

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 10, 2020**



*Find meeting audio online at <http://www.cvag.org/audio.htm>*

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order by Chair Peña at 9 am at CVAG, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Room 119, Palm Desert, CA.
- 2. ROLL CALL** - Roll call was taken and was determined that a quorum was present.

**Members Present**

City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Raymond Gregory
City of Coachella	Councilmember Megan Beaman-Jacinto
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Russell Betts
City of Indian Wells	Mayor Ted Mertens
City of Indio	Councilmember Waymond Fermon, Vice Chair
City of La Quinta	Councilmember John Peña, Chair
City of Palm Desert	Councilmember Kathleen Kelly
City of Palm Springs	Mayor Pro Tem Christy Holstege
City of Rancho Mirage	Mayor Iris Smotrich
Riverside County District 4	Jeff Van Wagenen

**Ex Officio Members Present**

Cathedral City Fire	Chief Paul Wilson
Cathedral City Police	Acting Chief Anthony Yoakum
Desert Hot Springs Police	Chief Jim Henson
Thermal Sheriff Station	Captain Misty Reynolds
Indio Police	Chief Mike Washburn
Palm Desert Sheriff Station	Captain Joseph Belli
Palm Springs Police	Chief Bryan Reyes
Riverside County Fire	Robert Fish
California Highway Patrol	Commander Mike Stefanoff
	Dennis Woodbury
U.S. Customs and Border Patrol	David Kim, Assistant Chief Patrol Agent
District Attorney's Office	Michael Hestrin
	Gerald Fineman
Riverside County Probation Department	Cristine Castro

**Members and Ex Officios Not Present**

Riverside County Sheriff Department	Sheriff Chad Bianco
Palm Springs Fire	Chief J. Kevin Nalder

**Others Present**

CVAG	Tom Kirk
	Tom Cox
	Libby Carlson

Riverside County  
Palm Desert Search and Rescue

Greg Rodriguez  
Cheryl Bolen Burger  
Mike Smith

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Chair Peña.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS** – None.

**5. COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

- Councilmember Betts, Desert Hot Springs, reported on the expanded route for Tour De Palm Springs through Desert Hot Springs.
- New member Mayor Pro Tem Holstege, Palm Springs, introduced herself.
- Vice Chair Fermon, Indio, reported on Sheriff Department response in Indio and upcoming County Date Festival.
- Jeff Van Wagenen, Riverside County, reported on County response to coronavirus.
- New member Councilmember Kelly, Palm Desert, introduced herself.
- Chair Peña, La Quinta, reported on Ironman, golf tournament, concerts, traffic issues, and upcoming arts festival. Chair Peña also invited committee members to send suggestions for agenda items for future meetings.

**6. EX-OFFICIO COMMENTS**

- Acting Chief Yoakum, Cathedral City PD, reported that he had taken a position with another city and that this would be his last meeting.
- Captain Reynolds, Thermal Sheriff Station, reported on preparation for the Date Festival in Indio and music festivals planned for April.
- Chief Washburn, Indio PD, reported that on national recognition received for Indio's Community Outreach Reach Program (CORP).
- Captain Belli, Palm Desert Sheriff Station, reported on preparation for BNP Parabas Open in March, Rancho Mirage Wine & Food Festival, and Palm Desert Half Marathon.
- Chief Reyes, Palm Springs PD, reported on Tour de Palm Springs, Modernism Week, and groundbreaking for sports arena in Palm Springs.
- Robert Fish, CALFIRE, reported on preparation for Coachella and Stagecoach festivals.
- Captain Stefanoff, California Highway Patrol, reported that he will transfer to the Victorville office and this would be his last meeting. Dennis Woodbury will be CHP's Ex Officio representative at future meetings.
- Agent Kim, US Customs & Border Patrol, reported on a project to install/improve 26 miles of border wall near Calexico; 65% reduction in assaults on agents at the border; 35% reduction in apprehensions; 75% reduction in arrests of individuals from countries other than Mexico.
- Assistant DA Fineman reported that volume of eastern region cases has exceeded number of western region cases.
- Christine Castro, Riverside County Probation, reported on swearing in of new Chief Ron Miller and that a Juvenile Justice Symposium will be held in Fall 2020 in partnership with Office of Supervisor Perez.

**7. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. Approve November 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

**IT WAS MOVED BY CHAIR PEÑA AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER GREGORY TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 18, 2019 MEETING MINUTES.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Councilmember Gregory	Aye
Councilmember Beaman-Jacinto	Aye
Councilmember Betts	Aye
Mayor Mertens	Aye
Councilmember Fermon	Aye
Councilmember Peña	Aye
Councilmember Kelly	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Holstege	Aye
Mayor Smotrich	Aye
Jeff Van Wagenen	Aye

**8. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Presentation on East Valley Mulch Fires** – Robert Fish, Cal Fire, gave a presentation on impact of mulch fires and County response.

**B. Presentation on Pandemic Response and Preparedness** – Greg Rodriguez, Riverside County, gave a presentation on coronavirus containment activity at March Air Force Base and County response.

**C. The CV100: Coordinated Approach to Addressing Unsheltered Homelessness in Coachella Valley** – Tom Cox gave an update on progress made to implement The CV100 initiative.

**D. Hiker Rescues** –

Cheryl Bolen Burger and Mike Smith, Palm Desert Search & Rescue, gave a presentation on the volunteer-run program and preventative safety measures hikers should take.

**9. INFORMATION** - The following item was submitted for information only:

**A. Attendance Record**

**10. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS** – None.

**11. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Upcoming meetings at CVAG, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Room 119, Palm Desert:

- Executive Committee – Monday, February 24 at 4:30 pm
- Public Safety Committee – Monday, March 9 at 9 am

**12. ADJOURN** - The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Cox