



# City of Palm Springs

Christy Holstege, Mayor Pro Tem

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Supervisor Kevin Jeffries, District 1  
Supervisor Karen Spiegel, District 2  
Supervisor Chuck Washington, District 3  
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, District 4  
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt, District 5

Sent via Email

RE: Items 3.22 & 3.23

Dear Riverside County Board of Supervisors,

As the Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Palm Springs and a resident of Riverside County, I am writing to strongly urge you support Supervisor V. Manuel Perez's proposed resolution condemning the actions of the Minneapolis police involved in the murder of George Floyd in Item 3.22 and recommendation that the Board of Supervisors direct a review of the Sheriff Department practices and policies related to policing in our communities in Item 3.23.

Our communities are reeling from the brutal murder of George Floyd and the ongoing history of police brutality directed at Black communities and communities of color, not only throughout our country, but in our own cities and county. In Palm Springs, just this past weekend, we had over 800 residents from all over the County attend a protest against police brutality and in support of reform. Throughout the county, thousands and thousands of our residents have risen up to demand a thorough review of our current practices and analyze any necessary changes.

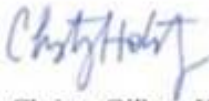
Like most communities throughout Riverside County, in Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley, we have a long history of racial segregation and exclusion, racial violence, racist city policies and policing, and injustice and disparities in our community that exist today. These have real and long-lasting effects on our residents' daily lives and last for generations; a Loma Linda University community health assessment from 2014 in Desert Highland Gateway found significant disparate health impacts for Black residents,

especially those affected by arrest or incarceration, and found that nearly half (2 in 5) of community members' health was affected by arrest or incarceration. The study also found a high rate of distrust for law enforcement tasked to protect these neighborhoods.

I wholeheartedly agree with Supervisor Perez's recommendation that we seek feedback from our residents about the police services in our communities. As elected officials, we do not have the same relationship with our police departments as the communities we serve and we do not encounter our law enforcement departments and officers in the same way or under the same circumstances as our residents. Their input and perspective, especially those from Black communities and communities of color, is crucial to obtain through robust community engagement if we are to hear and consider all experiences and opportunities for change, which is the job our constituents elected us to do.

I urge you to support Supervisor Perez's proposals which have a direct impact on the health, wellbeing, and safety of all of our communities and the nearly 2.5 million residents of Riverside County. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



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