

## HVCC Letter to County on Public Safety

*At the October meeting in Johnson Valley, the Council agreed to send this letter to the County Supervisors:*

James Ramos, County Supervisor Third District  
385 N. Arrowhead Ave., Fifth Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0110

re: Public Safety Concerns in San Bernardino County Desert

Dear Supervisor Ramos:

Your constituents in the Homestead Valley and other Morongo Basin communities seem to be experiencing more crime and traffic deaths; this Council has voted to request whatever funding can be made available to address these problems, to increase fire and law enforcement capabilities responding to emergencies and investigating.

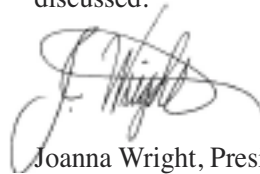
The perception of more personal and property crimes is spotlighted by the many grass roots efforts to form Community Watch groups, such as the educational programs promoted by the High Desert Association of Realtors. But these types of efforts are hard to put to work in remote rural settlements.

This Council receives frequent reports from County Fire and County Sheriffs. It is discouraging to note how few resources are spread out over the vast rural districts, to experience long response times waiting for emergency help because of the distances being travelled. It is especially discouraging to see the effects of jail "reform" legislation converting felonies to misdemeanors. We do not like to see the people preying on us and our neighbors walk free, even before the law enforcement reports can be written.

County Fire spends much time answering medical aid calls, not only to residents up remote dirt roads having breathing problems or injuries, but also to traffic collisions and pedestrian injuries and deaths. We all hear the anecdotal reports on marijuana plantations in the neighborhoods, on gang-related activities and vandalism, the increase in residents with drug and alcohol problems and vagrants in shopping areas or squatting in vacant houses. Whether crime, vandalism and erratic antisocial behaviors are truly on the increase we are trying to discover. But the perception that this is so, and the certainty of long response times, affects our rural economies, tourism and ultimately, County revenues.

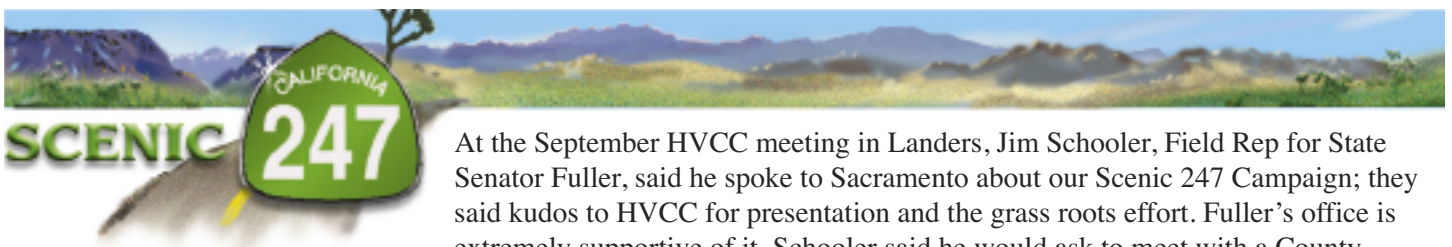
Please address these questions. Is discretionary funding available to improve public safety resources with more deputies and fire personnel to match the increase in population? What can we do now?

Thank you for your attention. We invite you to attend another HVCC meeting or other event where these issues can be discussed.



Joanna Wright, President HVCC

c/c Robert Lovingood, County Supervisor First District  
Janice Rutherford, County Supervisor Second District  
Curt Hagman, County Supervisor Fourth District  
Josie Gonzales, County Supervisor Fifth District



At the September HVCC meeting in Landers, Jim Schooler, Field Rep for State Senator Fuller, said he spoke to Sacramento about our Scenic 247 Campaign; they said kudos to HVCC for presentation and the grass roots effort. Fuller's office is extremely supportive of it. Schooler said he would ask to meet with a County contact person, it looks like a favorable proposition. The Scenic 247 Committee eagerly awaits hearing the outcome of this request.