

ITEM 7A

Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes May 13, 2024



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. at the CVAG Conference Room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, in the City of Palm Desert. Videoconferencing was available from the City of Riverside.
2. **ROLL CALL** - Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

City of Blythe
City of Cathedral City
City of Indian Wells
City of Indio
City of La Quinta
City of Palm Desert
City of Palm Springs
City of Rancho Mirage
County of Riverside-District 4

Vice Mayor Johnny Rodriguez
Councilmember Raymond Gregory, *Vice Chair*
Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Whitman
Councilmember Waymond Fermon, *Chair*
Councilmember John Peña
Mayor Karina Quintanilla
Councilmember Grace Garner (*arrived at item 5*)
Councilmember Meg Marker
Asst. Chief Executive Officer Michelle Paradise

Ex-Officio Members Present

Cathedral City Police
Indio Police Department
District Attorney's Office
Palm Desert Sheriff's Substation

Sergeant Nate Hanley
Chief Brian Tully
Assistant DA Rodney Tethal
Sgt. David Wright/Lt. Rick Espinoza/ Lt. Daniel Porras

Members & Ex-Officios Not Present

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
City of Coachella
City of Desert Hot Springs
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
California Highway Patrol
Cathedral City Fire
Cathedral City Police
Desert Hot Springs Police
Palm Springs Fire
Palm Springs Police
Riverside County Fire
Riverside County Probation
Riverside County Sheriff's Department
Thermal Sheriff Station
U.S. Customs and Border Patrol

Tribal Councilmember John Preckwinkle III
Councilmember Frank Figueroa
Councilmember Roger Nuñez
Tribal Councilmember Desiree Franco
Emergency Services Manager Robert Bradbury
Commander Dennis Woodbury
Fire Chief Michael Contreras
Chief of Police George Crum
Chief of Police Jim Henson
Fire Chief Paul Alvarado
Chief Andrew Mills
Deputy Chief Robert Fish
Chief Probation Officer Ron Miller
Sheriff Chad Bianco
Captain Michael Bianco
Assistant Chief Patrol Agent David Kim

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Fermon led the committee in the pledge of allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

5. CHAIR / COMMITTEE MEMBER/CVAG STAFF COMMENTS

Chief Operating Officer Erica Felci reported that catalytic converter issues have been a topic on several city agendas and staff will bring an info item to the committee at a future meeting regarding these issues.

Chair Fermon thanked the cities and staff for their collective efforts to make the music festival season safe and successful.

Chair Fermon also welcomed Indio's new Chief of Police, Brian Tully, to the meeting and thanked former Chief Mike Washburn for his time and dedication to the city during his tenure.

6. EX-OFFICIO COMMENTS

City of Indio Police Chief Brian Tully thanked cities for their collaborative efforts in assisting their department with coverage during concerts.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve the minutes from the February 12, 2024 meeting of the Public Safety Committee

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR PRO TEM PEÑA AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER GARNER TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 9 AYES AND 4 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Councilmember John Preckwinkle	ABSENT
Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez	AYE
Councilmember Raymond Gregory	AYE
Councilmember Frank Figueroa	ABSENT
Councilmember Roger Nuñez	ABSENT
Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Whitman	AYE
Councilmember Waymond Fermon	AYE
Councilmember John Peña	AYE
Mayor Karina Quintanilla	AYE
Councilmember Grace Garner	AYE
Councilmember Meg Marker	AYE
Asst CEO Michelle Paradise	AYE
Councilmember Denise Franco	ABSENT

8. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Earthquakes

Mark Benthien, Director of Communications, Education & Outreach at the Statewide California Earthquake Center, joined the meeting via Zoom and provided a PowerPoint presentation with updates regarding fault line activities and trends.

Brief member discussion ensued regarding preparation for events of these magnitudes.

No vote was taken as this was an informational item.

B. Update on the Looming Closure of Chuckawalla Valley State Prison

Chief Operating Officer Erica Felci presented the staff report and video titled about the Save Chuck campaign. closure.

Johnny Rodriguez, Vice Mayor of the City of Blythe, updated the committee regarding the closure of Chuckawalla Valley State Prison. He reported there has been zero cooperation from State and Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to meet with the City of Blythe regarding closure, which is being expedited.

Member discussion ensued.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER GREGORY AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM PEÑA TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIR AND/OR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ADVOCATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING BY THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE AND/OR THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION TO ADDRESS THE PLANNED CLOSURE OF CHUCKAWALLA VALLEY STATE PRISON

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 9 AYES AND 4 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Councilmember John Preckwinkle	ABSENT
Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez	AYE
Councilmember Raymond Gregory	AYE
Councilmember Frank Figueroa	ABSENT
Councilmember Roger Nuñez	ABSENT
Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Whitman	AYE
Councilmember Waymond Fermon	AYE
Councilmember John Peña	AYE
Mayor Karina Quintanilla	AYE
Councilmember Grace Garner	AYE
Councilmember Meg Marker	AYE
Asst CEO Michelle Paradise	AYE
Councilmember Denise Franco	ABSENT

9. INFORMATION – The following item was provided for information only:

A. Attendance Record

B. Phased Opening of the Palm Springs Navigation Center

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the **Public Safety Committee** will be held on Monday, June 10, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, Palm Desert, 92260.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, June 3, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, Palm Desert, 92260.

County of Riverside's Assistant Chief Executive Officer Michelle Paradise announced that the relocation of the Executive Office in Indio has been approved by the Board of Supervisors. The office will be moving to the old Probation Office in the Palm Springs Courthouse and completion of the building improvements should be completed by early 2025.

Chair Fermon requested that staff bring forth an information item at a future date regarding laws pertaining to 'sideshows and burnouts' and what other cities or counties are doing to address the ever-growing events.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elysia Regalado, Management Analyst