

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
March 9, 2009**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Coachella Valley Association of Governments' (CVAG) Public Safety Committee (PSC) meeting was called to order on Monday, March 9, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Alan Seman, Councilmember, City of Rancho Mirage, at CVAG offices, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Conference Room 119, Palm Desert, California 92260-2516.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

At the request of Chairman Seman, Councilmember Tom Kirk, City of La Quinta, led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **ROLL CALL**

A roll call was conducted and it was determined that a quorum was present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Councilmember Alan Seman (*Chair*)  
Mayor Eduardo Garcia  
Councilmember Chuck Vasquez  
Mayor Pro Tem Scott Matas  
Councilmember Patrick Mullany  
Mayor Pro Tem Gene Gilbert (*Vice Chair*)  
Councilmember Tom Kirk  
Mayor Bob Spiegel  
Councilmember Lee Weigel  
Sheriff Stan Sniff, Jr.

**AGENCY**

City of Rancho Mirage  
City of Coachella  
City of Cathedral City  
City of Desert Hot Springs  
City of Indian Wells  
City of Indio  
City of La Quinta  
City of Palm Desert  
City of Palm Springs  
County of Riverside

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

None

**EX-OFFICIOS REPRESENTED**

Stan Henry, Chief  
Matt Jimenez, (Lt.) Chief  
Brad Ramos, Chief  
Rodney Vigue, Chief (LQ/Coachella)  
Dave Dominguez, Chief  
Blake Goetz, Chief  
Sara Danville, Assistant District Attorney

**AGENCY**

Cathedral City Police Department  
Riverside County Sheriff - Indian Wells  
Indio Police Department  
Riverside County Sheriff - La Quinta  
Palm Springs Police Department  
Palm Springs Fire Department  
County District Attorney Office

Ron Miller, Division Director (*alt.*)  
Bill Soqui, Chief  
Ignacio Otero, Deputy Chief  
Sherrell Sutherland, Commander

County Probation Department  
Cathedral City Fire Department  
Riverside County Fire Department  
California Highway Patrol

**EX-OFFICIOS NOT REPRESENTED**

Patrick Williams, Chief  
Dan Wilham, Police Chief (PD/RM)  
Michael Singh, Agent-In-Charge

**AGENCY**

Desert Hot Springs Police Depart.  
Riverside County Sheriff - PD & RM  
U.S. Border Patrol - Indio

**OTHERS PRESENT**

London Pickering, Sergeant, Community Outreach Unit  
Pat Scully, Senior Management Analyst  
Andrew Shouse, Lieutenant  
George D. Wetjen, Asst. Patrol Agent-In-Charge  
Mel Windsor, Dir. of Personnel/Risk Management  
Debra Beck, District Representative  
Michael Kemp, Asst.Sup. Regulatory & Emergency Mgmt.  
Robert Amparano, Emergency Services Coordinator  
Frank Taylor, Lieutenant  
Tammy Herrera, Field Operations Supervisor  
Jeanne Plute, Police Department Management Analyst  
Linda Dunn, Chief Deputy D.A.  
Anthony Shaw

**AGENCY**

Indio Police Department  
City of Palm Desert  
Riverside County Sheriff - Indio  
U.S. Border Patrol - Indio  
City of Indian Wells  
Office of Senator John J. Benoit  
Imperial Irrigation District  
Imperial Irrigation District  
Riverside County Sheriff  
U.S. Border Patrol  
City of Desert Hot Springs  
Riverside Cty District Attorney Office  
Riverside Cty Public Health

**CVAG STAFF PRESENT**

Larry Parrish, Interim Executive Director  
Aurora Wilson, Community Resources Director  
Jacob Alvarez, Management Analyst  
Valarie Franklin, Program Assistant

4. **FINALIZATION OF AGENDA & ADDITIONS AND REVISIONS**

Jacob Alvarez indicated that under item #6, the wording under the title should be moved down to item #7 as it pertained to correspondence.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** - None.

6. **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBER AND DIRECTOR COMMENT** – None.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Jacob Alvarez reported that letters will be sent today to Riverside County Board of Supervisors and cities to append the Emergency Response I-10 Closure Plan to the County's Emergency Plan or Disaster Preparedness Manual.

8. **MEETING MINUTES**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR BOB SPIEGEL, CITY OF PALM DESERT, AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCOTT MATAS, CITY OF DESERT HOT SPRINGS, TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 9, 2009 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, WITH THE FOLLOWING CORRECTIONS NOTED BY SARA DANVILLE, RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE: ITEM #6 SECOND LINE CHANGE "SEINES" TO "SERIES", UNDER ITEM 9 LINE 3 CHANGE "CHISHOLLM" TO "CHISHOLM", ITEM 9 LINE 4 CHANGE "GRANTING" TO "GRANTED". THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9. **GRAFFITI REDUCTION AND INTERCEPTION PROGRAM**

Lt. Frank Taylor of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department spoke on a program with a company out of Australia called G.R.I.P Systems (Graffiti Reduction and Interception Program). This is an internet based database that files all graffiti incidents, photos, type of graffiti, property damaged, and other information. It is web based in connection with Google Earth, and also files other crimes such as illegal dumping and social blight. Self data entry is done by contractors throughout the different communities that recognize the graffiti and paint it out. As an example, two individuals out of San Jacinto were involved in over 250 incidents in various jurisdictions over a period of time and did approximately \$12000.00 worth of damage. Using the database, it was possible to tie these individuals to numerous incidents. Information is entered with GPS coordinates. The cost is between \$850.00 and \$1100.00 per year, and annual maintenance is \$1200.00. Most agencies within the CV are participating in the GRIP. It was suggested that it would be easier to track if everyone used the same software. Four cities – Coachella, Cathedral City, Desert Hot Springs, and Palm Desert have already purchased the software, and discussions are currently taking place with Indio, Palm Springs, and La Quinta.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER TOM KIRK, CITY OF LA QUINTA AND SECONDED BY STAN SNIFF, RIVERSIDE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE THAT STAFF ASSIST CHIEF RAMOS IN DRAFTING A LETTER FOR THE CHAIR'S SIGNATURE TO SEND TO CITIES RECOMMENDING THAT IF THEY ARE CONTEMPLATING PURCHASING ANTI-GRAFFITI SOFTWARE, THEY CONSIDER USING THIS SYSTEM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10. **CONTINUING UPDATE ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FROM LOCAL UTILITY COMPANIES**

Robert Amparano and Michael Kemp from Imperial Irrigation District Regulatory and Emergency Planning, along with Mark Weber, were present to provide the update.

Robert Perano reviewed IID services and critical resources including generation plants, transmission lines, substations, communication systems, etc. He described training that is conducted to ensure sustained operations in emergency situations, mutual assistance with other agencies, public education, and other items related to emergency operations. There was a discussion of solar energy, and it was indicated that while solar is encouraged by IID, the amount of solar generated individually is not significant overall.

11. **DEVELOPMENT OF COMMITTEE GOALS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009/2010**

Chair Alan Seman stated that each city usually makes a suggestion as to what is important to it as far as public safety. An ad-hoc committee is being recommended to review past goals and recommend new ones for the fiscal year 2009/2010, with the committee to include two or three public safety committee members and two ex-officio members.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR BOB SPIEGEL, CITY OF CATHEDRAL CITY AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM GENE GILBERT, CITY OF INDIO, THAT THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE APPROVE THE FORMATION OF AN AD HOC GROUP CONSISTING OF COUNCILMEMBER CHUCK VASQUEZ FROM CATHEDRAL CITY, COUNCILMEMBER SCOTT MATAS FROM DESERT HOT SPRINGS, POLICE CHIEF DAVID DOMINGUEZ, AND FIRE CHIEF BILL SOQUI TO REVIEW THE COMMITTEE'S PAST GOALS AND TO DEVELOP NEW RECOMMENDED GOALS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009/2010; THAT THEY CONSIDER VALLEY-WIDE ISSUES, AND BRING BACK THE RECOMMENDED GOALS TO THIS COMMITTEE IN APRIL FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

12. **EX-OFFICIO MEMBER UPDATES**

**12.1 SHERIFF/POLICE CHIEFS** – Sheriff Sniff stated that local law enforcement will be meeting together with legislative representatives in Sacramento in the next days to discuss pending bills and issues. He noted that they are attending an annual event and that a new approach is being used as San Bernardino and Riverside County sheriff departments have collaborated on talking points; local departments in the valley are also cooperating more closely in order to attain more leverage on issues of common concern. In response to questions about the progress of the jail, Sheriff Sniff stated that budget issues are currently taking priority.

Police Chief Stan Henry from Cathedral City stated that with economic difficulties, there has been an increase in crime from Cathedral City. For example, there have probably been more burglaries in the past three months than all of last year. He stated that as cities look at their budgets, they should put public safety at the top of their priority lists.

12.2 **FIRE CHIEFS** – Blake Goetz, Palm Springs Fire Chief, announced that Riverside County will be hosting the 2009 Bombero Program October 4<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> this year. 60 fire chiefs from Mexico will be attending this event, which is held annually and includes specific skills training. Also, he reminded attendees about the forthcoming ribbon cutting for the College of the Desert Public Safety Facility.

12.3 **CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL** - None.

12.4 **BORDER PATROL** – None.

12.5 **DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE** – Sara Danville, Riverside County District Attorney’s office, stated that penalty phase of the Oyler case begins tomorrow and a decision is anticipated within the next few weeks. She noted that in addition to other departments, the District Attorney’s office is also affected by the economy; as crime goes up, so do caseloads. She introduced Linda Dunn, Chief Deputy replacement for Richard West who retired in January. Lastly, she announced that at the recent annual awards banquet, the District Attorney’s Eastern division took home the most awards of any division in the County, including one of two Prosecutor of the Year awards and the Investigator of the Year award.

Linda Dunn noted that during times of economic stress, there is an upsurge in crime where the victim is known to the perpetrator, including physical and financial elder abuse cases; input on additional ways to reach out to this population are welcomed.

12.6 **COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT** - None.

13. **INFORMATION**

13.1 **COACHELLA VALLEY GANG TASK FORCE** – August through December statistics and a 2008 summary regarding the Violent Crime Gang Task Force was included in the agenda packet.

13.2 **COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE RECORD** - The Public Safety Committee member attendance record was included in the agenda packet.

13.3 **COMMITTEE GOALS FOR FISCAL YEAR 08/09**

Goal #1	Burglary Task Force East/West Valley and Property Crime Prevention Education Programs to Decrease Auto Theft and Reduce Property Crimes and Crime Free Multi-Housing Task Force Unit.
Goal #2	Traffic Safety through valley-wide Enforcement Strategies as it relates to Speed Enforcement Programs; Collision Reduction and Enforcement of Hazardous Driving; Teenage Drivers; and Seatbelt Enforcement.

Goal #3	Gang Intervention Programs and Task Force Support from all Cities and Help Obtain Funding Grants.
Goal #4	Disaster Preparedness Program that includes Coachella Valley Safety Personnel Participation in the State OES Golden Guardian Earthquake Exercise in November 2008 with progress reports; Locate and Develop Disaster Equipment Caches; Identify out of Area Contact Points for Public Safety Personnel; Prioritize Primary and Secondary Roads; Unified Command Training for Public Safety Personnel (ICS 3000 & 400 level).
Goal #5	Communications Upgrade and Support 800 Radio System Interoperability for both ERICA and RSO, and Provide Mobile Data Computer Interoperability; by tracking fire resources, sharing data (streets, fire hydrant data, preplans and aerial images).

14. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Alan Seman reviewed announcements for the COD Public Safety Academy ribbon cutting on March 12<sup>th</sup> and the Lincoln Club tour of the Riverside County Jail on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

The next regularly meeting of the Public Safety Committee is scheduled for **10:00 a.m.** on **Monday, April 13, 2009** at the CVAG offices, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 119, Palm Desert.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting of the Public Safety Committee was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Nevins, Interim Program Assistant  
Department of Community Resources (DCR)