

ITEM 7A

Public Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 11, 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 8:00 a.m. at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, Palm Desert, 92260. Zoom videoconferencing was available from the City of Desert Hot Springs.
2. **ROLL CALL** - Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

City of Blythe	Mayor Pro Tem Johnny Rodriguez (<i>arrived at item 3</i>)
City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Raymond Gregory, <i>Vice Chair</i>
City of Coachella	Councilmember Frank Figueroa
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Roger Nuñez (<i>arrived at item 5</i>)
City of Indian Wells	Councilmember Dana Reed
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
City of Rancho Mirage	Councilmember Meg Marker
County of Riverside	Supervisor V Manuel Perez (<i>arrived at item 3</i>)

Ex-Officio Members Present

Cathedral City Fire	Captain Craig Sanborn
Cathedral City Police	Commander Rick Sanchez
Desert Hot Springs Police	Deputy Chief Steve Shaw
District Attorney's Office	Chief Deputy DA Rodney Tethal
Indio Police Department	Assistant Chief Christopher Shaefer
Riverside County Fire	Division 2 Chief Michael Beverlin

Members & Ex-Officios Not Present

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Tribal Councilmember John Preckwinkle III
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	Tribal Councilmember Desiree Franco
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Robert Bradbury, Emergency Services Manager
California Highway Patrol	Commander Dennis Woodbury
Palm Desert Sheriff's Substation	Captain Dean Agnoletto
Palm Springs Fire	Fire Chief Paul Alvarado
Palm Springs Police	Chief Andrew Mills
Riverside County Probation	Chief Probation Officer Ron Miller
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

A. Moment of Silence and Reflection

Chair Fermon led a moment of silence to acknowledge the 22nd anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks and honor those who were killed. , He also honored the life of our local hero Marine Corporal Hunter Lopez, who was among the 13 U.S service members killed on August 26, 2021, in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Vice Chair Raymond Gregory led the Pledge of Allegiance following the moment of silence.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

5. CHAIR / COMMITTEE MEMBER/CVAG STAFF COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Karina Quintanilla discussed trees and the public safety concerns with those that are falling.

Chair Fermon reports the City of Indio has passed an ordinance prohibiting spectators and planning and coordinating of illegal motor vehicle contests and side shows. Chair Fermon also reports the City of Indio has proclaimed August 26 as “Hunter Lopez Day” and every year at the nearest city council meeting, the City of Indio will honor a service member. This year, US Army Veteran Ralph Durate was honored for his exemplary service to the local veteran community.

6. EX-OFFICIO COMMENTS

Cal Fire Division Chief Michael Beverlin recognized the three department members killed on August 6 in a helicopter crash. Chief Beverlin also expressed Cal Fire’s appreciation to the cities and agency partners for assisting the department during that time.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve the May 8, 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 2 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Councilmember John Preckwinkle	ABSENT
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	AYE
Councilmember Meg Marker	AYE
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	AYE
Councilmember Denise Franco	ABSENT

8. DISCUSSION / ACTION

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

Chief Operating Officer Erica Felci presented a slide show presentation of before and after pictures of the damage caused by the storm.

Supervisor V Manuel Perez thanked Riverside County Director of Emergency Management Bruce Barton and his team for their hard work during these times and suggested an additional meeting be held at a later date to specifically address incidents of this nature and how to prepare for them.

Director Barton provided the Committee information on damage estimates and work done to prepare for the storm.

Jason Uhley, General Manager for Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation talked about the preparations taken prior to and during the storm in the western part of the Coachella Valley. Mr. Uhley reported on the infrastructure impacts and efforts to recover funding on both the state and federal levels.

Member discussion ensued. Committee members expressed interest in this topic becoming a reoccurring agenda item.

No vote was taken as this was an informational item.

B. Riverside County's Coordinated Response to Asylum Seekers

Director Barton presented the staff report and provided an update on the changes to Title 42 and how Riverside County is transitioning operations since the changes.

No vote was taken as this was an informational item.

C. Regional Approach to Regulating Mylar Balloons in Public Spaces

Ms. Felci presented the staff report and gave a brief background about the concerns of the use of mylar balloons.

Mayor Pro Tem Karina Quintanilla provided the committee with a brief overview of the ordinance the City of Palm Desert recently adopted against the use of mylar balloons in public parks.

Brief member discussion ensued.

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR PRO TEM QUINTANILLA AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER RAYMOND GREGORY TO PROVIDE DIRECTION ON PURSUING A MODEL ORDINANCE THAT LIMITS THE USE OF MYLAR BALLOONS IN PUBLIC PARKS ACROSS THE COACHELLA VALLEY.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Councilmember John Preckwinkle	ABSENT
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	AYE
Councilmember Meg Marker	AYE
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	AYE
Councilmember Denise Franco	ABSENT

D. Election of Public Safety Committee Officers

Executive Director Tom Kirk opened the floor for nominations for Chair. Councilmember Gregory nominated Chair Fermon to remain Chair of the Public Safety Committee. No other nominations were submitted.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER GREGORY AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM QUINTANILLA TO APPROVE COUNCILMEMBER FERMON REMAIN CHAIR OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023/24

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Councilmember John Preckwinkle	ABSENT
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	AYE
Councilmember Meg Marker	AYE
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	AYE
Councilmember Denise Franco	ABSENT

Mr. Kirk opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. Councilmember Peña nominated Councilmember Gregory to remain Vice Chair of the Public Safety Committee. No other nominations were submitted.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER PENA AND SECONDED BY CHAIR FERMON TO APPROVE COUNCILMEMBER GREGORY TO REMAIN VICE CHAIR OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023/24

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Councilmember John Preckwinkle	ABSENT
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	AYE
Councilmember Meg Marker	AYE
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	AYE
Councilmember Denise Franco	ABSENT

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

- A. Attendance Record**
- B. CVAG Schedule of Meeting for Fiscal Year 2023/24**
- C. National Preparedness Month**
- D. Letter from CVAG Chairman Scott Matas**
- E. School Resource Officers in the Coachella Valley**

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 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. ADJOURN

Chair Fermon adjourned the meeting at 10:08 a.m. in memory of the three personnel killed in CAL Fire's August helicopter crash: Assistant Chief Josh Bischof, Captain Tim Rodriguez and pilot Tony Sousa.

Respectfully submitted,

Elysia Regalado, Management Analyst