

ITEM 4A

**Homelessness Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2025**



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 Vice Chair Waymond Fermon, City of Indio, at 10:00 a.m. at the Coachella Valley Water District Steve Robbins Administration Building Training Room, 75515 East Hovely Lane, Palm Desert, 92260.
- 2. ROLL CALL** - Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

City of Blythe	Vice Mayor Johnny Rodriguez
City of Coachella	Councilmember Yadira Perez*
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Jan Pye
City of Indian Wells	Councilmember Toper Taylor
City of Indio	Councilmember Waymond Fermon, <i>Vice Chair</i>
City of Palm Springs	Mayor Ron deHarte
City of Palm Desert	Councilmember Joe Pradetto
City of Rancho Mirage	Mayor Pro Tem Lynn Mallotto
Riverside County – District 4	Deputy Director Greg Rodriguez
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	Tribal Chair Joseph Mirelez*

*arrived at item 5

Ex-Officios Present

Shelter from the Storm	Angelina Coe
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Members and Ex-Officios Not Present

City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Mark Carnevale
Desert Healthcare District	Director Carole Rogers, RN
City of La Quinta	Councilmember John Peña, <i>Chair</i>
Coachella Valley Housing Coalition	Pedro S.G. Rodriguez
Martha's Village and Kitchen	Samuel Hollenbeck
Coachella Valley Rescue Mission	Darla Burkett

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Executive Director Tom Kirk led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Referencing the CV Housing First quarterly update (Item 6B), Deputy Chief Rick Sanchez and Commander Nathaniel Hanley of the Cathedral City Police Department provided an update on the department's Homeless Liaison Unit (HLU). Commander Hanley shared

that, with support from CVAG staff and the Coachella Valley Housing First team, the HLU successfully placed four unhoused individuals into permanent housing this year, and assisted another into temporary shelter. He expressed his gratitude to CVAG and the outreach team for their partnership and continued support in providing vital resources and housing solutions.

5. CHAIR / COMMITTEE MEMBER/CVAG STAFF COMMENTS

Deputy Executive Director Erica Felci provided logistical details regarding the meeting room and expressed appreciation to the Coachella Valley Water District for providing the meeting room. She also announced that September is Hunger Action Month and recognized FIND Food Bank as a partner in the CV Housing First program, acknowledging their ongoing efforts to support the community.

Tribal Chair Mirelez inquired about a potential partnership with Coachella Valley Behavioral Health in Indio, now that the facility is open, and suggested organizing a tour for the committee.

Indian Wells Councilmember Toper Taylor provided an update on a recent City Council meeting, highlighting a productive discussion on homelessness. The Council voted to contribute funding to several organizations actively working to address homelessness in the region.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER TAYLOR AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER PRADETTO TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approve the minutes of the May 21, 2025, meeting of the Homelessness Committee**
- B. Receive and file the quarterly report for the CV Housing First program, representing clients served in the second quarter of 2025**

THE MOTION TO CARRIED WITH 10 AYES AND 3 MEMBERS ABSENT

VICE MAYOR RODRIGUEZ	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER CARNEVALE	ABSENT
COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ	AYE
DIRECTOR ROGERS	ABSENT
COUNCILMEMBER PYE	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER TAYLOR	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER FERMON	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER PEÑA	ABSENT
COUNCILMEMBER PRADETTO	AYE
MAYOR DEHARTE	AYE
MAYOR PRO TEM MALLOTTO	AYE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR RODRIGUEZ	AYE
TRIBAL CHAIR MIRELEZ	AYE

6.1 ITEMS HELD OVER FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

None

7. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Countywide policy to address homeless encampments

Greg Rodriguez, Deputy Director for Government Affairs and Community Engagement at Riverside County Housing and Workforce Solutions, presented the staff report, highlighting the governor’s encampment response initiative and outlined Riverside County’s corresponding efforts.

A robust discussion among Committee members followed, during which Mr. Rodriguez responded to questions regarding Care Court, encampment cleanups, and collaborative efforts with local school districts.

No action was taken, as the item was presented for informational purposes only.

B. Countywide trends on housing placements

Mr. Rodriguez presented the staff report detailing the Housing First model and its effectiveness.

Brief member discussion with Mr. Rodriguez responding to a question about why Riverside County has seen more success than other counties.

No action was taken, as the item was presented for informational purposes only.

C. Election of Homelessness Committee Officers

Mr. Kirk opened the floor for nominations for Chair.

Tribal Chair Mirelez nominated Councilmember Fermon to become Chair. No other nominations were received.

IT WAS MOVED BY TRIBAL CHAIR MIRELEZ AND SECONDED BY MAYOR DEHARTE TO ELECT COUNCILMEMBER FERMON AS CHAIR OF THE HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-26.

THE MOTION TO CARRIED WITH 10 AYES AND 3 MEMBERS ABSENT

VICE MAYOR RODRIGUEZ	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER CARNEVALE	ABSENT
COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ	AYE
DIRECTOR ROGERS	ABSENT
COUNCILMEMBER PYE	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER TAYLOR	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER FERMON	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER PEÑA	ABSENT

COUNCILMEMBER PRADETTO	AYE
MAYOR DEHARTE	AYE
MAYOR PRO TEM MALLOTTO	AYE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR RODRIGUEZ	AYE
TRIBAL CHAIR MIRELEZ	AYE

Current Vice Chair Fermon opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair.

Councilmember Pye nominated Tribal Chair Mirelez as Vice Chair. No other nominations were received.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER PYE AND SECONDED BY CHAIR FERMON TO ELECT TRIBAL CHAIR MIRELEZ AS VICE CHAIR OF THE HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-26.

THE MOTION TO CARRIED WITH 10 AYES AND 3 MEMBERS ABSENT

VICE MAYOR RODRIGUEZ	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER CARNEVALE	ABSENT
COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ	AYE
DIRECTOR ROGERS	ABSENT
COUNCILMEMBER PYE	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER TAYLOR	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER FERMON	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER PEÑA	ABSENT
COUNCILMEMBER PRADETTO	AYE
MAYOR DEHARTE	AYE
MAYOR PRO TEM MALLOTTO	AYE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR RODRIGUEZ	AYE
TRIBAL CHAIR MIRELEZ	AYE

8. INFORMATION

A. Attendance Record

B. Updates from Ex Officio Members

Shelter From the Storm Executive Director Angelina Coe announced that October is Domestic Violence (DV) Awareness Month. As part of the observance, Thursdays will be dedicated to wearing purple in honor of those who lost their lives to domestic violence.

She also highlighted that October 16th is National Purple to Work Day, encouraging the community to wear purple and donate \$10.

C. New location of CVAG’s public meetings

D. CVAG Meeting Calendar for Fiscal Year 2025-26

E. Update on annual contributions to the CV Housing First Program

F. Unaudited financial statement through June 30, 2025

9. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Aleena Callismanis, a resident of La Quinta, informed the committee about a new organization she co-founded called Street Samaritan Alliance. The organization is dedicated to providing rapid and direct financial support to individuals experiencing homelessness, with the goal of fostering greater stability. More information is available at www.streetsamaritanalliance.com

Street Life Project founder Christian Jelmsberg provided an update on the organization and its recent success with getting another person off the street.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the **Homelessness Committee** will be held on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the Coachella Valley Water District Steve Robbins Administration Training Room, 75515 Hovely Lane East, Palm Desert, 92260.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, September 29, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. at the Coachella Valley Water District Steve Robbins Administration Training Room, 75515 Hovely Lane East, Palm Desert, 92260

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, newly elected Chair Fermon adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elysia Regalado
Deputy Clerk