

**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, NOVEMBER 9, 2020**  
**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/86259086907?pwd=bFNbVjM2dFJQUXhldjN5UmtteFRTRz09>

**Password:** 269417

**One Tap Mobile:** +16699009128,,86259086907#

**Dial In:** +1 669 900 9128

**Webinar ID:** 862 5908 6907

**Password:** 269417

*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](mailto: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, Councilmember, 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 September 14, 2020 Public Safety Committee Minutes** P5
  
8. **DISCUSSION / ACTION**
  - A. **Update on COVID-19 Public Health Crisis – Jeff Van Wagenen, Riverside County**
  
  - B. **Update on Countywide Efforts to Address Green Waste Fires – Erica Felci** P9

**Recommendation:** Information
  
  - C. **Earthquake Education and Early Warning System – Tom Cox** P10

**Recommendation:** Information
  
  - D. **Valleywide Conversation on Race, Diversity and Policing – Tom Cox** P13

**Recommendation:** Adopt Resolution 20-008 supporting a continued conversation around race, diversity and policing
  
9. **INFORMATION**
  - A. **Attendance Record** P16

**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, January 11, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.**

**Executive Committee – Monday, December 7, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**Item 2A**

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



<b>Voting Members</b>		
City of Blythe	Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez	
City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Mark Carnevale	
City of Coachella	Councilmember Megan Beaman-Jacinto – <b>VICE CHAIR</b>	
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Russell Betts	
City of Indian Wells	Councilmember Ted Mertens	
City of Indio	Councilmember Waymond Fermon - <b>CHAIR</b>	
City of La Quinta	Councilmember John Peña	
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	
County of Riverside	Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Vacant	
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians	Vacant	
<b>Ex-Officio Members</b>		
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	Misty Reynolds, 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	
<b>Staff</b>		
Tom Kirk, Executive Director	Erica Felci, Assistant to the Executive Director	Tom Cox, Management Analyst

ITEM 7A

Public Safety Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
September 14, 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 John Peña, City of La Quinta, at 9:06 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 Blythe	Councilmember Johnny Rodriquez
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Russell Betts
City of Indio	Councilmember Waymond Fermon, Vice Chair
City of La Quinta	Mayor Pro Tem John Peña, Chair
City of Palm Desert	Mayor Pro Tem Kathleen Kelly
City of Palm Springs	Mayor Pro Tem Christy Holstege
Riverside County	Supervisor V. Manuel Perez

**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	Assistant Director Cristine Castro
Thermal Sheriff Station	Captain Misty Reynolds

**Members & Ex-Officios Not Present**

Aqua Caliente	Margaret Muhr
California Highway Patrol	Captain Dennis Woodbury
City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Mark Carnevale
City of Cathedral City Fire	Interim Chief Blake Goetz
City of Cathedral City Police	Chief George Crum
City of Coachella	Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto
City of Indian Wells	Councilmember Ted Mertens
City of Rancho Mirage	Councilmember Iris Smotrich
Riverside County Sheriff	Sheriff Chad Bianco
U.S. Customs and Border Patrol	Assistant Chief Patrol Agent David Kim

**Others Present**

CVAG	Tom Kirk
CVAG	Tom Cox

CVAG  
CVAG  
CVAG  
Riverside County  
Riverside County District 4  
Riverside County District 4  
Thermal Sheriff Station  
Additional participants

Libby Carlson  
Erica Felci  
Joanna Stueckle  
Assistant CEO Jeff Van Wagenen  
Greg Rodriguez  
Patricia Cooper  
Lieutenant Jeff Buompensiero  
Two additional callers by phone

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Brad Anderson, a resident of Rancho Mirage, submitted written comments on item 8C and CVAG's role in the community conversation on racism and policing.

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

Chair Pena commented on LA officers who were sitting in their car and shot in an ambush attack.

**6. EX-OFFICIO COMMENTS**

None.

**7. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR PRO TEM KELLY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BETTS TO:**

**A. Approve the June 8, 2020 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 7 AYES AND 4 ABSENT**

<b>Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Mark Carnevale</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Councilmember Russell Betts</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Ted Mertens</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Councilmember Waymond Fermon</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem John Peña</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Kathleen Kelly</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Christy Holstege</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Iris Smotrich</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Supervisor V. Manuel Perez</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**8. DISCUSSION / ACTION**

**A. Election of Public safety Committee Officers**

Chair Peña introduced the item and requested nominations for committee officers for fiscal year 2020/21. Mayor Pro Tem Kelly nominated Councilmember Fermon for chair. Councilmember Fermon nominated Councilmember Beaman Jacinto as vice chair.

**IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR PRO TEM KELLY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BETTS TO APPROVE THE ELECTION OF INDIO COUNCILMAN WAYMON FERMON AS PUBLIC SAFETY CHAIR AND COUNCILMEMBER MEGAN BEAMAN JACINTO AS PUBLIC SAFETY VICE CHAIR:**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 7 AYES AND 4 ABSENT**

Councilmember Johnny Rodriquez	AYE
Councilmember Mark Carnevale	ABSENT
Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto	ABSENT
Councilmember Russell Betts	AYE
Councilmember Ted Mertens	ABSENT
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	ABSENT
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	AYE

It was decided that Chair Peña would finish his term by leading the remainder of this meeting.

#### **B. COVID19 Update**

Jeff Van Wagenen, Riverside County Assistant CEO, provided an overview of the COVID-19 current conditions, including testing strategies and the Governor's stages. A member discussion ensued with questions and comments about how the Coachella Valley is different than the overall County.

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

#### **C. Community Listening Sessions on Racism and Policing**

Tom Cox, CVAG Staff, introduced the item and discussed the work of the ad hoc and asked for direction. Member discussion ensued. Mayor Pro Tem Kelly suggested the ad hoc work with the County to provide direction before providing a recommendation to the Executive Committee. Chair Peña said that the ad hoc committee would coordinate additional details at additional meetings.

There was no action taken.

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

#### **A. Attendance Record**

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

Brad Anderson, a resident of Rancho Mirage, commented on the format of public comment in the agenda.

**11. ANNOUNCEMENTS** –Upcoming Meetings via Zoom:

- Public Safety – Monday, November 9, 2020 at 9 a.m.
- Executive Committee – Monday, September 21, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

**12. ADJOURN** – Chair Pena adjourned the meeting at 10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Cox  
Management Analyst



**ITEM 8B**

Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Public Safety Committee  
November 9, 2020



**Staff Report**

**Subject:** Update on Countywide Efforts to Address Green Waste Fires

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

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**Recommendation: Information**

**Background:** At the June 10, 2019 meeting, the CVAG Public Safety Committee received an update from Riverside County Deputy Fire Chief Eddy Moore about the escalation of fires occurring in the eastern Coachella Valley. These fires had occurred near the Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport and a school complex. The contributing conditions included the accumulation of green waste (mulch, tree trimmings, palm fronds and compost) and trash. If left to build up over time, decomposing green waste has the potential to generate enough heat to spontaneously ignite under certain conditions. The unhealthy smoke created by these fires have harmful effects on public health and the environment.

The June 2019 presentation was part of a growing interest in a targeted plan to reduce fires in the eastern Coachella Valley. Riverside County Supervisor V. Manuel Perez asked the Board of Supervisors to restore funding for County staff to target properties that could be potential fire hazards. In July 2019, the County created a Combustible Materials Taskforce to develop a plan to tackle this issue, including proactively expediting the clean-up of parcels with green waste before they cause fires.

Taskforce representatives from Riverside County Code Enforcement Department, Riverside County Fire Department, Riverside County Department of Environmental Health and the Riverside County Office of County Counsel, worked together to identify, inspect, and prioritize properties within the County's jurisdiction with green waste piles. The Taskforce then worked with the property owners to enforce action. According to the County, the Taskforce had a busy first year, with site visits at 50 locations in Mecca, Oasis, Thermal and Vista Santa Rosa. By July 2020, 20 properties were issued notices of violation and six were referred for litigation. The resulting property clean-ups removed approximately 5,645 cubic yards of green waste – enough to fill over one-and-a-half Olympic-size swimming pools.

Division Chief Robert Fish, CalFire/ Riverside County Fire Department East Desert Division, will be at the November 9 CVAG's Public Safety Committee meeting to provide an update to these ongoing efforts.

**Fiscal Impact:** There are no costs to CVAG for this effort.

## **ITEM 8C**

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Public Safety Committee  
November 9, 2020**



### **Staff Report**

**Subject:** Earthquake Education and Early Warning System

**Contact:** Tom Cox, Management Analyst ([tcoc@cvag.org](mailto:tcoc@cvag.org))

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### **Recommendation: Information**

**Background:** The California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) has recently launched a new community engagement campaign to promote Earthquake Warning California (EWC), the state's earthquake prepared system. This includes making sure communities are aware of the tools and resources to alert Californians in advance of an earthquake, and provide time to take protective actions such as dropping, covering, and holding on. Those few seconds of warning can help the public, first responders, utilities, transportation, healthcare, and other key industrial and business sectors avoid injury and take action to save lives. EWC can also trigger shutoffs or automated responses for industrial, commercial, or utility equipment.

The MyShake app is a component of the EWC system that serves as a useful tool to help families, businesses, and communities prepare for earthquakes to "Drop, Cover, and Hold on" in advance of an earthquake. As part of the MyShake app outreach campaign, the state has set a goal of 4 million app downloads. A representative from the CalOES outreach team will be providing additional details to the Public Safety at its November 9 meeting.

Given the geographic proximity to the San Andreas fault line, earthquake preparedness is of utmost importance for the Coachella Valley. The CVAG Executive Committee on December 7<sup>th</sup> 2009, approved CVAG's participation to co-lead the creation and implementation of the Coachella Valley Regional Earth Early Warning System (CREWS) with the Coachella Valley emergency Managers Association (CVEMA).

The CREWS project funded the expansion of the Coachella Valley Regional Earthquake Warning System that provide earthquake warnings for public schools and first responders. The CREWS project was responsible for the development of earthquake warning response procedures with emphasis on education, training, and outreach efforts. The CREWS project focused on regional needs, hazards, and priorities.

CVAG worked with jurisdictions to secure strategic sites for system locations; worked with CREWS partners to facilitate, implement, expedite, and expand the CREWS networking capability doubling the warning time; and worked to expand the early earthquake warning system by means of regional partnerships.

The Coachella Valley CREWS system has 21 stand-alone, non-networked earthquake warning systems but it not fully integrated. No one currently oversees the "system" and there is no coordination between these individual sites and no maintenance (battery back-up and IT connections). The 21 stand-alone

systems include four dispatch centers located in Beaumont, Palm Springs, Cathedral City and Indio, but currently no one monitors those centers or maintains them regionally.

**Fiscal Impact:** There is no cost to CVAG for promoting the state's MyShake app.



# Earthquake Warning California

## EARTHQUAKE WARNING CALIFORNIA



The state's earthquake preparedness program is aimed at providing tools and resources to help warn Californians in advance of an earthquake, and provide time to take protective actions such as dropping, covering, and holding on. This includes the MyShake mobile app, wireless emergency alerts (WEAs), the Android Earthquake Alerts System, and the Earthquake Warning California website: [www.earthquake.ca.gov](http://www.earthquake.ca.gov).

## THE MYSHAKE APP



The MyShake App is an earthquake warning tool for smartphones developed by UC Berkeley, in partnership with USGS ShakeAlert and Cal OES. The app provides users near an earthquake a warning to take cover as soon as shaking is detected. The app also includes tips for preparedness and the ability to view damage reports shared by other "citizen scientists," helping California build a comprehensive seismic monitoring network. The app is available in English and Spanish, with additional languages coming soon.

## MYSHAKE WARNING, ANDROID ALERTS & WEA



MyShake "ShakeAlerts" are sent to users with smartphones in the vicinity of a significant earthquake as soon as sensors detect the earth shaking. MyShake App and Android users must enable location services on their phone to receive ShakeAlerts, since they are based on proximity to the shaking. Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) are short emergency and public safety messages used nationwide by authorized agencies to alert mobile users of imminent threats in their area. WEA are enabled by wireless carriers.

## WHAT DO I DO WHEN I RECEIVE A WARNING?



Have a plan in place to DROP, COVER, and HOLD ON in the event of an earthquake. This includes staying away from glass, taking cover under a sturdy table, protecting your head, and not moving until the ground stops shaking. Specific industries should review emergency protocols in advance of an earthquake and what actions to take in the event of a warning. This includes:

- Education
- First Responders
- Medical
- Manufacturing
- Transportation
- Public Safety
- Small and Large Businesses
- Utility Infrastructure

## LEARN MORE

Here are a few ways to prepare for an earthquake:



**Download the MyShake App** enable location services to receive earthquake warnings. The MyShake App is available on Google Play for Android and the App Store for iPhone.



**Visit [earthquake.ca.gov](http://earthquake.ca.gov)** for the latest news, updates, and industry-related information.



**Have a plan in place** in advance so you can act quickly if you receive a MyShake, Android or WEA earthquake warning. Make a plan to DROP, COVER, and HOLD ON in places where you live, work, and play.



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- Instagram: @cal\_oes

**ITEM 8D**

Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Public Safety Committee  
November 9, 2020



**Staff Report**

**Subject:** Valleywide Conversation on Race, Diversity and Policing

**Contact:** Tom Cox, Management Analyst ([tcox@cvag.org](mailto:tcox@cvag.org)) and  
Erica Felci, Assistant to the Executive Director ([efelci@cvag.org](mailto:efelci@cvag.org))

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**Recommendation: Adopt Resolution 20-008 supporting a continued conversation around race, diversity and policing**

**Background:** At the June 8, 2020 meeting, a public safety roundtable discussion was held with Palm Springs Chief Bryan Reyes, Indio Police Chief Mike Washburn and Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco. Topics included a recap of the nationwide unrest that was sparked by the loss of George Floyd's life. The committee held a lengthy conversation about the protests that were occurring in the Coachella Valley, as well as thoughts on systemic racism, use of excessive force, public right to protest, and potential rioting along with next steps and best practices.

The Public Safety Committee in June considered a draft resolution that had been prepared to recognize the Coachella Valley's public safety response to those protests. Amid further discussion, the Committee instead formed an ad hoc committee comprised of La Quinta Mayor Pro Tem John Peña, Coachella Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto, Indio Councilmember Waymond Fermon and Palm Springs Mayor Pro Tem Christy Holstege.

The ad hoc committee has met several times, starting over the summer. While the initial focus was to review and possibly refocus the resolution that had been presented at the June 8 meeting, the ad hoc committee members spent the time considering the CVAG Public Safety Committee's role in the valleywide conversations that are occurring on racism and policing. The consensus from the ad hoc was that continued community engagement is necessary, but that it should add to – not repeat – the actions that are being taken by Riverside County and local cities to host town halls and listening sessions.

A recap of these meetings and some options for regional listening sessions were presented at the September 14, 2020 meeting of the Public Safety Committee. The consensus of the committee was that the ad hoc should continue to meet, and further consider the series of community and department listening forums that Riverside County was holding over the next couple of months. These listening sessions have been underway, and are expected to wrap up in November 2020. Following listening forums, the Board of Supervisors is expected to hold a workshop to determine next steps which will most likely be the establishment of some sort of task force.

The ad hoc committee met again October 28 and discussed a formal resolution that is intended to continuing the conversation in the Coachella Valley and building on other ongoing efforts, including the County's efforts and those launched by individual cities. A draft resolution is attached for the Public

Safety's consideration. If recommended for approval, it would be forwarded to the CVAG Executive Committee at the December 7, 2020 meeting.

**Fiscal Impact:** There is no cost to the resolution. CVAG's Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Budget did not include funding for a valleywide listening session or surveys. Should the Committee recommend those, funding would need to be secured from the member agencies or other sources.

**Attachment:** Resolution 20-008

**RESOLUTION NO. 20-008 OF THE COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
SUPPORTING A CONTINUED CONVERSATION AROUND RACE, DIVERSITY AND POLICING**

**Whereas** the nation experienced a wave of grief and unrest throughout this year in response to the deaths of African Americans, including, to name a few, Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd and Breonna Taylor; and

**Whereas** there has been nationwide condemnation of the ambush of two Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies, who were shot as they sat in a squad car on September 12; and

**Whereas** these incidents have prompted widespread outcry in communities across the country, including vigils and large protests, about how the nation addresses systematic racial problems and diversity; and

**Whereas** the Coachella Valley has not shied away from adding their voices to the outcry by organizing public protests in communities including Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, La Quinta Indio, Coachella, Thermal and Mecca; and

**Whereas** the Coachella Valley has set a model for the rest of the country by showing how peaceful protests and demonstrations can articulate the crowd's frustration and demands for national change; and

**Whereas** these large-scale gatherings led to engagement by police officers, sheriff's deputies, fire departments, community officers, first responders and public safety support teams, who worked with organizers and elected officials in order to help communities prepare for these events; and

**Whereas** this has started an unprecedented and ongoing conversation among Coachella Valley's elected officials, law enforcement and community leaders about how to keep a community safe while demonstrating restraint, compassion for life, understanding and support for our law enforcement community; and

**Whereas** elected officials recognize that the Coachella Valley is a diverse and tolerant community that is stronger when it can come together, listen to each other and unify around a common understanding.

**NOW THEREFORE THE COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS HEREBY  
RESOLVES:**

That the CVAG Public Safety Committee will continue to engage the community on issues of understanding and improving policing practices, remaining open-minded and thoughtful, and will establish its meetings as a place where anyone – including first responders, community activists and members of the faith-based community – can come together to discuss how to enhance the ways to keep the Coachella Valley a safe place to live, work and play.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Glenn A. Miller, CVAG Chairman  
City of Indio, Mayor


ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Kirk, CVAG Executive Director

**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 1
City of Cathedral City			●										1 out of 1
City of Coachella			○										0 out of 1
City of Desert Hot Springs			●										1 out of 1
City of Indian Wells			●										1 out of 1
City of Indio			●										1 out of 1
City of La Quinta			●										1 out of 1
City of Palm Desert			●										1 out of 1
City of Palm Springs			●										1 out of 1
City of Rancho Mirage			●										1 out of 1
Riverside County			●										1 out of 1
Aqua Caliente - Vacant													
Cabazon Band - Vacant													
<b>Total Attendance Per Meeting</b>			<b>10</b>										

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

Scheduled Dark Month   
 No Meeting \*

Present ●  
 Absent ○



**ITEM 9B**

Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Public Safety Committee  
November 9, 2020



**Staff Report**

**Subject:** Transition of CV Housing First Operations

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

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**Recommendation: Information**

**Background:** CVAG has been a leading partner in regional homelessness services in Coachella Valley for over a decade. Throughout, the CVAG Homelessness and Executive Committees have consistently demonstrated a commitment to continuing and adapting these services to respond to changing needs of the community while being sensitive to not duplicating services offered by other providers in the desert.

CVAG has overseen CV Housing First since 2017, based on national best practices with proven success. Since its inception, the program has been operated by Path of Life Ministries at the direction of CVAG. The contract with Path of Life ends on December 31, 2020. At the September 21, 2020 meeting, the CVAG Executive Committee considered options for operating the program after the current 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. Following the Executive Committee's approval, CVAG had a productive meeting with Path of Life to outline a three-month transition plan. Path of Life is working cooperatively with CVAG on this effort, and this staff report provides an overview of the efforts that are now underway. CVAG wishes to thank Path of Life for being a valued partner on CV Housing First.

***Staffing***

The in-house operation will seek to streamline CV Housing First operation. The CVAG-run program will be staffed by 4.25 full-time employees, including 3 new positions. Recruitment for these three new positions began in early October, and the review and hiring process is underway. Once hired, staff will be cross-trained by a seasoned leader in Coachella Valley homeless services on functions specifically aligned with the CV Housing First integrated program model – outreach, intake, case management, and data entry. Staff will be based in Coachella Valley, making effective and timely response more viable, as well as create the ability to build strong local connections. Additional program support will continue to be provided in-kind by the Executive Director, with all staff ultimately under his direction, as well as any team support or technical assistance offered through existing CVAG staff, CVAG's contract with the Riverside County and the County's Continuum of Care.

### *Homeless Access Center*

CVAG, through Path of Life and in partnership with the City of Palm Springs, has been operating a homeless access center in Palm Springs since February 2020. Over the next month, CVAG will assume full operation of this facility, with the new staff hired for CV Housing First based at this location. CVAG is working with Path of Life to assess the resources at the access center and ensure that anything purchased through the CV Housing First program remains there as CVAG's CV Housing First team transitions into the space. A seamless transition at the access center is also critical to ensuring CVAG staff can easily take over the outreach and engagement to CV Housing First clients. CVAG is also updating all the necessary in-take forms and client paperwork that will be required for this task.

### *CV100 Coordinated Street Outreach*

In January 2020, CVAG staff initiated a concerted effort to boost coordination between law enforcement and service provider staff as part of CV Housing First. This has included regular meetings to review progress and strategy, as well as regularly scheduled, joint outreach sessions in communities throughout Coachella Valley. CVAG staff is continuing this outreach and coordination.

### *Bridge/Transitional Housing Units*

Crisis stabilization housing has been a key element to the CV Housing First program. Units are preleased from owners and property managers, and then used to temporarily place client on a case by case basis. Stays last up to 90 days, during which clients receive intensive case management visits as they make steps to regain self-sufficiency and find longer-term housing. As part of the in-house transition, 12-to-15 existing leases will be transitioned from Path of Life to CVAG. CVAG staff is evaluating the existing units, and the Executive Director will execute the necessary documents and paperwork to get them under CVAG's direct control.

**Fiscal Impact:** The CV Housing First program is funded by grants from Riverside County and contributions from member jurisdictions. CVAG staff is also actively pursuing additional grant funding to support the program.