

ITEM 7A

Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes November 14, 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 9:00 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 not present for the start of the meeting. A quorum was established during Item 5.

Members Present

Aqua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Councilmember John Preckwinkle III <i>(Arrived at Item 8B)</i>
City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Raymond Gregory, <i>Vice Chair</i>
City of Indio	Mayor Waymond Fermon, <i>Chair</i>
City of La Quinta	Councilmember John Peña
City of Palm Desert	Councilmember Karina Quintanilla
City of Palm Springs	Mayor Pro Tem Grace Garner <i>(Arrived at Item 5)</i>
City of Rancho Mirage	Councilmember Iris Smotrich
County of Riverside	Juan Perez, County COO

Ex-Officio Members Present

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Robert Bradbury, Emergency Services Manager
California Highway Patrol	Commander Dennis Woodbury
Cathedral City Fire	Chief Michael Contreras
Cathedral City Police	Chief George Crum
Desert Hot Springs Police	Chief Jim Henson
City of Palm Springs Fire	Acting Fire Chief Jason Loya
Riverside County Probation	Cristina Castro & Crystal Nieto

Members & Ex-Officios Not Present

City of Blythe	Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez
City of Coachella	Councilmember Megan Beaman-Jacinto
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Roger Nuñez
City of Indian Wells	Councilmember Greg Sanders
District Attorney's Office	Michael Hestrin
City of Indio Police	Chief Mike Washburn
City of Palm Springs Police	Chief Andrew Mills
Riverside County Sheriff	Sheriff Chad Bianco
Palm Desert Sheriff's Substation	Captain Dean Agnoletto
Thermal Sheriff Station	Captain Michael Bianco
Riverside County Fire	Deputy Chief Robert Fish
U.S. Customs and Border Patrol	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

Vice Chair Gregory announced the City of Cathedral City had sworn in new Fire Chief, Michael Contreras, who would address the Committee during Ex Officio comments.

Chair Fermon recognized the recent Veterans Day, acknowledging both veterans and elected officials who celebrated their service. He noted two upcoming Blue Light ceremonies: one on December 12 in the City of Riverside and one on November 18 in the City of Indio. He also noted community challenges with ghost guns, “smash and grab robberies” as well as street racings, including the connections to illegal substance abuse, and asked that additional education and information be provided the Committee at a future meeting.

6. EX-OFFICIO COMMENTS

Chief Contreras made introductory remarks.

Prior to continuing on with Ex Officio comments, Councilmembers Iris Smotrich and Karina Quintanilla both echoed the need for additional information and discussion on street racing issues.

California Highway Patrol Commander Dennis Woodbury noted the CHP’s retail crime task force, highlighted some of the CHP’s work on street racing and reminded people that if they “see something, say something” to report potential crimes.

Councilmember John Peña acknowledged that, because she was concluding her term on Council, this was Councilmember Smotrich’s last meeting. Councilmember Smotrich, the Committee’s prior Chair, provided some departing remarks.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve the September 12, 2022 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER GREGORY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER PEÑA TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 8 AYES AND 5 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Councilmember John Preckwinkle	ABSENT
Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez	ABSENT
Councilmember Raymond Gregory	AYE
Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto	ABSENT
Councilmember Roger Nuñez	ABSENT
Councilmember Greg Sanders	ABSENT

Mayor Waymond Fermon	AYE
Councilmember John Peña	AYE
Councilmember Karina Quintanilla	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Grace Garner	AYE
Councilmember Iris Smotrich	AYE
COO Juan Perez	AYE

8. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Presentation: Community Education Efforts by the Coachella Valley Disaster Preparedness Network – Board President Carla Sullivan-Dilley

Board President Carla Sullivan-Dilley provided an overview of the Coachella Valley Disaster Preparedness Network, including its work as a nonprofit and its community partnerships.

No action was taken as this was an information item.

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

Assistant Executive Director Erica Felci provided the staff report and introduced Antonio Ortega Imperial Irrigation District's Government Affairs and Communications Officer, who provided additional background.

Member discussion ensued. Members acknowledged the state's efforts to move toward a ban and, through discussion, came to the consensus that CVAG should monitor efforts and that Committee members could bring up potential Mylar limits or bans at the local level.

No action was taken as this was an information item.

C. Federal and State Legislative Advocacy in 2023 – Emmanuel Martinez

Senior Programs Manager Emmanuel Martinez provided the staff report. Member discussion ensued. County COO Juan Perez noted Riverside County's significant shortage of judges and asked the Committee to add advocacy for more judicial positions and courtrooms as part of the legislative platform.

Members concurred with the position on judges, but no formal action was taken. Staff indicated additional feedback could be provided prior to the Executive Committee's December meeting.

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

- A. Attendance Record**
- B. SB 535 and California Climate Investments - Tribal Designation**
- C. Launch of Countywide "Faces of Fentanyl" Campaign**

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, January 9, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom webinar.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, December 5, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom webinar.

12. ADJOURN

Prior to the adjournment, Chair Fermon again recognized Councilmember Smotrich, who detailed her work with veterans organizations such as Angel Force USA. Chair Fermon also extended holiday greetings to members and adjourned the meeting at 10:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Felci, Assistant Executive Director