

ITEM 7A

Public Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 8, 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 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 Cathedral City	Councilmember Mark Carnevale
City of Coachella	Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Russell Betts
City of Indian Wells	Councilmember Ted Mertens
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
City of Rancho Mirage	Councilmember Iris Smotrich
Riverside County	Assistant CEO Jeff Van Wagenen

Ex-Officio Members Present

California Highway Patrol	Dennis Woodbury
City of Cathedral City Fire	Interim Chief Blake Goetz
City of Cathedral City	Chief George Crum
City of Desert Hot Springs Police	Chief Jim Henson
City of Indio Police	Chief Mike Washburn
City of Palm Springs Police	Chief Bryan Reyes
Riverside County District Attorney	Gerald Fineman
Riverside County Fire Department	Eddy Moore
Riverside County Probation	Cristine Castro
Riverside County Sheriff	Sheriff Chad Bianco

Members & Ex-Officios Not Present

Aqua Caliente	Margaret Muhr
Palm Desert Sheriff Station	Captain Joseph Belli
City of Palm Springs Fire	Chief J. Kevin Nalder
Thermal Sheriff Station	Captain Misty Reynolds
U.S. Customs and Border Patrol	David Kim, Assistant Chief Patrol Agent

Others Present

CVAG	Tom Kirk
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CVAG
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CVAG
CVAG/ Riverside County
CVUSD
City of La Quinta
Riverside County Emergency
Management Department
Additional participants

Tom Cox
Libby Carlson
Erica Felci
Joanna Stueckle
Oscar Vizcarra
Greg Rodriguez
Paula Marvin
Mayor Linda Evans
Director Bruce Barton

Two additional callers by phone

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Briana DeAztlan submitted written comments on the recent county-issued curfew.

Melina Duarte submitted written comments about the Riverside County Sheriff's Department adopting new policies and gave suggestions for the newly formed County Review Task Force.

Erin Teran made comments via phone about the curfew and its impact on the scheduled Black Lives Matter Vigil, which was planned for Miles Park in the City of Indio.

5. CHAIR / COMMITTEE MEMBER/CVAG STAFF COMMENTS

Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto encouraged everyone to mute their microphones so they do not interrupt public speakers. Councilmember Beaman Jacinto and Councilmember Waymond Fermon also spoke about the national dialogue that was occurring around race and law enforcement policies.

6. EX-OFFICIO COMMENTS

Interim Fire Chief Blake Goetz of Cathedral City stated he will serve four-five months as the City replaces retired Chief Wilson.

Chief Eddy Moore of Riverside County Fire Department pointed out that peak fire season was declared and all staffing for aircraft are ready for all summer fires. The County was also working with Supervisor V. Manuel Perez's Office and a task force to eliminate unwanted fires due to illegal dumping.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve the May 11, 2020 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

**IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER FERMON AND SECONDED BY
COUNCILMEMBER MERTENS TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM:**

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councilmember Mark Carnevale	AYE
Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto	AYE
Councilmember Russell Betts	AYE
Councilmember Ted Mertens	AYE
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	AYE
Assistant CEO Jeff Van Wagenen	AYE

8. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. COVID19 Update

Jeff Van Wagenen, Riverside County Assistant CEO, and Bruce Barton, Riverside County Emergency Management Department Director, provided an update on COVID-19. A member discussion ensued.

There was no action taken.

B. Public Safety Round Table Discussion

A 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 recent events in the nation, protests 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. A lengthy discussion was held among the Committee members, including discussion of public protests and understanding policing policies across the valley.

There was a motion by Councilmember Fermon and seconded by Councilmember Carnevale to approve a draft resolution that had been prepared to recognize the Coachella Valley's public safety response to recent protests. Amid further discussion about the resolution and the timing of the Executive Committee's consideration of it, the motion was withdrawn.

Chair Pena recommended an ad hoc committee be formed to further discuss the resolution and the related issues of race and policing. The ad hoc would consist of Councilmember Fermon, Mayor Pro Tem Holstege and Councilmember Beaman Jacinto.

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

A. Attendance Record

B. Streamlined Per Diem Process for CVAG Committees

C. 2020 CVAG General Assembly Information

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS –Upcoming Meetings via Zoom:

- Executive Committee – Monday, June 8, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.
- General Assembly – Monday, June 29, 2020

12. ADJOURN - The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Cox
Management Analyst