



## **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023**

**9:00 a.m.**

**CVAG Conference Room  
73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104 (Formerly 119)  
Palm Desert, CA 92260**

**Members of the Committee and the public may attend and participate by video at the following remote location:**

**Blythe City Hall  
235 N Broadway, Room A  
Blythe, CA 92225  
760-922-6161**

**Desert Hot Springs City Hall  
11999 Palm Drive  
Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240  
760-329-6411**

Members of the public may use the following link for listening access and ability to address the Public Safety Committee when called upon:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81020774453?pwd=aTJiTzBBazMxV2tFb0MzMmtRQmhuUT09>

**Dial In: +1 669 900 9128  
Webinar ID: 810 2077 4453  
Password: 685260**

**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](mailto: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, Councilmember, City of Indio

2. **ROLL CALL**

A. **Member Roster**

**P4**

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

A. **Moment of Silence and Reflection**

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 May 8, 2023 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes**

**P5**

8. **DISCUSSION/ ACTION**

A. **Roundtable Discussion: Public Safety Response to Tropical Storm Hilary**

**P9**

**Recommendation:** Information

B. **Riverside County's Coordinated Response to Asylum Seekers – Bruce Barton,  
Riverside County Director of Emergency Management**

**P10**

**Recommendation:** Information

- C. **Regional Approach to Regulating Mylar Balloons in Public Spaces – Erica Felci** **P11**

**Recommendation:** Provide direction on pursuing a model ordinance that limits the use of Mylar balloons in public parks across the Coachella Valley

- D. **Election of Public Safety Committee Officers – Tom Kirk** **P16**

**Recommendation:** Elect a Chair and Vice Chair for the Public Safety Committee for Fiscal Year 2023/2024

9. **INFORMATION**

- A. **Attendance Record** **P18**

- B. **CVAG Schedule of Meetings for Fiscal Year 2023/24** **P19**

- C. **National Preparedness Month** **P20**

- D. **Letter from CVAG Chairman Scott Matas** **P21**

- E. **School Resource Officers in the Coachella Valley** **P22**

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, November 13, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, Palm Desert, 92260.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, September 25, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, Palm Desert, 92260

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

**Item 2A**

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Public Safety Committee  
Member Roster  
2023-2024**



<b>Voting Members</b>	
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Tribalmember John Preckwinkle III
City of Blythe	Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez
City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Raymond Gregory – <b>VICE CHAIR</b>
City of Coachella	Councilmember Frank Figueroa
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Roger Nuñez
City of Indian Wells	Councilmember Dana Reed
City of Indio	Councilmember Waymond Fermon - <b>CHAIR</b>
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
County of Riverside	Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	Councilmember Desiree Franco
<b>Ex-Officio Members</b>	
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Robert Bradbury, Emergency Services Manager
California Highway Patrol	Dennis Woodbury, Commander
Cathedral City Fire	Michael Contreras, 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	Paul Alvarado, 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 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  
City of Blythe  
City of Cathedral City  
City of Coachella  
City of Indio  
City of Indian Wells  
City of La Quinta  
City of Palm Desert  
City of Palm Springs  
City of Rancho Mirage  
County of Riverside

Councilmember John Preckwinkle III (*arrived at Item 5*)  
Mayor Pro Tem Johnny Rodriguez  
Councilmember Raymond Gregory, *Vice Chair*  
Councilmember Frank Figueroa (*arrived at Item 5*)  
Councilmember Waymond Fermon, *Chair*  
Councilmember Dana Reed  
Councilmember John Peña  
Mayor Pro Tem Karina Quintanilla  
Mayor Grace Garner  
Councilmember Meg Marker (*arrived at Item 4*)  
Asst. CEO Michelle Paradise (*arrived at item 5*)

#### **Ex-Officio Members Present**

Cathedral City Fire  
Cathedral City Police  
Desert Hot Springs Police  
District Attorney's Office  
City of Palm Springs Fire  
City of Palm Springs Police

Fire Chief Michael Contreras  
Commander Rick Sanchez  
Deputy Chief Steve Shaw  
Chief Deputy DA Rodney Tethal  
Incoming Chief Paul Alvarado  
Captain Mike Kovaleff

#### **Members & Ex-Officios Not Present**

Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians  
Aqua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians  
California Highway Patrol  
Indio Police Department  
Palm Desert Sheriff's Substation  
Riverside County Fire Department  
Riverside County Probation  
Riverside County Sheriff's Department  
Thermal Sheriff Station  
U.S. Customs and Border Patrol

Councilmember Desiree Franco  
Robert Bradbury, Emergency Services Manager  
Commander Dennis Woodbury  
Chief Mike Washburn  
Captain Dean Agnoletto  
Robert Fish, Deputy Chief  
Crystal Nieto  
Sheriff Chad Bianco  
Captain Michael Bianco  
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.**

<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>AYE</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>

**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

**ITEM 8A**

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Public Safety Committee  
September 11, 2023**



**STAFF REPORT**

**Subject:** Roundtable Discussion: Public Safety Response to Tropical Storm Hilary

**Contact:** Erica Felci, Chief Operating Officer ([efelci@cvag.org](mailto:efelci@cvag.org))

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**Recommendation: Information**

**Background:** On August 20, 2023, Tropical Storm Hilary unleashed widespread damage across the Coachella Valley. The record-setting rainfall exceeded what the desert would experience all year. Combined with Hilary's fierce winds, the Coachella Valley saw washed out roadways, downed power lines as well as flooded homes and businesses. Major arterials and even neighborhoods were buried under several feet of mud and debris. Initial damage estimates are in the tens of millions of dollars. No casualties were reported.

Amid the storm, the 911 emergency phone system experienced an outage. Many cities, the County of Riverside and Gov. Newsom proclaimed local emergencies. The storm and the resulting public safety response has garnered international news coverage that included CNN, the Weather Channel and Good Morning America.

At the September meeting of the Public Safety Committee, Bruce Barton, Riverside County's Director of Emergency Management, will join representatives of the local fire and police departments in providing a recap of the efforts and lessons learned.

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

**Attachments:**

Recap of flooding news coverage, including the damage along Indian Canyon Drive:  
[www.cvag.org/flooding](http://www.cvag.org/flooding)

"Rescuers use front loader to move elderly residents trapped in Cathedral City care home during storm," KABC: <https://abc7.com/cathedral-city-elderly-residents-trapped-boarding-care-home-tropical-storm-hilary/13685154/>

**ITEM 8B**

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Public Safety Committee  
September 11, 2023**



**STAFF REPORT**

**Subject:** Riverside County's Coordinated Response to Asylum Seekers

**Contact:** Erica Felci, Chief Operating Officer ([efelci@cvag.org](mailto:efelci@cvag.org))

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**Recommendation: Information**

**Background:** Title 42 was a public health order issued by President Trump's administration that allowed Customs and Border Protection to expel migrants to Mexico or back to their home countries to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in holding facilities. The order was extended multiple times. Amid the improving health conditions, President Biden announced the COVID-19 health emergency would end in May 2023 – essentially ending the policy. The decision to end Title 42 was not without controversy, as a number of states argued that their states' healthcare, law enforcement and education systems would be overly burdened by an influx of undocumented immigrants with the public health restriction lifted.

CVAG's Public Safety Committee has received several presentations on Title 42 and the impact that border crossings have in Riverside County. Bruce Barton, Riverside County's Director of Emergency Management, will provide an update on the Asylum Seeker Response Program at the Committee's September meeting.

The County's Asylum Seeker Response Program was launched in March 2021 to support the U.S. Customs and Border Protection response to asylum seekers entering the county. The response includes ensuring that asylum seekers who are released by Border Patrol, and legally seeking asylum in the United States, receive short-term transitional services. It also included testing and sheltering needed to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The County has included funding for the Galilee Center, an eastern Coachella Valley-based nonprofit organization that fulfills the food, clothing and basic needs for local disadvantaged children, families, and farmworkers.

The Asylum Seeker Response Program has engaged an array of other County departments – including public health, behavioral health, public social services and Riverside County Probation Department – to address the various social services needed, including mass care and shelter coordination, meal operations, travel assistance and other wraparound services. The typical assistance includes helping them with a stay in the county – generally for a couple of days before they head to a sponsor outside of the county.

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

## **ITEM 8C**

### **Coachella Valley Association of Governments Public Safety Committee September 11, 2023**



#### **STAFF REPORT**

**Subject:** Regional Approach to Regulating Mylar Balloons in Public Spaces

**Contact:** Erica Felci, Chief Operating Officer ([efelci@cvag.org](mailto:efelci@cvag.org))

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#### **Recommendation: Provide direction on pursuing a model ordinance that limits the use of Mylar balloons in public parks across the Coachella Valley**

**Background:** Over the course of several meetings last year, the Public Safety Committee was provided updates on the increasing public safety concerns related to Mylar balloons and power outages. The issue, which has drawn attention from both Southern California Edison (SCE) and Imperial Irrigation District (IID), led to discussions around both the sale and possession of Mylar balloons.

In November 2022, CVAG staff sought direction on pursuing a model ordinance being circulated by IID in order to address power outages in the Coachella Valley. The concept of limiting the sale and/or possession of Mylar balloons prompted significant discussion. At the time, the Public Safety Committee did not take a position on a model ordinance that IID had drafted, but instead requested CVAG staff continue to track the issue. Based on the Public Safety Committee's recommendation, CVAG also supported statewide legislation that better regulates Mylar balloons.

Mylar balloons are made with Mylar nylon, a non-biodegradable material, and are typically coated with a metallic finish that conducts electricity. These balloons are a common feature at celebratory events such as birthdays or graduations, and they stay inflated for two weeks or longer. When they are not sufficiently weighted and are released into the air, Mylar balloons have the potential to contact power lines, which can result in power outages and fires.

On April 13, 2023, the Palm Desert City Council discussed local regulations of Mylar balloons and provided direction to City staff about taking steps to limit their use. In June 2023, the Palm Desert City Council adopted Ordinance No. 1397, which states *"Within the limits of any public park or recreation area of the city, no person shall possess, bring, decorate with, or use a foil balloon that is filled with a gas lighter than air."* The ordinance (attached) went into effect on August 20, 2023. According to City staff, signage is being posted in all city parks and the City is adding language to its various special events applications to inform the public. The City is currently focused on educational efforts to make sure residents and visitors are aware of the ban. In the future, should significant issues arise, City staff stated they will evaluate whether there is any need for code enforcement engagement or consideration of fines.

Palm Desert City officials have asked CVAG staff to renew discussions around a regional approach on addressing Mylar balloons, and specifically requested that the City's ordinance be brought to the Energy & Sustainability Committee. Because this issue had previously originated with the Public Safety Committee, CVAG staff is now providing both Committees with this update and seeking direction on whether to pursue a regional ordinance to address the use of Mylar balloons. The Committee could

recommend that CVAG endorse Palm Desert's approach and circulate it to member jurisdictions for their individual considerations. The Committee could also recommend that a broader approach is considered, which would require additional CVAG staff time before the item is brought back at a future meeting. Staff will be seeking similar input when the Energy & Sustainability Committee meets on September 14. Based on the input received from both Committees, the item could be presented at the September meeting of the Executive Committee.

CVAG staff would also note that, since 1990, California has prohibited the release of Mylar balloons into the air in an effort to help reduce power outages. Additional legislative efforts have sought to limit the manufacture or sale of celebratory foil balloons. In June 2022, based on the direction and recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, the CVAG Executive Committee issued support for Assembly Bill 847, authored by Assemblymember Bill Quirk (D-Hayward), which aimed to impose additional regulations to govern the manufacture or sale of celebratory foil balloons. The version of AB 847 that was signed by the Governor was amended after CVAG's committees endorsed it. Whereas the bill initially aimed to ban the sale of Mylar balloons in 2026 if they cannot pass certain standards and requirements, the final version has a much longer phase-out that will start no sooner than January 2027 and could extend past 2031.

**Fiscal Analysis:** There is no cost to CVAG for this informational update. The development of a model ordinance can be covered under existing staff time, should the Public Safety Committee or the Energy & Sustainability Committees endorse a regional approach to addressing Mylar balloons.

**Attachment:** Palm Desert City Ordinance No. 1397, banning Mylar balloons from public parks

ORDINANCE NO. 1397

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING TITLE 11 PARKS, CHAPTER 11.01 GENERAL PROVISIONS, PROHIBITING MYLAR BALLOON USE IN CITY PARKS, AND MAKING A FINDING OF EXEMPTION UNDER CEQA

WHEREAS, balloons made of foil, metallic foil, or other electrically conductive material, also known as Mylar Balloons, pose a safety hazard when released into the air as they can cause power outages, explosions, downed power lines and damaged infrastructure when coming near or into direct contact with high-voltage power lines, resulting in costly repairs and/or hours of power outages affecting City of Palm Desert residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, State law prohibits the outdoor release of any balloon made of electrically conductive material that is inflated with a gas lighter than air (California Penal Code Section 653.1), and requires an object of sufficient weight to be affixed to each balloon at the time of sale or distribution to counter the lift capability of the balloon, and also requires a permanent warning notice regarding the conductivity and danger of Mylar Balloons, along with the manufacturer's name printed on the balloon (California Business & Professions Code Section 22942); and

WHEREAS, on September 18, 2022, AB 847 Electrically Conductive Balloons was chaptered into state law, further requiring any person who sells, offers for sale, or manufacturers for sale in this state, any foil balloon, shall comply with the standardized testing requirements to be established by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) ensuring the balloon will not cause a fault at high-voltage electric distribution levels no later than four (4) years from the commencement date, or on or around January 1, 2031 (California Business & Professions Code Section 22942); and

WHEREAS, the City of Palm Desert desires to implement an additional measure to prohibit the use of Mylar balloons at City parks to mitigate the dangerous impacts from these balloons coming into contact with power lines and otherwise creating a negative impact on the environment; and

WHEREAS, all legal prerequisites to the adoption of this Ordinance have occurred.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM DESERT DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Recitals. The recitals above are each incorporated by reference and adopted as findings by the City Council.

SECTION 2. Amendment to Municipal Code. Palm Desert Municipal Code Title 11 *Parks*, Chapter 11.01 *General Provisions*, Section 11.01.010 *Definitions* is hereby amended to include the definition of "Foil balloon" in alphabetical order as follows:

“Foil balloon” means any balloon constructed of electrically conductive material, including, foil, metallic foil, Mylar, or other transparent plastic/polyester resin designed to be inflated with air or other gas including a gas lighter than air causing it to float, and may be used for decorative, toy, or entertainment purposes.”

SECTION 3. Amendment to Municipal Code. Palm Desert Municipal Code Title 11 *Parks*, Chapter 11.01 *General Provisions*, Section 11.01.010 *Definitions* is hereby amended to include the definition of “Gas lighter than air” in alphabetical order as follows:

“Gas lighter than air” means a gas that has a lower density than normal atmospheric gases and rises above them as a result, including, but are not limited to helium, hydrogen, nitrous oxide, methane, and nitrogen.”

SECTION 4. Addition to Municipal Code. Subsection AA. is added to Section 11.01.080 *Prohibited conduct generally*, Chapter 11.01 *General Provisions*, Title 11 *Parks* of the Palm Desert Municipal Code to read as follows:

“11.01.080 Prohibited conduct generally.

Within the limits of any public park or recreation area of the city, no person shall:

[...]

AA. Possess, bring, decorate with, or use a foil balloon that is filled with a gas lighter than air.”

SECTION 5. Severability. If any section, subsection, clause or phrase of this Ordinance or any part thereof is for any reason held to be invalid, unconstitutional, or unenforceable by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of the Ordinance. The City Council declares that it would have passed each section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase would be declared invalid, unconstitutional or unenforceable.

SECTION 6. CEQA. The City Council finds that this Ordinance is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15060(c)(2) and 15061(b)(3) in that the proposed changes are not anticipated to result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, nor will the proposed changes have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. This Ordinance is further exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to Section 15308 of the State CEQA Guidelines as an action to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment.

SECTION 7. Publication. The City Clerk of the City of Palm Desert, California, is hereby directed to publish this Ordinance in the Desert Sun, a newspaper of general circulation, published and circulated in the City of Palm Desert, California, and shall be in full force and effective thirty (30) days after its adoption.

ADOPTED ON June 22, 2023.

DocuSigned by:

*Kathleen Kelly*

002E74011AG0404...

KATHLEEN KELLY  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

*Anthony J. Mejia*

0000A100720D407...

ANTHONY J. MEJIA  
CITY CLERK

I, Anthony J. Mejia, City Clerk of the City of Palm Desert, California, do hereby certify that Ordinance No. 1397 is a full, true, and correct copy, and was introduced at a regular meeting of the Palm Desert City Council on June 08, 2023, and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council held on June 22, 2023, by the following vote:

AYES: HARNIK, NESTANDE, QUINTANILLA, TRUBEE, AND KELLY  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: NONE  
ABSTAIN: NONE  
RECUSED: NONE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Palm Desert, California, on 6/23/2023.

DocuSigned by:

*Anthony J. Mejia*

0000A100720D407...

ANTHONY J. MEJIA  
CITY CLERK

**ITEM 8D**

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Public Safety Committee  
September 11, 2023**



**STAFF REPORT**

**Subject:** Election of Public Safety Committee Officers

**Contact:** Tom Kirk, Executive Director ([tkirk@cvag.org](mailto:tkirk@cvag.org))

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**Recommendation:** Elect a Chair and Vice Chair for the Public Safety Committee for Fiscal Year 2023/2024

**Background:** Each fiscal year, the Public Safety Committee considers the election of a Chair and Vice Chair. The Committee does not have a formal officer rotation, or a set policy for how to select the Chair and Vice Chair.

A list of the officers for this Committee, dating back to 2010, is attached for member information. The current Chair is Indio Councilmember Waymond Fermon, and the Vice Chair is Cathedral City Councilmember Raymond Gregory.

Staff recommends that the Public Safety Committee provide nominations and elect its officers for this fiscal year.

**Fiscal Analysis:** There is no additional cost to the budget as Public Safety Committee officers receive the same per diem as other committee members.

**Attachment:** History of Chair and Vice Chair

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR HISTORY**



	<b><u>Chair</u></b>	<b><u>Vice Chair</u></b>
2022/2023	Waymond Fermon	Raymond Gregory
2021/2022	Waymond Fermon	Megan Beaman-Jacinto
2020/2021	Waymond Fermon	Megan Beaman-Jacinto
2019/2020	John Peña	Waymond Fermon
2018/2019	Russell Betts	John Peña
2017/2018	Betty Sanchez	Russell Betts
2016/2017	Betty Sanchez	Russell Betts
2015/2016	Iris Smotrich	Betty Sanchez
2014/2015	Paul Lewin	Iris Smotrich
2013/2014	Paul Lewin	Iris Smotrich
2012/2013	Terry Henderson	Paul Lewin
2011/2012	Mary T. Roche	Terry Henderson
2010/2011	Lee Weigel	Mary T. Roche
2009/2010	Gene Gilbert	Lee Weigel

**Item 9A**

COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
ATTENDANCE RECORD  
FY2022-2023

Voting Members	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	ATTENDED		
Aqua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians		●	●		●			●			●		5	out of	5
City of Blythe		○	○		○			●			●		2	out of	5
City of Cathedral City		●	●		●			●			●		5	out of	5
City of Coachella		○	○		○			●			●		2	out of	5
City of Desert Hot Springs		●	○		○			●			○		2	out of	5
City of Indian Wells		●	●		○			○			●		3	out of	5
City of Indio		●	●		●			●			●		5	out of	5
City of La Quinta		●	●		●			●			●		5	out of	5
City of Palm Desert		●	●		●			●			●		5	out of	5
City of Palm Springs		○	●		●			●			●		4	out of	5
City of Rancho Mirage		●	●		●			●			●		5	out of	5
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians		*	*		*			○			○		0	out of	5
Riverside County		●	●		●			●			●		5	out of	5
<b>Total Attendance Per Meeting</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>8</b>			<b>11</b>			<b>11</b>				

Ex Officio / Non-Voting Members	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	ATTENDED		
Agua Caliente		●	●		●			●			○		4	out of	5
California Highway Patrol		●	●		●			○			○		3	out of	5
Cathedral City Fire		●	○		●			○			●		3	out of	5
Cathedral City Police		●	●		●			○			●		4	out of	5
County Probation Department		●	●		●			○			○		3	out of	5
Desert Hot Springs Police		○	●		●			●			●		4	out of	5
District Attorney's Office		○	○		○			○			●		1	out of	5
Indio Police		●	○		○			●			○		2	out of	5
Palm Desert Sheriff Station		●	●		○			○			○		2	out of	5
Palm Springs Fire		●	●		●			●			●		5	out of	5
Palm Springs Police		●	●		○			●			●		4	out of	5
Riverside County Fire		○	●		○			●			○		2	out of	5
Riverside County Sheriff		●	●		○			●			○		3	out of	5
Thermal Sheriff Station		○	○		○			○			○		0	out of	5
U.S. Border Patrol		○	○		○			○			○		0	out of	5
<b>Total Attendance Per Meeting</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>7</b>			<b>7</b>			<b>6</b>				

No Meeting   
 Vacant \*

Present ●

Absent ○

# COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

## FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024



CVAG STANDING COMMITTEES	DAY	TIME	JULY (Dark)	AUG (Dark)	SEPT	OCT (Dark)	NOV	DEC (Dark)	JAN	FEB	MAR (Dark)	APR	MAY	JUN
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	Last Monday	4:30 p.m.	-	-	25	-	Dec 4	-	29	26	-	29	H June 3	24
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday	10:00 a.m.		-	H Sep 11 11:00 am	-	6	-	H Jan 8 11:00 am	5	-	1	6	3
COACHELLA VALLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	10:30 a.m.	-	-	14	-	9	-	11	8	-	11	9	13
DESERT COMMUNITY ENERGY	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	3:00 p.m.	-	-	18	16	20	-	H Jan 8	H Feb12	18	15	20	17
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	12:00 p.m.	-	-	14	-	9	-	11	8	-	11	9	13
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday	9:00 a.m.	-	-	11	-	13	-	8	12	-	-	13	10
HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	-	-	20	-	15	-	17	21	-	17	15	12
GENERAL ASSEMBLY	Last Monday in June	6:00 p.m.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24

H = Holiday      \* = Special Meeting

AGENDAS CAN BE FOUND AT: [www.cvag.org](http://www.cvag.org).

UPDATED: September 1, 2023

**PLEASE NOTE:** When it becomes necessary to have a special meeting or to change the date of a meeting, committee members will be alerted and the change will be noted on the CVAG website calendar.

**ITEM 9C**

Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Public Safety Committee  
September 11, 2023

**STAFF REPORT**

**Subject:** National Preparedness Month

**Contact:** Erica Felci, Chief Operating Officer ([efelci@cvag.org](mailto:efelci@cvag.org))

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**Recommendation: Information**

**Background:** Given the geographic proximity to the San Andreas fault line, earthquake preparedness is of utmost importance for the Coachella Valley. It also has been a longstanding topic of interest for CVAG's committees. In 2009, the CVAG Executive Committee approved CVAG's participation to co-lead the creation and implementation of the Coachella Valley Regional Earth Early Warning System (CREWS) with the Coachella Valley Emergency Managers Association (CVEMA). In recent years, the Public Safety Committee was provided updates on the Earthquake Warning California (EWC), which is the state's earthquake preparedness system, and its MyShake app.

Since 2004, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) observes each September as National Preparedness Month. This is a time for individuals to take steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, schools, and communities. FEMA's Ready Campaign includes public education and community engagement to help communities prepare for and respond to emergencies, including natural disasters. This year, the Ready Campaign will focus on preparing older adults for disaster, specifically older adults from communities that are disproportionately impacted by the all-hazard events such as extreme weather occurrences and emergencies.

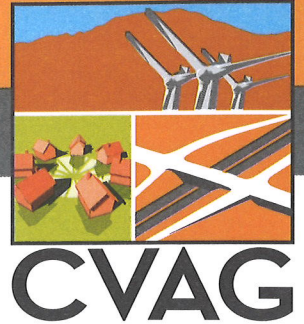
Additional resources are available in both English and Spanish. They can be found online at <https://www.ready.gov/september>

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

# COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

74-199 El Paseo Drive, Suite 100, Palm Desert, CA 92260 • (760) 346-1127 • [www.cvag.org](http://www.cvag.org)

August 15, 2023



Honorable Colleagues of the CVAG General Assembly,

As we embark on a new fiscal year, I wanted to share my excitement about the year ahead. I am assuming the role of CVAG Chairman with an enormous amount of gratitude and appreciation for my elected colleagues. I also am looking forward to working with our Vice Chairman, Rancho Mirage Councilmember Ted Weill, to advocate for the regional programs and policies that promote sustainability, help the homeless, conserve habitat for threatened wildlife and ensure our region's transportation network is safe for drivers as well as cyclists and pedestrians.

I am inspired by what our predecessors accomplished in CVAG's first 50 years. I'd encourage you to rewatch the videos that were presented at the recent General Assembly gathering, which can be found at [www.cvag.org/50th](http://www.cvag.org/50th). I dare say most of us will not be in our elected positions when CVAG celebrates its next 50 years. But the work that will be reflected upon starts with us today. This is why I wanted to share my thoughts about how we focus our efforts during my tenure.

Multi-modal transportation improvements will be critical to our region's economic future. The Interstate 10/ Monroe Street interchange is fully funded, and I hope we will continue to combine advocacy efforts to secure similar cash infusions for priority projects across the valley. The investments we are making – and should continue making – in CV Link and CV Sync are vital to safe travel for our residents and visitors. As I shared at the General Assembly, I am proposing an ad hoc committee that focuses on improving Interstate 10 from the Banning Pass to the City of Blythe, allowing us to better work with Caltrans to promote beautification, expand motorist assistance programs and address traffic delays through technology and better lane management. I anticipate that we will make progress on the low-water crossings such as Indian Canyon Drive in order to end the closures due to flooding and blowsand. I believe our strong support of CV Rail will also benefit Riverside County Transportation Commission's efforts to bring regular passenger rail service to the desert.

As our desert grows, I hope you reflect on our region's commitment to preserve the majestic desert landscape. The Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC) is doing a fantastic job of acquiring properties. Increasingly, we will need to discuss how we manage and maintain that land over the coming decades, as well as balance it with the public's interest in outdoor recreation. I hope we also build on the call to action for urban greening that Coachella Mayor Steven Hernandez made while he was Chairman, including additional ideas for planting more trees and increasing shade. Collaboration will also be needed to address two of our region's biggest environmental quandaries: the future of the Salton Sea and the future of electricity service in the eastern Coachella Valley.

Our quality of life will no doubt benefit from the Public Safety Committee's debates as well as the coordinated effort to house the chronically homeless population through CV Housing First. I encourage us to think about what else may be threatening our quality of life – and tackle them by moving ahead with resolve and thoughtful discussion.

We have both big challenges and big opportunities ahead of us. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Scott Matas  
CVAG Chairman, Fiscal Year 2023-24

**ITEM 9E**

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Public Safety Committee  
September 11, 2023**



**STAFF REPORT**

**Subject:** School Resource Officers in the Coachella Valley

**Contact:** Erica Felci, Chief Operating Officer ([efelci@cvag.org](mailto:efelci@cvag.org))

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**Recommendation: Information**

**Background:** At its May meeting, the Public Safety Committee had a robust conversation about the use of school resource officers at local schools. The issue was brought forward at the request of La Quinta Councilmember John Peña, and with the concurrence of Committee Chair Waymond Fermon. Both Palm Springs Unified and Desert Sands Unified School Districts have agreements in place to have local law enforcement serve as school resource officers. Coachella Valley Unified School District (CVUSD) ended their agreements in 2018 and shifted to a restorative justice model for its school security. In recent months, this model has drawn public attention and led to calls from students and parents for additional security measures.

The May staff report (attached as a link) provided additional details on the issue, including a letter the City of La Quinta sent to CVUSD to encourage the Superintendent and District Board take steps to reinstate school resource officers. CVAG's legislative platform broadly calls for "maintaining a safe and secure community, free of crime, while ensuring clean and engaging public spaces, is essential to maintaining vibrant and growing business and residential communities." It does not specify any positions related to school resource officers, and staff did not provide any recommendation on a stance.

During the May discussion, members of the Public Safety Committee requested that staff provide additional details from CVUSD in order to address questions from the committee, including the role that school resource officers had in determining whether a student would be suspended. CVAG staff has attempted to address these questions and invited representatives of CVUSD administration to attend a Public Safety Committee meeting, including the one scheduled for September. CVUSD staff have declined to attend.

Until committee members indicate they want to move on without this information and recommend any position to the Executive Committee, CVAG staff will leave it off the action agenda.

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

**Attachments:**

May 2023 staff report with additional background on school resource officers:  
[http://www.cvag.org/downloads/comres/psc/PSC\\_05\\_08\\_2023SR8A.pdf](http://www.cvag.org/downloads/comres/psc/PSC_05_08_2023SR8A.pdf)

KESQ recap of CVUSD roundtable meeting on security: <https://kesq.com/news/2023/05/04/what-makes-you-feel-safe-cvUSD-board-discusses-security-concerns/>