

City of Palm Desert Staff Report

Meeting Date: April 23, 2026

Prepared By: Shelby Goodwin, Special Events Coordinator

Department: Economic Development

Subject: Temporary Park Ordinance Waivers for the 2026 Coachella Valley Battle of the Badges Event

Recommendation

Approve a temporary waiver of the following Palm Desert Municipal Code (PDMC) sections for the 2026 Coachella Valley Battle of the Badges event, subject to compliance with all required permits, insurance, and conditions of approval:

- a. 11.01.020 (Hours of Use in City Parks)
- b. 11.01.140 (Amplified Sound in City Parks)
- c. 11.01.080 H (Camping)
- d. 11.01.080 O (Placement of Advertising Signage in City Parks)
- e. 11.01.080 Q (Vendor Sales in City Parks)
- f. 11.01.080 W (Possession/Consumption of Alcohol in City Parks) pursuant to PDMC 9.58.040

Executive Summary

The Coachella Valley Battle of the Badges is a sanctioned amateur boxing event featuring public safety personnel that has been held in the Coachella Valley for several years. The organizer proposes to host the event at the Palm Desert Civic Center Park baseball fields on Saturday, October 17, 2026.

Need for Action

The proposed event requires temporary waivers of specific PDMC provisions to allow extended park hours, amplified sound, placement of advertising signage, vendor sales, and the controlled possession and consumption of alcohol within a designated, fenced beer garden. The requested camping waiver would allow event setup to begin the evening prior to the event, with overnight security provided to ensure public safety and protection of City property.

Background

The Coachella Valley Battle of the Badges is organized by Cathedral City Police Officer Jesus Gonzalez and has been held in the region for several years, most recently in Cathedral City. The organizer proposes to host the event in Palm Desert, with the Civic Center Park identified as the preferred location due to its capacity, existing infrastructure, and central location within the Coachella Valley.

Discussion

The proposed event would be a secured, ticketed experience, with the baseball field enclosed by temporary fencing to control access and ensure public safety. The event footprint would include a regulation boxing ring, beer garden, food vendors, and supporting infrastructure such as temporary seating, audio/visual equipment, portable restrooms, and designated areas for ticketing, check-in, and crowd circulation.

Public safety measures will include licensed security personnel, an on-site physician, and dedicated ambulance services. The organizer will be responsible for obtaining all required permits, licenses, and insurance, including applicable health, alcohol, and special event permits, and must comply with all City regulations and conditions of approval.

Approval of the requested PDMC waivers will allow the event to operate as proposed while maintaining appropriate oversight and safety standards. Civic Center Park is well-suited to accommodate a secured event footprint while minimizing impacts to surrounding park uses.

Legal Review

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

Financial Impact

There is no direct fiscal impact to the City associated with this request as the event organizer will be responsible for all event-related costs.

The organizer may elect to apply for a FY 2026-27 Community Event Sponsorship by the April 30 deadline. Any funding request would be contingent upon eligibility and subject to consideration by the Outside Agency Funding Committee. The organizer has indicated that the event will proceed regardless of sponsorship status.

Attachments

None.

Conflict of Interest Awareness Checklist

Note: *This checklist is informational only and does not constitute a legal determination. Each Councilmember remains responsible for identifying, disclosing, and evaluating any disqualifying interests under the Political Reform Act and applicable FPPC regulations.*

1. Site-Specific Property Interest

Does this item involve a project site or other identifiable real property?

Yes

No

If yes, identify the project site: 43900 San Pablo Ave, Palm Desert, CA

Councilmembers should consider whether they own, lease, or hold interests in real property within 1,000 feet of the project site. (Gov. Code § 87103(b); FPPC Reg. 18702.2).

2. SB 1439 / Gov. Code § 84308 Applicability (Campaign Contributions)

Does this item involve a license, permit, other entitlement for use, or a contract or franchise agreement that is not competitively bid, a labor agreement, or a personal employment contract?

Yes

No

If yes, identify the applicant(s): Cathedral City Police Officer Jesus Gonzalez

Councilmembers should review campaign contributions received within the prior 12 months from parties or participants to the proceeding and must not accept contributions over \$500 from those parties for 12 months following the final decision. (Gov. Code § 84308).