

ITEM 7A

Public Safety Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
September 12, 2022



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. 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  
City of Cathedral City  
City of Indian Wells  
City of Indio  
City of La Quinta  
City of Palm Springs  
City of Rancho Mirage  
City of Palm Desert  
County of Riverside

Councilmember John Preckwinkle III  
Councilmember Raymond Gregory  
Councilmember Greg Sanders  
Mayor Waymond Fermon, *Chair*  
Councilmember John Peña  
Mayor Pro Tem Grace Garner  
Councilmember Iris Smotrich  
Councilmember Karina Quintanilla  
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez (*Arrived during Item 4*)

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians  
California Highway Patrol  
Cathedral City Police  
Desert Hot Springs Police  
Palm Desert Sheriff's Substation  
City of Palm Springs Fire  
City of Palm Springs Police  
Riverside County Fire  
Riverside County Probation  
Riverside County Sheriff

Robert Bradbury, Emergency Services Manager  
Commander Dennis Woodbury  
Chief George Crum  
Chief Jim Henson  
Captain Dean Agnoletto  
Acting Fire Chief Jason Loya  
Chief Andrew Mills  
Deputy Chief Robert Fish  
Cristina Castro & Crystal Nieto  
Lt. David Wright & Lt. Shaun Myers

**Members & Ex-Officios Not Present**

City of Blythe  
City of Coachella  
City of Desert Hot Springs  
Cathedral City Fire  
District Attorney's Office  
City of Indio Police  
Thermal Sheriff Station  
U.S. Customs and Border Patrol

Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez  
Councilmember Megan Beaman-Jacinto, Vice Chair  
Councilmember Roger Nuñez  
Chief John Muhr  
Michael Hestrin  
Chief Mike Washburn  
Captain Michael Bianco  
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. He also led a moment of silence to acknowledge the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks as well as anniversaries of the lives of Coachella Valley residents who gave the ultimate sacrifice:

- It has been one year since the August 26, 2021 evacuation in Afghanistan, where Marine Corporal Hunter Lopez was among 13 U.S. service members killed at an airport in Kabul.
- It will be six years this October since Palm Springs officers Jose Gilbert “Gil” Vega and Lesley Zerebny were killed responding to a domestic disturbance call.
- And 10 years ago, Cathedral City’s Suresh Krause, an Army Chief Warrant Officer, was killed in a Black Hawk helicopter crash in Afghanistan.

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

Brad Anderson, a local resident, requested that he provide input on Agenda Items 8B and 9B after the staff presentations. The Chair said he would receive public comments at that time.

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

Councilmember Karina Quintanilla discussed a City-level program being researched to reimburse for security system investments, and efforts to improve safety by evaluating stop signs from pedestrians’ perspectives.

Councilmember John Peña highlighted ShotSpotter, a company that helps law enforcement monitor gun shots and helps investigate and deter crime.

Councilmember Peña and Chair Fermon noted the Coachella Valley’s engagement at the recent League of California Cities’ conference.

Supervisor V. Manuel Perez expressed appreciation to firefighters and emergency medical crews for their service, particularly during the recent wildfires and high wind events. He also expressed concern for those injured when a firefighting helicopter went down over the weekend in Banning.

Chair Fermon provided updates on the nearby wildfires. He also asked staff to follow up at an upcoming meeting with information on street racing and the related public safety concerns. He also noted the public safety impacts of overgrown tamarisk, and suggested a joint meeting be held with the Homelessness Committee to discuss overlapping concerns.

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

The Chair introduced Palm Springs’ new Acting Fire Chief Jason Loya, who made introductory comments.

### **7. CONSENT CALENDAR**

#### **A. Approve the June 13, 2022 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes**

**B. Approve the August 8, 2022 Public Safety Committee Special Meeting Minutes**

Prior to the vote, Councilmember Quintanilla stated the August minutes (Item 7B) did not fully reflect the direction provided at the special meeting. Assistant Executive Director Erica Felci noted they could be amended based on the Committee’s direction.

**IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER QUINTANILLA AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SANDERS TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR WITH ADDITIONAL CLARITY AND DATA POINTS ADDED TO ITEM 7B TO REFLECT DIRECTION TO STAFF.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 8 AYES, 3 MEMBERS ABSENT AND ONE ABSTENTION.**

<b>Councilmember John Preckwinkle</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Johnny Rodriquez</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Councilmember Raymond Gregory</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Councilmember Roger Nuñez</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Councilmember Greg Sanders</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Mayor Waymond Fermon</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember John Peña</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Karina Quintanilla</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Grace Garner</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>
<b>Councilmember Iris Smotrich</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Supervisor V. Manuel Perez</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**8. DISCUSSION / ACTION**

**A. Presentation: Research-based Community Policing in Palm Springs**  
– Palm Springs Police Chief Andrew Mills

Palm Springs Police Chief Andrew Mills provided the presentation and detailed the City’s neighborhood-level strategies. Member discussion ensued. Several members praised the presentation and discussed regional impacts.

During the discussion, Supervisor Perez suggested additional information about gang injunctions be addressed on a future agenda and highlighted an upcoming forum the County was planning with Probation. Chair Fermon also stated that the Public Safety Committee, perhaps with the Homelessness Committee, look at the impacts of the Martin v. Boise court case.

No action was taken as this was an information item.

**B. Public Safety Concerns Related to Mylar Balloons – Erica Felci**

Due to the time, Chair Fermon suggested this item be continued to the next meeting.

**IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER GREGORY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SMOTRICH TO CONTINUE ITEM 8B – PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS RELATED TO MYLAR BALLOONS TO THE NEXT MEETING.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 9 AYES AND 3 MEMBERS ABSENT**

<b>Councilmember John Preckwinkle</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Johnny Rodriquez</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Councilmember Raymond Gregory</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Councilmember Roger Nuñez</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Councilmember Greg Sanders</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Mayor Waymond Fermon</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember John Peña</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Karina Quintanilla</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Grace Garner</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Iris Smotrich</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Supervisor V. Manuel Perez</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**C. Election of Public Safety Committee Officers – Erica Felci**

Ms. Felci opened up the floor for officer nominations. It was noted that Vice Chair Megan Beaman-Jacinto was not running for re-election to City Council.

A nomination was made by the Councilmember Quintanilla and seconded by Supervisor Perez to re-elect Chair Fermon as Chair

**IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER QUINTANILLA AND SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR PEREZ TO ELECT INDIO MAYOR WAYMOND FERMON AS CHAIR OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022/2023.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 9 AYES AND 3 MEMBERS ABSENT**

<b>Councilmember John Preckwinkle</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Johnny Rodriquez</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Councilmember Raymond Gregory</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Councilmember Roger Nuñez</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Councilmember Greg Sanders</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Mayor Waymond Fermon</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember John Peña</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Karina Quintanilla</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Grace Garner</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Iris Smotrich</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Supervisor V. Manuel Perez</b>	<b>AYE</b>

Councilmember Raymond Gregory noted his willingness to serve as Vice Chair. No other nominations were made.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER GREGORY AND SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR PEREZ TO ELECT CATHEDRAL CITY COUNCILMEMBER RAYMOND GREGORY AS VICE CHAIR OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022/2023.

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 9 AYES AND 3 MEMBERS ABSENT**

Councilmember John Preckwinkle	AYE
Councilmember Johnny Rodriquez	ABSENT
Councilmember Raymond Gregory	AYE
Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto	ABSENT
Councilmember Roger Nuñez	ABSENT
Councilmember Greg Sanders	AYE
Mayor Waymond Fermon	AYE
Councilmember John Peña	AYE
Councilmember Karina Quintanilla	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Grace Garner	AYE
Councilmember Iris Smotrich	AYE
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	AYE

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

- A. **Attendance Record**
- B. **Feedback from Members on the Continued Use of Virtual Meetings**
- C. **Additional Information on Coachella Valley’s Response and Readiness to Active Shooter Situations**

10. **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

None. Ms. Felci noted that Mr. Anderson had left the meeting prior to the agenda items he had mentioned earlier in the meeting.

11. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Upcoming Meetings:

The next meeting of the **Public Safety Committee** will be held on Monday, November 14, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom webinar.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, September 26, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom webinar.

12. **ADJOURN**

Chair Fermon acknowledged that National Night Out would be held on October 4<sup>th</sup>, with events in the City of Indio and other communities. He adjourned the meeting at 10:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Erica Felci*, Assistant Executive Director