

CITY OF PALM DESERT

**STUDY SESSION:
THREATS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST
CITY COUNCIL AND CANDIDATES**

SEPTEMBER 12, 2024



PALM DESERT



PURPOSE

- Establish a protocol for responding to threats directed toward Council Members and Candidates.
- Ensure coordinated and immediate action to safeguard individuals.
- Supplements the City's Workplace Violence Prevention Plan (WVPP), which excludes candidates.



ELEMENTS OF THE POLICY

- **Scope**
- **Definitions**
- **Responsibilities of the Council Members and Candidates**
 - Reporting Threats of Violence
 - Basic Due Diligence
 - Cooperation with Law Enforcement
 - Confidentiality
 - Facility Access Control



ELEMENTS OF THE POLICY

- **Training**
 - Regular Training for City Staff
 - Candidate and New Council Member Orientation
- **Immediate Reporting**
- **Law Enforcement Involvement**
- **Confidentiality**
- **Communication**
- **Policy Updates & Amendments**



INCIDENT RESPONSE CHECKLIST

- Reporting Party Responsibilities
- Responsibilities of the Council Member and Candidate
- Risk Assessment and Mitigation (City Manager's Office)
- Guidance from City Manager and Law Enforcement
- Coordination with Legal and Communication Teams
- Post-Incident Review and Documentation (City Manager's Office)

CONCEALED WEAPONS

- CA Penal Code 171b prohibits individuals from bringing or possessing firearms or other specified weapons into state or local public buildings.
- PDMC 2.52 (Workplace Policies) prohibits City employees from possessing firearms or other weapons on City property.
- However, the provisions do not explicitly prohibit holders of Concealed Weapon Permits from carrying concealed firearms on City property.



CONCEALED WEAPONS

QUESTION

Should City staff and the City Attorney further research whether the City may enact an ordinance that would prohibit all firearms, including those carried by CWP holders, on City property, particularly at City Hall?