

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



ITEM  
2.15  
(ID # 4912)

MEETING DATE:

Tuesday, July 25, 2017

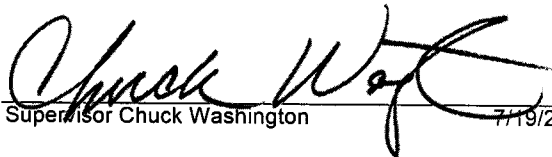
FROM : SUPERVISOR CHUCK WASHINGTON :

SUBJECT: SUPERVISOR CHUCK WASHINGTON: Naming of the Southwest Detention Center  
In Honor of Former Sheriff Cois M. Byrd [\$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the naming of the Southwest Detention Center in honor of Former Sheriff Cois M. Byrd

ACTION: Policy

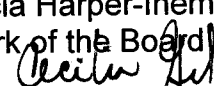
  
Supervisor Chuck Washington 7/19/2017

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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Jeffries, seconded by Supervisor Perez and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Tavaglione, Washington, Perez and Ashley  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Date: July 25, 2017  
xc: Supvr. Washington

Kecia Harper-Ihem  
Clerk of the Board  
By:   
Deputy

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**BACKGROUND:** On June 22, 1959, Cois M. Byrd was sworn in as a Deputy Sheriff with the Riverside County Sheriff's Office after serving three years in the United States Marine Corps. During his career, he progressed through all levels of the department. On June 3, 1986, Cois was elected as Sheriff of Riverside County for a term to start on the following January. However, on November 21, 1986, after the retirement of Sheriff Bernard J. Clark, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors appointed Cois M. Byrd to serve the remainder of Sheriff Clark's term. Cois officially became the County's 10th Sheriff and was officially sworn in for his first full term on January 5, 1987. Cois was elected Sheriff a second term and retired on December 24, 1994, after serving over 35 years with the Riverside County Sheriff's Office, including 8 years as Sheriff.

Throughout his career, Cois sought out the most modern methods to curtail crime, improve police and youth interactions, and enhance training for department personnel. As a deputy, he was recognized for engaging in activities beyond his regular duties through crime prevention efforts with youth in the community. As an Investigator, he was initially assigned to the Juvenile Detail before moving on to investigate property and violent crimes. As a Lieutenant, he helped the department establish the Community Relations Bureau and implement the "Officer in the Classroom" program within the Jurupa Unified School District. Through the program, deputies were used to teach youth safety lessons, the consequences of committing crime and were portrayed as friends. Cois also prepared the course outline and lesson plan for instructors who taught the Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) Supervisory Training Program for the Riverside Community College.

In 1971, Cois was promoted to Captain and served as Commander of the Indio Station and Jail for the Coachella Valley. Although he was often busy, Cois always made time to focus on the needs of jail inmates. He secured \$350K in necessary funding to provide vocational education to inmates so they could learn a trade while in custody which provided them an opportunity to seek gainful employment upon release. The program focused on hands-on training in mechanics as well as other trade skills. The program initially utilized space at the Indio Date Festival grounds and was eventually moved to the Banning Rehabilitation and Counseling Center, now known as the Larry D. Smith Correctional Facility.

As a Chief Deputy, Cois worked with the Probation Department and Office of Education to develop and implement a rehabilitation and counseling program at the Banning Rehabilitation and Counseling Center. The program addressed inmate literacy, basic education, counseling services, and prepared inmates for release by providing job training and job placement services.

As Sheriff, Cois was concerned about the safety of his deputies as law enforcement officers across the nation were continually being outgunned during critical incidents against criminals who were often armed with high capacity firearms while deputies were armed with revolvers. He ordered testing of various weapons and calibers, which led to the adoption of the use of semi-automatic firearms for the first time in the Department's history.

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Cois was also instrumental with the acquisition of the Sheriff's 800 MHz radio system. At the time, there were few frequencies available for the entire Sheriff's radio system. It was the first addition of radio frequencies since the early 1950's and provided enhanced safety for deputies while on patrol. The necessity of utilizing helicopters to help deputies maintain visual on fleeing suspects, alert them to hazards on the ground, and assist in search and rescue operations was also recognized by Cois. As a result, Cois found a way to acquire two helicopters that were eventually purchased by the Department at no cost to taxpayers.

As Sheriff, Cois continued to oversee the planning of the Robert Presley Detention Center (RPDC), which began with Sheriff Ben Clark. The facility construction began shortly after Cois took office and the jail facility was completed and dedicated on September 20, 1989. It was the first large correctional facility constructed in the County in 50 years. After the opening of the RPDC, Cois was instrumental in bringing the Southwest Justice Center to the southern part of Riverside County. The Justice Center was necessary due to the rapid growth in the region and includes the Southwest Sheriff's Station and Southwest Detention Center.

Cois also made his mark at the state level. He was an active member with the California State Sheriff's Association, serving on the executive board as Treasurer, Vice President and the training committee chairman. Cois was subsequently appointed by Governor Pete Wilson to serve as a board member with the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST).

A graduate of Riverside's Poly High School and Riverside City College, Cois received his bachelor of science degree in criminal justice at Cal State College in Los Angeles and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California.

Cois M. Byrd provided exceptional law enforcement service to the citizens of Riverside County for over 35 years. As Sheriff, he exemplified what it means to be a professional in the evolving and challenging field of law enforcement. Therefore, it is only fitting and proper that the Southwest Detention Center be renamed in his honor. The Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Executive Office and the Economic Development Agency to name the facility the Cois M. Byrd Detention Center.