

ITEM 7A

Public Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 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 Gov. Newsom's executive order governing how public meetings are held during the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. **ROLL CALL** - Roll call taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Mark Carnevale
City of Coachella	Councilmember Megan Beaman-Jacinto, Vice Chair
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Roger Nuñez (<i>Arrived in Item 8A</i>)
City of Indian Wells	Councilmember Greg Sanders (<i>Left during Item 8B</i>)
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	Mayor Christy Holstege (<i>Arrived in Item 6</i>)
City of Rancho Mirage	Councilmember Iris Smotrich
Riverside County	Assistant CEO Jeff Van Wagenen

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 Bryan Reyes
City of Palm Springs Fire	Chief J. Kevin Nalder
Riverside County District Attorney	ADA Gerald Fineman
Riverside County Fire Department	Division Robert Fish
Thermal Sheriff Station	Captain Herman Lopez
California Highway Patrol	Captain Dennis Woodbury
Riverside County Probation	Christine Castro

Members & Ex-Officios Not Present

City of Blythe	Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez
Aqua Caliente	Margaret Muhr
City of Cathedral City Fire	Chief John Muhr
City of Cathedral City Police	Chief George Crum
Riverside County Sheriff	Sheriff Chad Bianco
U.S. Customs and Border Patrol	Assistant Chief Patrol Agent David Kim
Palm Desert Sheriff's Substation	Capitan Dean Agnoletto

Others Present

CVAG	Tom Kirk
CVAG	Erica Felci
CVAG	Tom Cox
CVAG	Oscar Vizcarra
CVAG	Joanna Stueckle
Riverside County District 4	Patricia Cooper
SoCal Gas	Deborah McGarrey
SCAG	David Salgado
Additional participants	Joe DelGiudice
	3 others by phone

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember John Peña led the committee in the pledge.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

5. CHAIR / COMMITTEE MEMBER/CVAG STAFF COMMENTS

Chair Fermon welcomed the new members of the Public Safety Committee: Councilmember Greg Sanders, Councilmember Karina Quintanilla, and Councilmember Roger Nuñez, who arrived later in the meeting. Councilmembers Sanders and Quintanilla made brief introductory remarks.

Vice Chair Megan Beaman Jacinto discussed the change at the Thermal Sheriff's Station, highlighting Captain Herman Lopez, and the ongoing conversation in the community as Coachella considers its own police department.

6. EX-OFFICIO COMMENTS

Chief Bryan Reyes, City of Palm Springs, congratulated Assistant CEO Jeff Van Wagenen on the news he will become the County's Chief Executive Officer.

Chief Mike Washburn, City of Indio, also congratulated Mr. Van Wagenen and then provided an update on the impact that COVID-19 has had on the department, including managing stress on personnel.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER PENA AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SMOTRICH TO:

A. Approve the November 9, 2020 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 10 AYES AND 1 ABSENT

Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez	ABSENT
Councilmember Mark Carnevale	AYE
Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto	AYE
Councilmember Roger Nuñez	AYE
Councilmember Greg Sanders	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Waymond Fermon	AYE
Councilmember John Peña	AYE
Councilmember Karina Quintanilla	AYE
Mayor Christy Holstege	AYE
Councilmember Iris Smotrich	AYE
Assistant CEO Jeff Van Wagenen	AYE

8. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Update on COVID-19 Public Health Crisis

Jeff Van Wagenen, Riverside County Assistant CEO, provided an overview of the COVID-19 current conditions, particularly the availability of the vaccine. Member discussion ensued, and Mr. Van Wagenen addressed questions on logistics of distributing both doses, data tracking in hospitals and the availability of vaccines to essential workers and restaurant workers.

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

B. Continued Conversation on Race, Diversity and Policing

Erica Felci provided a brief background on the steps the CVAG Public Safety and Executive Committees have taken to continue the conversation regionally. Mr. Van Wagenen provided an update on the countywide listening sessions, the feedback received during those sessions and previewed the next steps the Board of Supervisors will consider.

Member discussion ensued and both Chair Fermon and Vice Chair Beaman Jacinto indicated they would be continuing to ask the committee to consider additional steps in the future. There was no action taken as this was an information item.

C. Legislative Update

A presentation was provided by Gerald Fineman, Riverside County Assistant District Attorney, on key California laws that take effect in 2021 to impact sentencing guidelines, probation as well as the Attorney General's role in reviewing officer involved shootings when the victim is unarmed.

In the interest of time, Chair Fermon asked that the presentation be shared with Committee members instead of a discussion.

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

A. Attendance Record

B. CV200 Coordinated Approach to Addressing Unsheltered Homeless

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS –Upcoming Meetings via Zoom videoconference:

- Public Safety – Monday, May 10, 2021 at 9 a.m.
- Executive Committee – Monday, February 22, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

12. ADJOURN – At 10:21 a.m., Chair Fermon adjourned the meeting in memory of the following public safety officers:

- Terrell Young, Riverside County Sheriff's Deputy;
- David Werksman, Riverside County Sheriff's Deputy;
- Julio Beltran, Riverside County Deputy Probation Officer;
- Jose Delgado, Calipatria state prison Correctional Officer; and
- Brian Sicknick, U.S. Capitol Police Officer.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Felci

Assistant to the Executive Director