discussed the beam signing ceremony of the new Indio Police Department campus, and provided an update on the Monroe Bridge traffic operations, educational outreach and improvements.

Mayor Pro Tem Quintanilla thanked law enforcement for assistance with the 5K and half marathon event over the weekend. Mayor Pro Tem Quintanilla also discussed an ongoing problem with drivers doing donuts in intersections as well as a business rebate program for security cameras or camera upgrades.

Assistant Executive Director Erica Felci noted this was CVAG's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year and also extended a welcome to new Committee members.

Ms. Felci also addressed a question about the upcoming meeting schedule and use of virtual meetings.

### **6. EX-OFFICIO COMMENTS**

None.

### **7. CONSENT CALENDAR**

#### **A. Approve the November 14, 2022 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes**

**IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER GREGORY AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM QUINTANILLA TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 10 AYES, 1 ABSTAINING AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT.**

<b>Councilmember John Preckwinkle</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Johnny Rodriguez</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Raymond Gregory</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Frank Figueroa</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Roger Nuñez</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Dana Reed</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Councilmember Waymond Fermon</b>	<b>AYE</b>

Councilmember John Peña	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Karina Quintanilla	AYE
Mayor Grace Garner	AYE
Councilmember Meg Marker	AYE
COO Juan Perez	AYE
Councilmember Denise Franco	ABSENT

**8. DISCUSSION / ACTION**

**A. Update on the Looming Closure of Chuckawalla Valley State Prison – Presentation by California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation**

Due to a conflict of interest, Councilmember Fermon, a correctional officer, recused himself from the conversation. Councilmember Gregory led the discussion as acting Chair.

Representatives from the CDCR – including Prison Closure Manager Charles "Chuck" Callahan, External Affairs Deputy Chief David Maldonado and Deputy Director of EDD Workforce Javier Romero provided an update on the State’s decision to close Chuckawalla Valley State Prison. This included an overview of next steps for the employees and potential for grant investments in the community.

Robust member discussion ensued, with an interest from members in understanding how Chuckawalla was selected for closure. It was noted by Mayor Pro Tem Rodriguez and Mallory Crecelius, Blythe’s interim city manager, that additional information had been requested but not received from the state. City representatives also noted they are working with the City of Norco and state legislators to advocate for a prion swap and avoid the closure.

**IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER RODRIGUEZ AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM NUNEZ TO ASK THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO DIRECT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CVAG STAFF TO ASSIST THE CITY OF BLYTHE IN THEIR REQUEST TO REEXAMINE AND RECONSIDER THE CLOSURE OF CHUCKAWALLA VALLEY STATE PRISON AND IF THAT CLOSURE APPEARS TO MOVE FORWARD, THAT CVAG PUSH FOR THE REPURPOSING OF THE FACILITY AND MEANINGFUL MITIGATION OF THE LOCAL EFFECTS.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 9 AYES, 1 NAY, 1 MEMBER RECUSED AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT.**

Councilmember John Preckwinkle	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Johnny Rodriguez	AYE
Councilmember Raymond Gregory	AYE
Councilmember Frank Figueroa	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Roger Nuñez	AYE
Councilmember Dana Reed	ABSENT
Councilmember Waymond Fermon	RECUSED
Councilmember John Peña	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Karina Quintanilla	AYE
Mayor Grace Garner	NAY
Councilmember Meg Marker	AYE
COO Juan Perez	AYE
Councilmember Denise Franco	ABSENT

**C. Roundtable Discussion of Coachella Valley Crime Trends – Erica Felci**

This item was taken out of order. In the interest of time, Chair Fermon recommended that this item be continued to the next Committee meeting to allow for full discussion.

**IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR PRO TEM NUNEZ AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER GREGORY TO CONTINUE THE ITEM TO THE NEXT MEETING.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT.**

<b>Councilmember John Preckwinkle</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Johnny Rodriguez</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Raymond Gregory</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Frank Figueroa</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Roger Nuñez</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Dana Reed</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Councilmember Waymond Fermon</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember John Peña</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Karina Quintanilla</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Mayor Grace Garner</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Meg Marker</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>COO Juan Perez</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Denise Franco</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>

**B. Riverside County’s Coordinated Response to Asylum Seekers – Jeff Van Wagenen, Riverside County’s County Executive Officer**

Riverside County CEO Jeff Van Wagenen provided an update on the influx of migrants to the County amid uncertainty of Title 42.

Member discussion ensued. Chair Fermon asked CVAG staff to continue updating the Committee on available federal and county resources. No action was taken as this was an informational item.

**9. INFORMATION – The following item was 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, May 8, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. with additional meeting logistics to be announced.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, February 27, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom webinar.

## **12. ADJOURN**

Chair Fermon adjourned in memory of Deputies Darnell Calhoun and Isaiah Cordero at 10:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Liz Barnwell*, Management Analyst