

ITEM 7A

Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes May 8, 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 9:01 a.m. at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 119, Palm Desert, 92260.
- 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 Cathedral City	Councilmember Raymond Gregory, <i>Vice Chair</i>
City of Coachella	Councilmember Frank Figueroa (<i>arrived at Item 5</i>)
City of Indio	Councilmember Waymond Fermon, <i>Chair</i>
City of Indian Wells	Councilmember Dana Reed
City of La Quinta	Councilmember John Peña
City of Palm Desert	Mayor Pro Tem Karina Quintanilla
City of Palm Springs	Mayor Grace Garner
City of Rancho Mirage	Councilmember Meg Marker (<i>arrived at Item 4</i>)
County of Riverside	Asst. CEO Michelle Paradise (<i>arrived at item 5</i>)

Ex-Officio Members Present

Cathedral City Fire	Fire Chief Michael Contreras
Cathedral City Police	Commander Rick Sanchez
Desert Hot Springs Police	Deputy Chief Steve Shaw
District Attorney's Office	Chief Deputy DA Rodney Tethal
City of Palm Springs Fire	Incoming Chief Paul Alvarado
City of Palm Springs Police	Captain Mike Kovaleff

Members & Ex-Officios Not Present

Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	Councilmember Desiree Franco
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Robert Bradbury, Emergency Services Manager
California Highway Patrol	Commander Dennis Woodbury
Indio Police Department	Chief Mike Washburn
Palm Desert Sheriff's Substation	Captain Dean Agnoletto
Riverside County Fire Department	Robert Fish, Deputy Chief
Riverside County Probation	Crystal Nieto
Riverside County Sheriff's Department	Sheriff Chad Bianco
Thermal Sheriff Station	Captain Michael Bianco
U.S. Customs and Border Patrol	Assistant Chief Patrol Agent David Kim

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair Raymond Gregory led the Public Safety Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

5. CHAIR / COMMITTEE MEMBER/CVAG STAFF COMMENTS

Assistant Executive Director Erica Felci welcomed the committee back to in-person meetings in the CVAG conference room and detailed the Zoom logistics available for meetings.

Chair Fermon commented on the end of festival season, with Coachella and Stagecoach wrapping up in April. Chair Fermon updated the committee with statistics of arrests during festivals, and commented that the numbers were down compared to previous years.

6. EX-OFFICIO COMMENTS

Palm Springs Police Captain Mike Kovaleff gave an update of their crime trends, including numbers that report an overall reduction of 6% in crime in 2022 compared to previous years.

Desert Hot Springs Deputy Chief Steve Shaw noted they had a hiccup in their reporting system in 2022, but provided crime trends to date in 2023.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Rodney Tethal provided additional insights on the nexus between crime trends and the dismissal of cases taking countywide, including those due to backlogs and unavailable courtrooms.

Cathedral City Fire Chief Michael Contreras updated the Committee on response times from AMR ambulances and related challenges with staffing.

Incoming Palm Springs Fire Chief Paul Alvarado made introductory remarks.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve the February 13, 2023 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER GREGORY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER PENA TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES AND 1 MEMBER 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	AYE
Councilmember Waymond Fermon	AYE
Councilmember John Peña	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Karina Quintanilla	AYE

Mayor Grace Garner
Councilmember Meg Marker
ACEO Michelle Paradise
Councilmember Denise Franco

AYE
AYE
AYE
ABSENT

8. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. School Resource Officers in the Coachella Valley

Assistant Executive Director Erica Felci provided an overview of the staff report including a breakdown of the two different models that the valley's three school districts use for campus security.

Extensive member discussion ensued with a focus on understanding Coachella Valley Unified School District's decision to not use school resource officers. Staff noted that CVUSD had been invited to attend.

Desert Sands Unified's Jordan Aquino, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, and Ryan Chandler, security manager, provided information on their school resource officers and addressed members' questions.

Members expressed varying opinions on whether to weigh in on the matter, which had been a request from the City of La Quinta. Ms. Felci said staff would follow up again with CVUSD to try to address questions and get additional data.

No vote was taken, and the Committee members asked staff to gather more information and statistics before bringing the item back for discussion.

B. Roundtable Discussion of Coachella Valley Crime Trends

Chair Fermon noted that many reports had been provided during the ex officio update.

Cathedral City Commander Rick Sanchez reported the City saw a significant decrease in many areas, but saw an uptick in robberies and crimes of opportunity in 2022.

9. INFORMATION – The following item was provided for information only:

- A. Attendance Record**
- B. Update on the Looming Closure of Chuckawalla Valley State Prison**
- C. Update on Efforts to Regulate Mylar Balloons**

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Carla Sullivan-Dilley, President of the non-profit organization Coachella Valley Disaster Preparedness Network, introduced herself to the committee and distributed pamphlets of

information about CVDPN. Ms. Sullivan-Dilley discussed the trainings that are offered to keep the community prepared.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Meetings:

The next meeting of the **Public Safety Committee** will be held on Monday, June 12, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 119, Palm Desert, 92260.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, June 5, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 119, Palm Desert, 92260

12. ADJOURN

Chair Fermon adjourned the meeting at 10:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elysia Regalado, Management Analyst