

Capt Lucas Niles Announces His Retirement from Sheriff's Department At July HVCC



–July 18, 2022

At the July meeting of the Homestead Valley Community Council in the Flamingo Heights Community Center, Captain Lucas Niles gave us his last report, and announced that he would retire on July 28, having served 20 years with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. Niles, who has been a regular at HVCC meetings answering questions and addressing our issues, will be missed.



HVCC member from Landers Roxanna Shamay arranged a custom wooden plaque to present to him, with engraved desert images, SB County Sheriff badge, and the

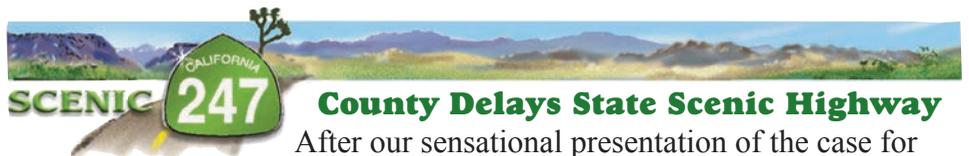
words

"Lucas Niles - Always Homestead Valley's Captain."

HVCC president Jim Harvey later sent a message to the Council: "Never forget, Capt. Niles chose the HVCC meeting for his first public announcement of his retirement. He wanted his first official announcement to be with us. That

was an unmistakable final nod of gratitude and special appreciation. I can tell you from our conversations he admired and appreciated all of you. We will miss him for sure."

Above, L to R: Jim Harvey, Adrienne Moore, Justin Moreno, Roxanna Shamay, Capt Lucas Niles, Kim Abramson, Jim Hanley, Digna Irrizarry-Cassens, Floy Creveling



After our sensational presentation of the case for Scenic 247 in the December 2021 Planning Commission public meeting, the Scenic 247 Committee were told it would go to the Supervisors in January or February for approval for presentation to Caltrans. The retirement of Karen Watkins from Land Use Services has delayed this. The latest update from LUS had puzzling explanations. "We still need to work on something to address concerns raised by Edison. In addition, we are recommending a 1-mile mitigation area off the highway (200 feet existing v. 20 miles proposed). We believe this is the best compromise to keep this effort moving forward." We asked: *What* concerns raised by Edison? We reminded them Caltrans defines the scenic corridor as *everything visible from the highway*, and we asked *WHAT* compromise, and with whom? No reply to date.