

ITEM 7A

Public Safety Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
September 14, 2020



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 John Peña, City of La Quinta, at 9:06 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 Blythe	Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Russell Betts
City of Indio	Councilmember Waymond Fermon, Vice Chair
City of La Quinta	Mayor Pro Tem John Peña, Chair
City of Palm Desert	Mayor Pro Tem Kathleen Kelly
City of Palm Springs	Mayor Pro Tem Christy Holstege
Riverside County	Supervisor V. Manuel Perez

**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
Palm Desert Sheriff Station	Captain Dean Agnoletto
Riverside County District Attorney	ADA Gerald Fineman
Riverside County Fire Department	Division Robert Fish
Riverside County Probation	Assistant Director Cristine Castro
Thermal Sheriff Station	Captain Misty Reynolds

**Members & Ex-Officios Not Present**

Aqua Caliente	Margaret Muhr
California Highway Patrol	Captain Dennis Woodbury
City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Mark Carnevale
City of Cathedral City Fire	Interim Chief Blake Goetz
City of Cathedral City Police	Chief George Crum
City of Coachella	Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto
City of Indian Wells	Councilmember Ted Mertens
City of Rancho Mirage	Councilmember Iris Smotrich
Riverside County Sheriff	Sheriff Chad Bianco
U.S. Customs and Border Patrol	Assistant Chief Patrol Agent David Kim

**Others Present**

CVAG	Tom Kirk
CVAG	Tom Cox

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CVAG  
Riverside County  
Riverside County District 4  
Riverside County District 4  
Thermal Sheriff Station  
Additional participants

Libby Carlson  
Erica Felci  
Joanna Stueckle  
Assistant CEO Jeff Van Wagenen  
Greg Rodriguez  
Patricia Cooper  
Lieutenant Jeff Buompensiero  
Two additional callers by phone

### **3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

Brad Anderson, a resident of Rancho Mirage, submitted written comments on item 8C and CVAG's role in the community conversation on racism and policing.

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

Chair Pena commented on LA officers who were sitting in their car and shot in an ambush attack.

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

None.

### **7. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR PRO TEM KELLY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BETTS TO:**

**A. Approve the June 8, 2020 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 7 AYES AND 4 ABSENT**

<b>Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Mark Carnevale</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Councilmember Russell Betts</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Ted Mertens</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Councilmember Waymond Fermon</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem John Peña</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Kathleen Kelly</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Christy Holstege</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Iris Smotrich</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Supervisor V. Manuel Perez</b>	<b>AYE</b>

### **8. DISCUSSION / ACTION**

**A. Election of Public safety Committee Officers**

Chair Peña introduced the item and requested nominations for committee officers for fiscal year 2020/21. Mayor Pro Tem Kelly nominated Councilmember Fermon for chair. Councilmember Fermon nominated Councilmember Beaman Jacinto as vice chair.

**IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR PRO TEM KELLY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BETTS TO APPROVE THE ELECTION OF INDIO COUNCILMAN WAYMON FERMON AS PUBLIC SAFETY CHAIR AND COUNCILMEMBER MEGAN BEAMAN JACINTO AS PUBLIC SAFETY VICE CHAIR:**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 7 AYES AND 4 ABSENT**

<b>Councilmember Johnny Rodriquez</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Mark Carnevale</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Councilmember Russell Betts</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Ted Mertens</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Councilmember Waymond Fermon</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem John Peña</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Kathleen Kelly</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Christy Holstege</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Iris Smotrich</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Supervisor V. Manuel Perez</b>	<b>AYE</b>

It was decided that Chair Peña would finish his term by leading the remainder of this meeting.

#### **B. COVID19 Update**

Jeff Van Wagenen, Riverside County Assistant CEO, provided an overview of the COVID-19 current conditions, including testing strategies and the Governor's stages. A member discussion ensued with questions and comments about how the Coachella Valley is different than the overall County.

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

#### **C. Community Listening Sessions on Racism and Policing**

Tom Cox, CVAG Staff, introduced the item and discussed the work of the ad hoc and asked for direction. Member discussion ensued. Mayor Pro Tem Kelly suggested the ad hoc work with the County to provide direction before providing a recommendation to the Executive Committee. Chair Peña said that the ad hoc committee would coordinate additional details at additional meetings.

There was no action taken.

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

#### **A. Attendance Record**

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

Brad Anderson, a resident of Rancho Mirage, commented on the format of public comment in the agenda.

**11. ANNOUNCEMENTS** –Upcoming Meetings via Zoom:

- Public Safety – Monday, November 9, 2020 at 9 a.m.
- Executive Committee – Monday, September 21, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

**12. ADJOURN** – Chair Pena adjourned the meeting at 10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Cox  
Management Analyst