

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: September 26, 2024

PREPARED BY: Anthony J. Mejia, City Clerk

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION ADOPTING POLICY CLRK-002: THREATS OF VIOLENCE
DIRECTED TOWARDS COUNCIL MEMBERS AND CANDIDATES

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution entitled, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING POLICY CLRK-002: THREATS OF VIOLENCE DIRECTED TOWARDS COUNCIL MEMBERS AND CANDIDATES."

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

The proposed Policy CLRK-002 was developed to establish formal protocols for handling and responding to threats of violence directed toward Council Members and Candidates. This policy includes procedures for reporting threats, involving law enforcement, ensuring confidentiality, and an incident report checklist. The policy comes in response to recent threats directed at a Council Member. While these threats have gained public attention, the City is committed to handling them discreetly, in compliance with legal guidelines and best practices for public safety.

The key provisions of Policy CLRK-002 include:

1. **Immediate Reporting:** Council Members, Candidates, and staff must immediately report any threats to the City Manager and law enforcement.
2. **Law Enforcement Involvement:** Law enforcement will assess the risk and determine the necessary actions, including potential investigations and protective measures.
3. **Confidentiality:** All details of the threats will be kept confidential and shared only with necessary personnel to ensure the safety of those involved.
4. **Facility Access Control:** Guidelines are established to limit unauthorized access to City Hall during off-hours to minimize vulnerabilities.
5. **Training:** Regular training will be conducted for relevant staff and officials to ensure preparedness for handling threats.
6. **Public Communication:** The City Manager or designee, in coordination with law enforcement, will handle any necessary public communication regarding threats, ensuring that investigations and individual safety are not compromised.
7. **Incident Response Checklist:** The attached Exhibit A provides a detailed checklist for immediate reporting, risk assessments, mitigation steps, and coordination with law enforcement and the legal and communications teams, which ensures thorough and systematic handling of threats.

The policy is aligned with the City's Workplace Violence Prevention Plan (WVPP) and complies with state regulations, including SB 553, which mandates proactive measures for preventing workplace violence.

Legal Review:

This report has been reviewed by the City Attorney's Office

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact associated with this action.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft Resolution
2. Exhibit A – Policy CLRK-002