

Damian Olivares

To: Chris Escobedo
Subject: RE: PLAN TO SPEAK AT CITY COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 23

During the Joslyn Center update, Ms. Koroczynsky and several residents provided comments. I clarified for the Commission that the Cove Communities Joint Powers Authority (JPA) establishes the joint service framework among the three cities, including the funding formula and cost-sharing mechanism. However, the Cove Communities Commission does not direct Joslyn Center operations, including personnel matters such as the hiring or dismissal of staff.

The JPA does, however, provide a forum for the Joslyn Center Executive Director to present updates and receive feedback from the Commission. Operationally and on budget, the Joslyn Center is managed by the Cove Communities Senior Association, a California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation organized under state law and independent from the JPA and its member cities.



Chris Escobedo

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From: Jana Koroczynsky <jkoroczynsky@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 3:55 PM
To: CityClerk <CityClerk@palmdesert.gov>; citycouncilcomments@palmdesert.gov
Subject: PLAN TO SPEAK AT CITY COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 23

Letter to Palm Desert City Council for October 23, 2025

I and other seniors from the Joslyn Center attended and spoke at the meeting of the Cove Communities Service Commission yesterday. We find it inconceivable there is no oversight of the way the large pot of money, collected from private donations, business support, and public funding for the Joslyn Senior Center, is spent.

At the meeting the city manager told the commissioners that they had no say in how the money allocated to the center is spent.

A number of us attended a recent Cove Communities Senior Association board meeting to get answers about the firing of our beloved director and were rudely told to leave. We insisted that we were going

to speak and the board president said they would not discuss the firing and acquiesced, "Okay, one of you can speak for three minutes, then get out."

Now there is a rumor that the board has hired security for their meetings. What are they afraid of ... a group of senior citizens?

Considering the fact that there is no oversight of the Board of Directors of the Cove Communities Senior Association, the members at the Joslyn Center find the circumstances of the center's director's firing very disturbing. Now we find out that neither the commission, nor the city staff, nor the cities' councils have been offered an explanation by the board. The more we find out about the organization and (non)oversight, the more disturbed we are becoming.

The members have lost confidence in the Board of the Cove Communities Senior Association and question whether they are acting in the best interests of the center. We will be circulating a petition of "no confidence" among the membership. We heard that the staff at the center have already voted "no confidence" in the board.

There is growing consensus that the structure and oversight of the Board should be reviewed. We have the following suggestions:

- Cities' funds should be used for programs only, not for expenses arising from legal issues resulting from their actions.
- Two active Joslyn Center members should serve as voting board members
- Why is the current president of the board someone who does not reside in the Coachella Valley? Members of the board should be required to reside within the three cities that fund the center.
- The Cove Commission Senior Association board does not comply with the Brown Act. How does that make sense? **Compliance is required by law.** Failure to comply can lead to legal consequences, invalidation of decisions, and even personal liability in serious cases. If the CC Senior Association was not created by legislative action, why was it not?
- City Council and the Cove Communities Service Commission should find a way to look into the termination of our director, Dr. Jay Seller, who by any measurable standard was doing outstanding work, and return him to his role.

BTW, it is very difficult to find out anything about the Cove Communities Service Commission, who is on it, and when and where they meet. That should be fixed.

Respectfully,

Jana Koroczynsky