

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



14-2

During the oral communication section of the agenda for Tuesday, June 18, 2013, Nancy Austin and Flora Johnson requested help from the Supervisors to re-build Hemet/San Jacinto Valley.

**ATTACHMENTS FILED WITH
CLERK OF THE BOARD**

**AGENDA NO.
14-2**

June 18, 2013

Clarkslogz

To: Riverside County Board of Supervisors

My name is Flora Johnson. My husband and I have lived for 47 years in the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley ~ that I will refer to after this as "our Valley". ~ We have lived for 11 years in southeast part of our Valley area. Prior to that we lived for 37 years on Sage Road. We are County residents, but we identify with Hemet as "our town." Our children went to school in Hemet Unified. Two of our adult children live with their families in the east side of the Valley, one in the County area and one in the City. My husband and I worked in Hemet and retired here.

Packets for each of you were given to the Clerk. Included are letters and pictures sent by County and City residents who could not attend and information about The Green Coalition nonprofit that is working to keep our Valley "Green, Clean, and Safe."

We need your help to make up for what seems to us as neglect of our Valley for the last 4-5 years. Critical resources are needed to stop the downward slide. Our needs are:

- More officers assigned to the Valle Vista station,
- More sweeps in the Valley with all interagency task forces including the AB109 task force,
- Your cooperation with citizen groups and let us help.
- Resources to stop crime in our Valley.
- Resources to deal with increased gang activity,
- Resources to deal with of drug sales and trafficking in our Valley,
- And we need your help to find some way to stop the excessive number of AB109 releases that we get. I know you are aware that the number released to our Valley is ridiculously higher than other more populated areas.

As you look at the Budget that is on your agenda for today, please keep in mind that our Valley is in critical need of your focus now.

Crime is increasing. Violent crimes are like nothing we have ever seen in our Valley - 15 year old boy stabbed to death on a street in the County area and a shooting of a man in his vehicle with upwards of 15-18 shots is more like a mobster hit out of The Godfather than it does our Valley.

Crimes against property have escalated with theft, burglary, and armed robbery almost commonplace.

Mr. Stone, I was one of five residents who met on May 2nd with a staff member from your office. We had questions, a healthy dialog, and discussed plans for a meeting with you and key citizens for continuing dialogue. We were to hear back about that in 3 weeks but have not yet heard. We very much hope that happens. We want to work together with you. We can be successful together.

We respectfully ask all of you to work with us and for us. We will work with you to make our Valley better. We are NOT going to give up, but if we all work together, we will turn things around much faster.

Thank you,

Flora Johnson

Email to Members of Green Coalition
(Format of email was edited)

Green Coalition | greencoal@rocketmail.com
Today, Monday, Jun 17 01:09 PM

Subject: Non- Profit agency of the year 2014

Dear Friends,

On Friday, June 14, The Green Coalition of the San Jacinto Valley was honored by the Hemet San Jacinto Chamber of Commerce as the "Non- Profit agency of the year 2014". Green Coal is only in its fifth year of operations (August 2008-2013), and surely we didn't expect to be recognized in such a short time.

Nonetheless, the Green Coal Board had never intended to work towards recognition, but certainly we strive to be worthy of such recognition. Whether we clean neighborhoods so it doesn't make our community trashy or simply training school children on how to ride their bikes safely, our focus is on the mission of creating a sustainable community. The journey to being sustainable is a long one, even challenging if you will. The cities of Riverside, Santa Monica, or Redlands strived for over 20 years to get where they are today; yet these cities have advantages. That doesn't mean San Jacinto Valley doesn't either. The difference is that those cities have realized that **both government and citizens have to be involved and committed if they want to attract the right residents and businesses---which basically lead to a lower crime rate and better quality of life.**

The board members of the Green Coalition are outstanding and committed individuals—borrowing the US Marine's credo---they are the proud and the few. Along with us are members and supporters, although not always there, will be there when we call for help.

We share this honor as well with the other nonprofits in the valley who were nominated for this award, all of them already doing good things even before Green Coalition was even born. To name a few, Human Relations Council, Habitat for Humanity, Assistance League, Rotary Clubs, Toys for tots, Ramona Bowl and many more. Just being nominated with these organizations is one honorable reason.

Thanks to all of you who supported us and hopefully you can join us in one of our projects and programs. On Saturday June 22 we will be cleaning San Jacinto streets. Please join us.

Thank you again for your support!

GREEN COALITION OF SAN JACINTO VALLEY
Keeping the San Jacinto Valley
Clean, Green, Safe, livable
www.greencoalition-sjv.org

Email to Members of Green Coalition
(Format of email was edited)

Green Coalition | greencoal@rocketmail.com
Today, Monday, Jun 17 12:34 PM

Subject: Neighborhood Pride-June 22 Clean Up Announcement

Greetings San Jacinto Valley Community,

Green Coalition is happy to announce that we have another cleanup schedule for June 22, 2013 and hope you can join us!

Many of our young people (Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Cubs and MSJC students) are involved in our Neighborhood Pride program in cleaning up our community and we invite you to join us. Details below:

Date: June 22, 2013

Time: 8am-11am

Cleaning Location: San Jacinto Street south from Esplanade to Emilio's Restaurant.

Meeting Location: We will meet and park in the Cardenas parking lot on the northeast corner of Esplanade and San Jacinto St.

Contact: Desiree Christianson at christianson22@verizon.net or greencoal@rocketmail.com

Voice Message: 951-929-0854

Items to Bring: (1) gloves (2) hat (3) sunscreen and (4) water

Minors: All minors must be accompanied by an adult and waiver must be signed.

June 17, 2013

Dear Riverside County Board of Supervisors,

Crime level in my city of Hemet is unacceptably high and that affects the WHOLE Hemet-San Jacinto Valley. Crime issues are causing my friends to move away and other friends to not choose Hemet as a place to live.

My three next-door neighbors were all victims of crime just recently:

- One had a car broken into in a driveway and a parent's urn stolen.
- One had a garage broken into and expensive equipment stolen.
- And another had a car stolen.

Recently not far away there was a daylight armed robbery of a store and short time later a daylight execution style murder. The boldness and viciousness is overwhelming. There comes a point when terrible crime statistics become very personal.

Hemet deserves better.

- We are doing our part here in Hemet with the resources that we have.
- There is citizen involvement and an excellent police force. But we are short handed.
- I have much hope for Hemet's future, but there is a perfect storm of economic cut backs in police and an inflow of criminal activity from the outside that feeds on itself.

Cities have learned that certain areas have more crime and need more attention. By giving more attention to the trouble area, the overall crime rate goes down. I would like the County of Riverside to recognize that Hemet is an area of the county that needs more attention. We need your help here in Hemet and in the county areas surrounding Hemet.

What will you do?

Respectfully yours,

Richard Jordan
715 Sunjoy Drive
Hemet, CA 92543

The Riverside County Board of Supervisors

From Mary Ann Hogan, Citizen of Hemet

June 17, 2013

I moved to Hemet Ca. in 2002 because this was such a quiet, safe community. In the last few years that has all changed. We have drive-by murders, stabbings, thefts, assaults, prostitution, and gang style crimes. We need more visible police protection. I believe relationships forming between the police and various neighborhoods would be conducive to a more peaceful environment. In order for that to occur, we need a larger police staff. Just having police walking around the community and talking with the people would be helpful. Helping people in small ways could do a great deal in bringing down the crime rate, here.

Thank you for your time and service,

Mary Ann Hogan, psychologist

June 17, 2013

To: Riverside County Board of Supervisors

I was born and raised in Hemet. My children are 4th generation of this city. Sometimes people hear about a place and think "how awful". That is what this town has become.

Regarding the crime in Hemet it is unfortunate to see so many articles and hear so many personal stories from friends and relatives on the different types of crime happening in plain sight. One story that personally affects my family is the one about my Mother in Law. She is a cab driver who was working after hours picked up 3 men downtown and at the end of the ride received multiple blows to her face and arms with a razor scooter. It is so sad her quality of life will never be the same again.

The prison realignment AB109 is really not aligned with the needs of places like Hemet. To enable the criminals with more rights then a man in service is really just a slap in the face. They all know how to use that revolving-door - a stabbing at Applebee's Hemet -the manager takes the hit so a man can go back to jail for some food and a bed to rest in.

By keeping the number of officers low in our area it has really opened up the floodgates where even panhandlers are becoming aggressive and persistent. There is also an issue of prostitution around the clock not just after dark. The presence of police is enough to help cut back on these criminals taking advantage of a city with seniors and families.

Chief Brown of the Hemet Police Department has come up with a plan to help with a solution to issues such as these. A plan that includes more police on patrol and more services working together to keep their presence up - but the Hemet City council has failed to back him up on this plan.

It appears that there is great pressure coming from Supervisor Stone to turn our 100-year-old city services over to the already burdened county. This is not in the best interest of the residents or our city as a whole. The support our city needs is for the county to adequately staff the surrounding areas so our city law enforcement can remain in our city and not be called out. Our city has many strengths, we will overcome the obstacles we're facing though it won't be easy and it won't be overnight.

Melissa Phillips
Resident of Hemet
246 S Juanita St.
951 757 7894