



# MINUTES

## JOINT MEETING OF THE HEMET CITY COUNCIL AND THE SAN JACINTO CITY COUNCIL

### August 21, 2012

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6:00 p.m.  
300 W. First Street  
San Jacinto, CA 92583

[www.cityofhemet.org](http://www.cityofhemet.org)

Please silence all cell phones

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### Call to Order

Mayor Miller called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m.

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### Roll Call

PRESENT: Council Members Krupa and Smith, Mayor Pro Tem Foreman and Mayor Youssef  
Council Members Bartel, Di Memmo and Ledezma, Vice Mayor Miller and Mayor Kotyuk

ABSENT: Council Member Epps and Supervisor Stone  
Supervisor Stone arrived in 6:20 p.m.

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### Invocation

Invocation was give by Nick Smith, San Jacinto Assembly of God Church

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### Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Cub Scout Pack 46.

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### Joint Work Study

1. San Jacinto Valley Public Safety Concerns

Interactive discussion with citizens and Cities of Hemet, San Jacinto and Supervisor Stone regarding public safety concerns within the San Jacinto Valley, with possible direction to staff

**Mayor Kotyuk**, growing up here, I remember a community where residents could leave their door open at night. This Valley attracted good residents and tourism was booming. Things have changed. The changes are not just in our community, they are all over California and affecting America. This community is dealing with record breaking foreclosures, increased unemployment and a huge influx of criminals. That is why we are

here tonight. Residents of this once little sleepy town that turned a blinds eye are now waking up and getting involved. This community had a number of service clubs, many are no longer around due to the lack of involvement. This group that is trying to turn this community around needs to get involved. Due to lack of community we almost lost the Ramona Bowl and the Hemet Theater. We are here to talk about public safety. There are a number of experts here to address the issues. We need to attract the right people and push out the wrong people. We need to come together and unite. You are here to be heard and help make a difference. Public comments will be limited to 2 minutes, unless you are organized and more time will be allotted. Mayor Kotyuk thanked the San Jacinto Assembly of God Church for hosting the meeting.

A short video prepared by "My Valley" was presented.

The meeting briefly recessed at 6:36 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 6:50 p.m.

**Capt. Scott Collins, Riverside County Sheriff's Department**, as the Commander of the Valle Vista Station I also have oversight of the San Jacinto Police Department. Lt. Sue Trevino oversees the day to day operations of the SJPD. Capt. Collins gave an update on the crime statistics for San Jacinto from 2007 through 2011. While violent crime is down, property crime has increased. San Jacinto Police Department is 48.5 employees, 23 volunteers and 15 explorers. Chief Brown is right on point, there is not a magic number of officers that will correct these problems. Public Safety needs sustained funding, these City Councils and the County of Riverside are in tough situations. We need to work together on creative and collaborative solutions. Capt. Collins presented a list of current and proposed programs for San Jacinto and the region: Special Enforcement Team; Anti-Graffiti Programs; ABC Compliance Programs; Citizens Patrol; Safe Parks Programs; Traffic & DUI Programs; Bicycle Safety; Bait Car Programs; Gang Task Force; Sex Registrant Compliance; Warrant Sweeps; Parole Sweeps; Probation Sweeps and Narcotics Enforcement. As tapped as we are in law enforcement, we are working very hard and are proud of our response times even though we can't answer all calls. We need to change the way we police.

**Mike Emberton, Assistant City Manager**, the City of Hemet has developed a great program called Hemet ROCS. The City of San Jacinto is comparing our ordinances against theirs. We will continue this cooperative effort. Mr. Emberton announced that San Jacinto will be hiring an additional employee in Code Enforcement to compliment current efforts and provide services on the weekends. The City of San Jacinto will begin a Receivership Program which is an additional tool to deal with problem properties. The City of San Jacinto recently acquired three substantially blighted properties and will proceed with demolition efforts of these properties. The City has purchased and installed 20 hi-resolution cameras to discourage illegal activities in our parks as well as installing enhanced hi-powered LED lighting fixtures in 5 parks with more to come. A proposal to provide supplemental patrol of all parks from dusk to dawn has been received. The City has commenced the first phase of replacing the City owned amber street light heads with brighter LED units, phase 2 will start in January 2013. The City of San Jacinto employs a full time person, with a goal of responding to graffiti calls within a 24 hour period. The City participates in a number community improvement projects. In the near future, the City will be rolling out its plan to unite neighborhoods for crime prevention and preparedness in case of disaster, it is called the "Safe and Ready Commission".

**Mark Orme, Interim City Manager**, introduced Chief Brown and noted that most of those in attendance heard the City of Hemet's presentation last week so our comments will be short.

**Dave Brown, Police Chief**, I'm encouraged by this group, the size and the momentum. How dare we underestimate your commitment and drive. Hemet Police Department is proud to say that we are on Facebook, we are in for the long haul. When I was sworn in, I said that we can not police this community without our community. For years we have been wondering where you were. Our officers are on the streets 24/7 and they are committed. It is inspiring to them to see you here tonight wanting to get involved. Supervisor Stone met with the Mayors and the Police Chiefs from both cities and challenged us to come up with a project, then committed the resources toward that project. Chief Brown explained the power and success with the regional Task Force Programs. We have heard loud and clear that you don't care what color our uniforms are or where the boundaries are. The Task Forces, including the Hemet ROCS Task Force are multi-jurisdictional. The Hemet City Council took a risk by approving a Federal Grant to add officers in the City of Hemet. I now have the authority to hire 10 Police Officers. Three of these Officers will be assigned to the Hemet ROCS Program. I want to encourage you to support these City Councils. It is refreshing that you are not here to blame anyone, we are looking forward to policing this community with you.

**Mark Orme, Interim City Manager**, asked for a showing of hands from the audience of those that were in attendance on August 14<sup>th</sup>. Hemet ROCS is the hallmark of where this city and this valley need to go. This type of program brings people out and gets them involved. The blight needs to be obliterated. The City has adopted half of the ordinances and the Hemet ROCS Committee meets once a month. We will deal with every issue that you consider blight in this community. My job is to help Chief Brown do his job. **Jeff Stone, Riverside County 3<sup>rd</sup> District Supervisor**, introduced his staff that was present and available to answer questions. The County of Riverside has 18,000 employees that work very hard to deliver services under very challenging circumstances. The County of Riverside has to provide a number of State mandated services such as: CalWorks; Adult and Child Protective Services; Drug and Alcohol Services; CalFresh/Food Stamps; Foster Care; In-Home Supportive Services; Medical Care Services; Public Health/Laboratory; and Women, Infants and Children (WIC). The County of Riverside provides the following services in the valley: Social Services; Mental Health; Housing Authority; Workforce Development; Sheriff; Intervention/Prevention; and Probation. The Council is required to provide services where the need is greatest. Hemet and San Jacinto were hit hard by the recession. As the unemployment rate has increased, so has the caseload for CalWorks and CalFresh. The median income in the Valley is lower than the county-wide income, consequently the need for mandated services is greater than county-wide. Many clients are working, but aren't earning enough and still qualify for assistance. The Social Services Caseload in Riverside County by District was displayed. There are currently 2,527 Mental Health clients in the Hemet San Jacinto area, with 29 percent being elderly or children. There are 962 households receiving Housing Authority assistance in Hemet and 232 in San Jacinto. That equates to \$11.7 million dollars being infused into the local economy via payments of rent to property owners. Not one single voucher was released in the Valley

last year (except for VASH for 11 veterans who moved to the valley). 737 new customers received individualized assessment, job search assistance and career counseling services in the Hemet/San Jacinto Valley. 12,840 new and returning customers received staff services. 133 job seekers received training and 400 youth received education and workforce development services. These efforts have secured employment for many of the citizens of the Valley and are tracked and monitored by the State of California. Riverside County has a Youth Accountability Team (YAT) in the Valley whose focus is the non-serious, non-violent youthful offenders. Project Lead gives presentations on crime prevention to 3,650 Hemet area middle school students. There are 305 offenders currently under supervision of the Riverside County Probation Department in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District. There have been 159 offenders released due to the realignment (AB109) to Hemet and 39 released to San Jacinto. Supervisor Stone addressed some of the misconceptions such as, too many social services in the Valley, Section 8 Housing and AB109. The County of Riverside does greatly add to the quality of life in the Valley. 587 County employees work in County facilities in the City of Hemet. Riverside County's Action Plan for this Valley includes: Hemet/San Jacinto ROCS Program; greater law enforcement presence; Hemet/San Jacinto blight mitigation; and embrace new standards of Public Safety throughout the valley. One of my primary campaigned goals in the last election was to attack crime and blight in this community. I moved my office to the new Hemet Service Center to deal more with the issues at hand. My mother had a business in Hemet in 1976, my sister Lori graduated from Hemet High School, I know what Hemet was in the past and what it can be. We need to make some changes, we need to put our resources together. I have offered some significant financial resources to the cities of Hemet and San Jacinto, but we can't do it without you.

**Nicole Tamez, Hemet,** expressed concern with the school crossing situation at West Valley High School.

**Seth Weinger, Hemet,** presented a list of the 1,000 comments that have been presented via Facebook. First and foremost on the list of concerns is Public Safety. Mr. Weinger suggested that the agencies combine resources.

**William Farley, Hemet,** moved back after being gone for 7 years. Mr. Farley was attacked while walking his dog. Something has to be done.

**David Christian, San Jacinto,** recommended that residents demand that the City, County and State uphold their 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights. Mr. Christian also encouraged residents to apply for Concealed Weapons Permits to protect themselves and their property.

**Don Digby, Hemet,** recommended that the City's divide their jurisdiction into districts and meet with resident representatives from each area to set priorities and look for funding sources. This "can of tolerance" has been kicked down the road for 25 years, we need to become intolerant. The residents do feel that some of the social services are the problem, not the solution. Many of us are tired of getting up going to work while a number of dirt bags don't.

**Patti Drusky, Hemet-San Jacinto Chamber of Commerce,** our members are enthusiastic about working with the Cities and the County and to be a part of the solution.

**Don Pierce, Hemet,** asked that the City's of Hemet and San Jacinto install more sidewalks to accommodate wheelchairs.

**Sean Weidmann, Hemet,** announced the formation of the "Valley Watchmen Group".

**Brishen Kruse, Hemet,** recommended that no more stop signs be installed on main roads. Mr. Kruse also asked for answers to the questions that were presented on August 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Kruse acknowledge that the crime is not the fault of the elected officials, however you do need to continue to request that the State put the parolees back in jail.

**Matt Minor, Hemet,** the residents that came here tonight want results, the closest thing so far is Chief Brown's announcement that Hemet is hiring 10 Officers. We need to focus on specific areas, we need residents, women and their children to feel safe.

**Ray Strait, Hemet,** expressed concern with the lack of sidewalks and decent streetlights in the southeast area of Hemet. There are three vacant and unkept homes on my street, one has had squatters for several months. Mr. Strait complained about the number of garage sales conducted in east Hemet. A skatepark needs to be built at the Wheelhouse for the Valley's youth.

**Lakshman Koka, San Jacinto,** the town and the real people of this community have not changed in the 9 years that I have lived here, there are some new elements. Encouraged by the people that are willing to help. We all feel that our house is our home, but we need to help keep our community clean. We need to continue talking and continue these opportunities to meet. Mr. Koka recommended that a Business Watch be formed through the Chamber of Commerces to help support the businesses.

**Jerry McCarty, Hemet,** there have been a lot of good ideas mentioned here tonight. We are fighting this battle with one hand, we need to address the court system. If a person commits a crime they need to do the time. A recent situation at Seven Hills involved a 13 year old armed criminal that has been arrested 4 times and is still on the streets.

**James Pangrazzi, San Jacinto,** expressed concern about the close proximity of 2 pedofiles to San Jacinto High School.

**Jack Lingo, Hemet,** taking care of the small stuff like graffiti will help. Other cities have dealt with these issues with aggressive Code Enforcement. Funding isn't going to get better without a change in the State's Elected Officials.

**Patricia Yepremian, Hemet,** I have only lived in Hemet for a few years, my sons have moved their families here because we love it. Ms. Yepremian hopes that her grandchildren will grow up and stay here. We need to join together as a group and save the businesses in this town, that will show that we are a community. With the leadership of or Elected Officials and the help of the residents, we can clean up this community. We need more meetings like this.

**Susan Watson, San Jacinto Chamber of Commerce,** the Chamber has heard a lot of complaints, the businesses are taking aggressive action to secure their businesses. We would like to be apart of the solution.

**Wigs Mendoza, Green Coalition of San Jacinto Valley,** the Coalition has worked with the City of Hemet and the local businesses on the shopping cart concerns. The Coalition will be presenting the first donated bike rack to the City of Hemet, the next one will be donated to the City of San Jacinto. The Coalition suggests Housing, Parks and Code

Enforcement work under the umbrella of the Police Departments, allowing them increased enforcement power. The Coalition also recommended that Community Relations Officers be hired to walk the beat in the problem areas. This journey won't happen overnight. Cheap housing is bringing undesirable people here. Join Hemet ROCS and the Green Coalition.

**Howard Rosenthal, Hemet**, we met here two years ago and nothing came of that meeting. No one is here for campaign speeches. Lead us, we don't want to leave Hemet but we don't want to live this way. Years ago a Friday Lunch Bunch started, which is now called the Hemet-San Jacinto Action Group. This group took over when the City's and the County failed. Mr. Rosenthal expressed concern with the payscale of Hemet's officers stating that adjusting their pay will help with retention. The Action Group is ready to work with you to get this done.

**Paul Raver, Hemet**, the citizens are making one loud message, we need more law enforcement. That sounds nice but the reality is there is no more money. The City's and the County have cut staff, costs and salaries. Mr. Raver recommended that a Public Safety Authority be established to remove the costs for Law Enforcement from the City's General Fund.

**John Wuerth, Hemet**, expressed concern with roads that were accepted by the County and never maintained.

**Hank Schmitz, Hemet**, expressed concern with losing any more public safety and code enforcement personnel. Mr. Schmitz noted that the residents need to be realistic, we are a poor community. We all have to get involved and help these government agencies. Continue to come to the meetings and support the City Councils and the Board of Supervisors.

**Betty Griggs, Hemet**, recommended that residents form neighborhood watches and explained how it helped her neighborhood. The neighbors worked together to improve our own quality of life.

**Joyce Newsom, San Jacinto**, expressed concern with Code Enforcement. The Police and the Sheriff's do the best they can given their lack of resources. LA and Riverside's gang problems have become our problem.

**Jim Lineberger, Hemet**, I gave up a profitable business to run The Pantry to help those in need. I keep hearing get rid of the poor and the homeless, maybe that will help but they are here. If distributing cards to panhandlers directing them to Valley Restart and The Pantry worked, let's print more. We serve families, couples and single mothers. Learn to have compassion for those in need and not judge them.

**Lori Van Arsdale, Hemet**, former Supervisor Venable successfully stopped the transfer of parolee's to Hemet for a while by working with the State Parole Office. Ms. Van Arsdale asked about the City's ability to handle their own Section 8 so that they would have more control.

**George, Kuvakas, Hemet**, strongly believes in education and the need to have good quality schools.

**Margaret Panuey, San Jacinto**, expressed concern with absentee landlords. We need to require a license for absentee landlords of homes and commercial buildings to ensure that they are informed of the codes and restrictions.

**Tim Schultz**, recommended that the laws be enforced, even the small crimes. Mr. Schultz also recommend that local high school graduates be hired as Police Officers for \$25,000 per year.

**Robert Galletta, Hemet**, the residents are tired of political agendas and politics as usual, stop talking and get to work. We don't need any more high priced consultants, we need more cops on the streets.

**David Harvey, Hemet**, congratulated the Police Department for their 10 new officers. Mr. Harvey expressed concern with the potential lay off of 9 firefighters given the number of calls that Hemet Fire responds to in a year. Mr. Harvey recommended that the City Council spend the City's reserves to fund the Fire Department adequately.

**Bobbie Christie, Hemet**, expressed concern with dispatch and the fact that the calls go to a general command center that isn't local and then has to be transferred. Ms. Christie also expressed concern with the loss of Fire Station 5 in East Hemet.

**Howard Tounget, Hemet**, expressed concern with pesticides being use by Agri-Empire and recommended that it be regulated. Mr. Tounget asked Supervisor Stone if other areas in his District would be granted the same waiver on Code Enforcement citations as Anza received. Mr. Tounget asked that all agencies answer these questions at their next meetings.

**Shellie Milne, Hemet**, expressed concern that Hemet is going down the same path given the vote at last nights Special Meeting. The City Councils are still voting the way the good old boys and the Public Safety unions demand. There is no economic development being encouraged in this valley.

**Jim Hall, Hemet**, recommended that the agencies continue to fund Valley Restart's successful "Ticket Home Program".

**Ray Fonseca, Hemet**, spoke in support of the law enforcement agencies. Previously non-profit agencies helped fund the Police Department with such things as bikes and dogs.

**Tom Garnella, Hemet**, expressed concern with a recycling center that has become a dumping site located on Fifth and Florida. Mr. Garnella was the 34<sup>th</sup> person to contact Riverside County Code Enforcement and complain.

**Richard Avila, Hemet**, expressed deep concern about the future of his generation given the debt of the nation. As a Council candidate I am concerned that our rights are being trampled on. The Elected Officials take an oath to defend the Constitution.

**Supervisor Stone**, it is clear that the residents want their home safe. We need to continue meeting and we need some action. Mr. Stone recommended that the City's talk about possible options such as a Regional Police Force. I'm not advocating that the City of Hemet contract with the Sheriff's or that Hemet Police Department provide the law enforcement for the valley. Maybe we can consider a JPA with the right service levels. A Regional Fire Department in the Valley might be an option, all of the County vehicles have paramedics on them. Again, I'm not advocating that the City contract with Riverside County. Efforts also need to be coordinated regarding Code Enforcement. It is obvious we need more jail space. The County of Riverside recently received a grant to build a regional jail in White Water. Supervisor Stone asked his staff to address the questions from the public.

A representative from Riverside County Housing Authority addressed the questions regarding the City's ability to administer Section 8. The law does not prohibit the cities from taking on the responsibility of Section 8. The program is costly to run, the County can do it because of the economies of scale.

A representative from Riverside County Probation Department addressed the request to work with State Parolee to stop the release of parolees in the Valley. The AB109 process was explained. The Probation Department does everything to confirm that the parolees are actually the County's responsibility and that they are coming to a supportive environment where they can be monitored.

**Supervisor Stone**, offered to sponsor community cleans ups in Hemet and San Jacinto. If you know of sexual predators living in inappropriate places, report it. If you see Graffiti report it, we have teams with a goal to get the graffiti cleaned up in 24 hours. Supervisor Stone spoke in support of 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights and noted that the Sheriff has the authority to issue Concealed Weapon Permits. The County of Riverside boldly adopted a Resolution that charges prisoners \$142.00 per day for their time in jail. Supervisor Stone is in the Valley a couple of days a week and is committed to find as much money as he can to help. We have to think out of the box and make bold decisions. Supervisor Stone recognized that Ron Bradley would have brought experience to the City of Hemet and been able to make the tough decisions that a city in turmoil needs. I am dedicated to the Valley for the next four years.

**Mayor Youssef**, thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for sticking it out. The general theme is that we live in this valley together. We need to make some tough decisions such as, impose a tax for public safety or not and/or share resources. The Elected Officials need to determine what resources can be shared and what would a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) might look like. We can all agree on one thing, that the status quo is not acceptable. We need to have some bold discussion and make some bold decisions. Whether the decision is to impose a tax or share resources, we need to look at all of the options. We need people to continue to get involved in Hemet ROCS. The all encompassing program will help this valley.

**Mayor Kotyuk**, agrees that the agencies need to work together. We have to find ways to bring jobs and the right people into the Valley. San Jacinto City Council just hired a consultant to look at our tourism program. There are assets in the Valley that need to be promoted. We need to consider a Foreign Trade Zone, that has proven to be successful in other areas. We need to continue to cut from the bottom line and find ways to increase our revenues.

**Council Member Bartel**, there was a lot of great discussion this evening. Council Member Bartel recommended that residents do not give money to panhandlers. The idea to present cards referring them to The Pantry or Valley Restart is a great idea. Continue to let your representatives in Sacramento know that you are not happy with AB109.

**Council Member Smith**, the Hemet ROCS Citizens Advisory Committee meets at the Hemet Public Library on the last Thursday of the month at 3:30 p.m. This is your opportunity to tell us one on one what you would like to see and get involved in this program. Hemet ROCS is a game changer.

**Vice Mayor Miller**, highly encouraged by the number of attendees and the fact that you believe that you can make a difference. We are here tonight to partner with you and to move forward. Thank you for being a part of this effort.

**The City Council's of Hemet and San Jacinto gave direction to their respective staff to look into the feasibility of shared resources.**

A tentative date of October 1, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at the Hemet Public Library was set for the next Joint Meeting.

**Council Member Ledezma**, thanked the San Jacinto Assembly of God Church for hosting the Joint Meeting.

**Council Member Di Memmo**, asked Supervisor Stone if any of the \$9 million dollars that was given to the Probation Department for AB109 can be used to help the Valley with these Public Safety issues.

A representative from Riverside County Probation Department explained the proposed uses for the AB109 funds. The State of California has allocated funding for the County and the Cities within the County to take on the additional responsibilities and are strictly allocated for AB109 efforts. A 7-Member Executive Committee has been appointed to determine funding allocation.

**Supervisor Stone**, the funds allocated by the State do not actually cover the cost of these additional responsibilities. Supervisor Stone also recommended that the City's consider a Citizen's Volunteer Program. Retired law enforcement vehicles and radios can be donated by the County and training can be provided by the Sheriff's Department.

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### **Communications From the Public**

There were no communications from the public presented at this time.

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### **Future Agenda Items**

There were no future agenda items requested at this time.

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### **Adjournment**

Adjourned at 10:40 p.m. to Tuesday, September 11, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.