

ATTENTION: PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A UNIQUE PANELIST LINK BY EMAIL. PLEASE USE THIS LINK TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING.



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2021
9:00 a.m.**

Pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 (March 18, 2020), the Public Safety Committee meeting will only be conducted via video/teleconferencing.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public may use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83841924374?pwd=TW41blhUM05objd0Q21lYiN6d0pudz09>

Password: 762802

One Tap Mobile: +16699009128,,83841924374#

Dial In: +1 669 900 9128

Webinar ID: 838 4192 4374

Password: 762802

*This will provide listening access and ability to address the
Public Safety Committee when called upon.*

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO CONNECT VIA DIAL IN OPTION, PLEASE CALL 760-346-1127.

Public comment is encouraged to be emailed to the Public Safety Committee meeting prior to the meeting at cvag@cvag.org by 5:00 p.m. on the day prior to the committee meeting. Comments intended to be read aloud should be no more than 300 characters.

**THIS MEETING IS HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE.
ACTION MAY RESULT ON ANY ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Waymond Fermon, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Indio

2. **ROLL CALL**
 - A. **Member Roster** **P4**

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

This is the time and place for members of the public to address the Public Safety Committee on agenda items. At the discretion of the Chair, comments may be taken at the time items are presented. Please limit comments to three (3) minutes.

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

6. **EX-OFFICIO UPDATES**

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**
 - A. **Approve the November 9, 2020 Public Safety Committee Minutes** **P5**

8. **DISCUSSION/ ACTION**
 - A. **Update on COVID-19 Public Health Crisis – Jeff Van Wagenen, Riverside County**

 - B. **Continued Conversation on Race, Diversity and Policing – Erica Felci** **P9**

Recommendation: Information

 - C. **Legislative Update – Erica Felci** **P10**

Recommendation: Information

9. **INFORMATION**
 - A. **Attendance Record** **P11**

 - B. **CV200 Coordinated Approach to Addressing Unsheltered Homelessness** **P12**

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

This is the time and place for members of the public to address the Public Safety Committee on items of general interest within the purview of this committee. Please limit comments to two (2) minutes.

11. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Upcoming Zoom Meetings:

Public Safety Committee – Monday, May 10, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Executive Committee – Monday, February 22, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Item 2A

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Public Safety Committee
Member Roster
2020-2021**



Voting Members		
City of Blythe	Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez	
City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Mark Carnevale	
City of Coachella	Councilmember Megan Beaman-Jacinto – VICE CHAIR	
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Roger Nuñez	
City of Indian Wells	Councilmember Greg Sanders	
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	
City of Rancho Mirage	Councilmember Iris Smotrich	
County of Riverside	Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Vacant	
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians	Vacant	
Ex-Officio Members		
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Margaret Muhr, Emergency Services Manager	
Cathedral City Police	George Crum, Chief of Police	
Cathedral City Fire	John Muhr, Fire Chief	
Desert Hot Springs Police	Jim Henson, Chief of Police	
Thermal Sheriff Station	Herman Lopez, Captain	
Indio Police	Mike Washburn, Chief of Police	
Riverside County Sheriff's Department	Sheriff Chad Bianco	
Palm Desert Sheriff Station	Dean Agnoletto, Captain	
Palm Springs Police	Bryan Reyes, Chief of Police	
Palm Springs Fire	J. Kevin Nalder, Fire Chief	
Riverside County Fire Department	Eddy Moore, Division Chief	
California Highway Patrol	Dennis Woodbury, Commander	
U.S. Border Patrol	David Kim	
District Attorney's Office	Michael Hestrin, District Attorney	
Riverside County Probation Department	Ron Miller, Chief Probation Officer	
Staff		
Tom Kirk, Executive Director	Erica Felci, Assistant to the Executive Director	Tom Cox, Management Analyst

ITEM 7A

Public Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 9, 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 Waymond Fermon, City of Indio, at 9:01 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 (<i>Arrived in Item 8B</i>)
City of Coachella	Councilmember Megan Beaman-Jacinto, Vice Chair
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Russell Betts (<i>Arrived in Item 8A</i>)
City of Indian Wells	Councilmember Ted Mertens
City of Indio	Councilmember Waymond Fermon, Chair
City of La Quinta	Mayor Pro Tem John Peña (<i>Left during Item 8B</i>)
City of Palm Desert	Mayor Pro Tem Kathleen Kelly
City of Palm Springs	Mayor Pro Tem Christy Holstege
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
Palm Desert Sheriff Station	Captain Dean Agnoletto
Riverside County District Attorney	ADA Gerald Fineman
Riverside County Fire Department	Division Robert Fish
Riverside County Probation	Chief Probation Officer Ron Miller
Thermal Sheriff Station	Captain Misty Reynolds
California Highway Patrol	Captain Dennis Woodbury

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

Others Present

CVAG	Erica Felci
CVAG	Tom Cox
CVAG	Oscar Vizcarra
CVAG	Joanna Stueckle
Riverside County District 4	Patricia Cooper
CalOES	Emily Holland
Cal OES	Rachel Sierer Wooden
KP Public Affairs	Angela Hughes
SoCal Gas	Deborah McGarrey
City of Palm Desert	Stephen Aryan
Additional participants	Kristen Nelson
	Blake Goetz

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Fermon led the committee in the pledge

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Blake Goetz, former fire chief, commented on item 8C and CVAG's efforts to create a regional earthquake warning system.

5. CHAIR / COMMITTEE MEMBER/CVAG STAFF COMMENTS

Vice Chair Megan Beaman Jacinto expressed appreciation for the officer elections during the previous meeting at the previous meeting and that she looked forward to working with the committee.

Erica Felci mentioned the change in committee staffing, and that Tom Cox would be focused on the transition of CV Housing First.

6. EX-OFFICIO COMMENTS

None.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER BEAMAN JACINTO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER MERTENS TO:

A. Approve the September 14, 2020 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 8 AYES AND 3 ABSENT

Councilmember Johnny Rodriquez	ABSENT
Councilmember Mark Carnevale	ABSENT
Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto	AYE
Councilmember Russell Betts	ABSENT
Councilmember Ted Mertens	AYE

Councilmember Waymond Fermon	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem John Peña	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Kathleen Kelly	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem 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, including testing strategies and outreach efforts at the statewide level.

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

B. Update on Countywide Efforts to Address Green Waste Fires

Ms. Felci introduced Division Chief Robert Fish, CalFire/ Riverside County Fire Department East Desert Division, to provide an update on the countywide Combustible Materials Taskforce. Chief Fish gave an overview of the progress made in the first year, and outlined the educational efforts and public outreach that would occur to keep making progress on addressing this issue.

Member discussion ensued and staff indicated they would follow up with additional information by email. There was no action taken as this was an information item.

C. Earthquake Education and Early Warning System

A presentation was provided by Emily Holland, Public Policy Specialist for California Earthquake Early Warning Program in the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services. This included an overview of the MyShake app, which can be downloaded on mobile devices.

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

D. Valleywide Conversation on Race, Diversity and Policing

Chair Fermon provided an overview of the work of the ad hoc and asked for input from Committee members and ex-officio members. Member discussion ensued and members expressed a consensus for the approach outlined in the draft resolution.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER BEAMAN JACINTO AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM KELLY TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 20-008 SUPPORTING A CONTINUED CONVERSATION AROUND RACE, DIVERSITY AND POLICING.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 9 AYES AND 2 ABSENT

Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez	ABSENT
Councilmember Mark Carnevale	AYE
Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto	AYE

Councilmember Russell Betts	AYE
Councilmember Ted Mertens	AYE
Councilmember Waymond Fermon	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem John Peña	ABSENT
Mayor Pro Tem Kathleen Kelly	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Christy Holstege	AYE
Councilmember Iris Smotrich	AYE
Assistant CEO Jeff Van Wagenen	AYE

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

A. Attendance Record

B. Transition of CV Housing First Operations

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS –Upcoming Meetings via Zoom:

- Public Safety – Monday, January 11, 2021 at 9 a.m.
- Executive Committee – Monday, December 7, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

12. ADJOURN – Chair Fermon adjourned the meeting at 10:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Felci

Assistant to the Executive Director

ITEM 8B

Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Public Safety Committee
February 8, 2021



Staff Report

Subject: Continued Conversation on Race, Diversity and Policing

Contact: Erica Felci, Assistant to the Executive Director (efelci@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: At the December 7, 2020 meeting, the CVAG Executive Committee approved Resolution No. 20-008, which formally outlined CVAG's commitment to continuing the conversation in the Coachella Valley around race, diversity and policing. The resolution had developed out of extensive conversation by the Public Safety Committee, as well as an ad hoc committee formed in summer 2020 that was comprised of La Quinta Councilman John Peña, Coachella Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto, Indio Mayor Pro Tem Waymond Fermon and Palm Springs Mayor Christy Holstege.

The conversations by the Public Safety Committee, the ad hoc committee, and the community in general have centered on systemic racism, use of excessive force, public right to protest, and potential rioting. It also has included thoughtful input about potential next steps and best practices. Many of CVAG's member jurisdictions, and their law enforcement personnel, have held community listening sessions to keep this conversation moving forward.

In late 2020, Riverside County wrapped up its own series of listening sessions. The county partnered with the School of Public Policy at the University of California, Riverside to prepare a summary of the comments that had been received. From these comments, recurring themes and topics emerged that included systemic racism and inequity; public safety and criminal justice reform; funding for social services; the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; marijuana and industrial hemp; climate change; and education. County staff has compiled the information and presented it to the Board of Supervisors as a way to inform County policy and balance the pressing social, healthcare, public safety, workforce, and education needs of Riverside County amid the growing financial constraints. The Board of Supervisors has also endorsed the idea of a Community Task Force.

Jeff Van Wagenen, Riverside County's Assistant County Executive Officer/ Public Safety, will provide a recap of the County's efforts, summarize the feedback and provide insight about the next steps at the February 8 meeting of the Public Safety Committee.

Fiscal Impact: There is no cost to CVAG for this effort.

ITEM 8C

Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Public Safety Committee
February 8, 2021



Staff Report

Subject: Legislative Update

Contact: Erica Felci, Assistant to the Executive Director (efelci@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: California's lawmakers approved a number of bills in 2020 that establish new laws and processes of particular importance to law enforcement. Riverside County Assistant District Attorney Gerald Fineman will attend the February 8 meeting of the Public Safety Committee to provide an overview for Committee members and local law enforcement.

Among the legislation that will be discussed is Assembly Bill (AB) 2542, also known as the California Racial Justice Act of 2020, which prohibits the state from seeking a criminal conviction or sentence on the basis of race, ethnicity, or national origin. The Legislature also supported AB 1506, which requires that the Attorney General investigate officer-involved shooting fatalities where the victim is unarmed. Additionally, the presentation will provide an overview of some new changes in sentencings and probation.


Fiscal Impact: There is no cost to CVAG for this effort.

Item 9A

**COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
ATTENDANCE RECORD
FY2020-2021**

Voting Members	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	ATTENDED
City of Blythe			○		○								0 out of 2
City of Cathedral City			●		●								2 out of 2
City of Coachella			○		●								1 out of 2
City of Desert Hot Springs			●		●								2 out of 2
City of Indian Wells			●		●								2 out of 2
City of Indio			●		●								2 out of 2
City of La Quinta			●		●								2 out of 2
City of Palm Desert			●		●								2 out of 2
City of Palm Springs			●		●								2 out of 2
City of Rancho Mirage			●		●								2 out of 2
Riverside County			●		●								2 out of 2
Aqua Caliente - Vacant													
Cabazon Band - Vacant													
Total Attendance Per Meeting			9		10								

Ex Officio / Non-Voting Members	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	ATTENDED
Agua Caliente			○		○								0 out of 2
Cathedral City Police			○		○								0 out of 2
Cathedral City Fire			○		○								0 out of 2
Desert Hot Springs Police			●		●								2 out of 2
Indio Police			●		●								2 out of 2
Thermal Sheriff Station			●		●								2 out of 2
Palm Desert Sheriff Station			●		●								2 out of 2
Palm Springs Police			●		●								2 out of 2
Palm Springs Fire			●		●								2 out of 2
Riverside County Fire			●		●								2 out of 2
Riverside County Sheriff			○		○								0 out of 2
California Highway Patrol			○		●								1 out of 2
U.S. Border Patrol			○		○								0 out of 2
District Attorney's Office			●		●								2 out of 2
County Probation Department			●		●								2 out of 2
Total Attendance Per Meeting			9		10								

Scheduled Dark Month 
 No Meeting *

Present ●

Absent ○

ITEM 9B

Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Public Safety Committee
February 8, 2021



Staff Report

Subject: CV200 Coordinated Approach to Addressing Unsheltered Homelessness

Contact: Tom Cox, Management Analyst, (tcox@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: CVAG has overseen the CV Housing First program since 2017, which has had proven success in helping homeless individuals and families across the Coachella Valley. At the September 21, 2020 meeting, the CVAG Executive Committee considered options for operating the program after the previous contract expires. Following a thoughtful debate, the Executive Committee authorized the CVAG Executive Director to take steps necessary to transition the CV Housing First program from an outsourced program to one operated by CVAG staff, for a one-year period starting January 1, 2021, including hiring additional program staff.

The transition to an in-house program has also given CVAG an opportunity to focus its efforts on clients who might not be able to get help elsewhere. CVAG had previously launched a CV100 initiative, which used teamwork between service providers and public safety officers to actively help the 100 top utilizers of first responders time by connecting those individuals to needed housing, medical, mental health, and substance abuse services. CV100 led to a by-name list of 100 individuals with public safety officer assistance and coordinated street outreach in Coachella Valley cities.

This program has already brought about increased responsiveness and capacity in the Coachella Valley, as CVAG is working directly with public safety to help those who are homeless.

Moving forward, this approach will become a cornerstone of the CV Housing First program. To shape the program this year, CVAG has continued to work with law enforcement, member jurisdictions and healthcare resources to identify those who most frequently use first responder and hospital resources. This built upon the previous work, and all told has 200 individuals on it. The new program – CV200 – will allow CVAG to engage these individuals, who are on the streets and in encampments, with coordinated and consistent scheduled outreaches with public safety and homeless service providers. CVAG is also using its team at the Homeless Access Center in Palm Springs to provide necessary documentation and referrals for housing, medical, mental health, substance abuse, and employment services. CVAG anticipates expanding that outreach with a mobile access center, for which CVAG has recently been awarded grant funds. At the same time, CVAG will continue to use the rapid resolution approaches and the crisis stabilization units (which are apartments and hotel rooms) to connect CV200 individuals to services for housing, medical, mental health, substance abuse, employment, and – ultimately – permanent housing solutions.

Fiscal Impact: The CV200 effort is incorporated into the 2021 CV Housing First budget, which has been funded by contributions from cities, Riverside County, the Desert Healthcare District/ Foundation and grants.