SUPERVISOR KEVIN JEFFRIES RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT #1

# Jeffries Journal

Volume 7, Issue 8

August 2019

**Kevin's Corner** 



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**Shifting Gears?** Last month I reported on a proposal to convert the Riverside 91 HOV lanes to toll lanes. Well, the update is not very good. On July 10, the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), an independent, state-authorized commission made up of all our local cities and our county, cast three (3) controversial votes, that I would argue indirectly kicked off a not-so-subtle change in the purpose and mission of our countywide transportation organization. Historically, RCTC had confined itself to being a builder of public transportation infrastructure for the benefit of ALL (with a few exceptions). As a result of the three split votes, that's all about to change, and for the worse I'm afraid.

My opinion is that RCTC got a taste of millions and millions of newly designated "surplus" toll lane revenues from the Corona Toll Lanes, and like any government entity, it is absolutely hooked and wants more. MUCH more. So much so, that much of our freeway system in western Riverside County (91 through Riverside, 15 Freeway, 215 Freeway and Route 60) is now being targeted for future toll lanes. In the City of Riverside, the taxpayer funded 91 HOV lanes will likely be converted to revenue generating toll lanes, while the future of the current free HOV lanes on the 91 is uncertain at best.

### So what were the 3 big controversial votes?

Agenda Item 11: Approved a proposal to declare certain revenues from the Corona portion of 91 toll lanes as "surplus" and redirect the funds to other corridors (even though all the originally proposed improvements to the 91 may not have been completed). This proposal still requires the approval of the state legislature and governor. A proposal to table this item for 60 days to allow other members of the Commission to better study the proposal was denied 20 to 11.

Item 12: Approved a proposal that in part proposes adding toll lanes to the Riverside 91 (convert the HOV lanes), and portions of Route 60, I-15 and I-215. A proposal to table this item for 60 days to allow members of the Commission to better study the proposal was denied 21 to 10.

Item 13: Approved a proposal to spend upwards of \$3.8 million to "Educate" the voting public in Riverside County as to the benefits of passing November 2020 sales tax increase for transportation projects. This is in addition to the statewide gas tax and DMV fee increases. A proposal to table this proposal for 60 days was denied 20-11.

One item that doesn't escape attention is that nearly every city (if not all) in the eastern part of our county voted in favor of the proposals above. Why? One could argue that as NOT one single toll lane is proposed for the eastern portion of our county, and by shifting western Riverside County to a toll lane revenue haven, that action in turn frees up a significant pot (tens of millions) of "unrestricted" revenues that could then be spent in the eastern portion of the county without fear of having to collect toll revenues (to pay back construction loans). If this wild crazy-eyed theory is true, it was a brilliant move by the eastern cities to vote as a block to convert a majority of the western cities' freeways to future toll corridors. Absolutely brilliant! Unless, of course, you live and drive in the western portion of the County of Riverside...

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This battle for the soul of RCTC and the pocket books of our motoring public isn't over yet! The state legislature still has to approve various parts of the proposals, the tax increase proposal has to be put on the ballot and the voters still have to agree. With such a hardline, no questions, no negotiating position being taken by a majority of the commission, it's hard to see how any countywide coalition will be built and held together.

Thank you to all the residents who came out to speak and fight the good fight that day. You can see the meeting video and read the full agenda here: <u>https://riversidecountyca.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail\_Meeting.aspx?ID=2219</u>

**Congratulations - I think**. My fellow Board member, Supervisor Perez was recently appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom to the Governor's Homeless and Supportive Housing Advisory Task Force to dive into the growing homelessness challenges that are overwhelming communities all across our state. With a growing number of the homeless people refusing services and declining temporary shelters, the problems in our neighborhoods and commercial zones seems to be getting significantly worse and more confrontational. With California no longer having consequences for low level offenders (thanks to AB-109, and voter approved Propositions 47 & 57) its proving to be extremely difficult for law enforcement to protect our communities from low level criminal acts (non-violent acts). I truly hope Supervisor Perez can find more or better options to help those who want help, or help those who need voluntary or involuntary mental or drug abuse assistance, and find a way to hold criminals accountable for their actions.

As always, feel free to offer your thoughts and suggestions.

Respectfully, Kevin Jeffries

Interested in serving your local community? Perhaps you are more of a regional advocate? If you live in or have a business in District #1, be sure to look at the list of openings we have below for local commissions. If you feel you have the time to dedicate to making the district a better place feel free to apply online at www.supervisorjeffries.com, under Boards & Commissions

In Home Support Services (IHSS) - Recipient of IHSS Services

Behavioral Health Commission - Contact our office for details on eligibility

**County Archives Commission** - Opening pending (seeking qualified applicants)

Lakeland Community Advisory Council - Board Member



# Local District #1 Events

Our Concert and Movie in the Park for Mead Valley was a great hit with the community. Southbound performed for all the residents who showed up early and games were available for the kids too! Food, fun and popcorn was enjoyed by everyone who attended.

Thank you to all the community volunteers and the volunteers from The Grove who also participated in making this event a great summer night out for our community.



## Local District #1 Events

## Box Springs Paving Moves Forward....

For years local residents and those who visit the Box Springs hiking trails have had to negotiate the steep and bumpy road headed up to the top of the mountain.

Well, as you can see the first portion of the road, the steepest and the most wash-boarded section, has a new face lift!

Big "Thank You" to our Riverside County Transportation (TLMA) crews for braving the over 100 degree heat out there to make this possible for everyone.





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Local District #1 Events

## **Temescal Canyon Road Now Open!**

The work along Temescal Canyon Road in Temescal Valley has finally been completed with the new bridge/culverts installed to allow the seasonal water to flow freely .

Residents and local business owners were happy to finally have the roadway open and the work completed.

Another big thank you to our TLMA Department for making this project a reality for our community!







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## **Non-Profit Spotlight**

## **United Way of Inland Valleys**



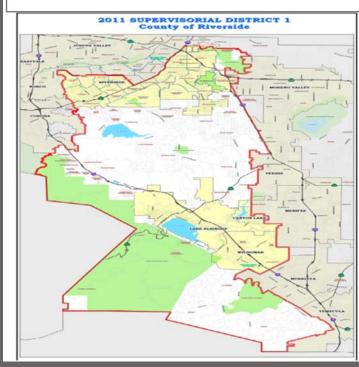
United Way of the Inland Valleys

United Way of the Inland Valleys (UWIV) is an independent 501©3 organization based in Riverside, CA, which envisions and fights for a community where all individuals and families achieve their human potential through education, financial stability and housing. Governed by local volunteers, UWIV serves the 1<sup>st</sup> District communities of Canyon Lake, Lake Elsinore, Riverside, and Wildomar.

Since 1954, UWIV has been devoted to a mission to unite people, ideas, and resources within its community, to improve lives. 78% of all contributions to United Way come from workplace campaign gifts where employees come together to pool their resources through employee campaigns. Management invests thousands of hours each year leading the campaigns at their worksites. Thousands of donors donate discretionary income to fight for the education, financial stability, and housing for our community.

UWIV's most prominent programs are Girls Excelling in Mathematics with Success (GEMS) – inspiring 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls to pursue STEM studies and careers – and Financial Independent Training Academy (FIT Academy) – a six week college level financial literacy series and six month savings practicum for foster youth ages 18-24. Other programs and resources include: Financial Literacy for At-Risk High School Students (SHADES), an Early Literacy Program for at risk youth grades 1-5, 211 HELP, Day of Action, Tax Prep Help, Real Cost Measure a data based report on the cost of living in our neighborhoods – and Born Learning – provides practical tips and tools to help parents and caregivers provide quality early learning opportunities for young children.

For more information, visit their website at: <a href="https://uwiv.org/team">https://uwiv.org/team</a>



## First District Profile



Kevin Jeffries was elected in November 2012 to represent the residents of the 1st Supervisorial District on the Riverside County Board of Supervisors. This district covers the cities of Riverside, Lake Elsinore, Canyon Lake, and Wildomar, and unincorporated communities including Woodcrest, Lake Mathews, Mead Valley, Temescal Valley, Good Hope, Lakeland Village, El Cariso, Meadowbrook, La Cresta, Tenaja, DeLuz and Spring Hills.

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## WELCOMING ALL FAMILIES WITH A SPECIAL NEEDS CHILD

5th Annual Disabilities Awareness Night

# SATURDAY, AUGUST 17<sup>TH</sup> @ 6PM Storm Stadium



Pre-game VIP Player Meet & Greet at 4pm in the Diamond Club for all participating families. Questions? Contact Kasey at 951-245-4487 or krawitzer@stormbaseball.com

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## **Jeffries Journal**



### HOSTED BY:

County of Riverside Emergency Management Department



### WHERE:

Lakeland Village Community Center / Building D 16275 Grand Avenue, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530

DATE:

Wednesday August 7, 2019

TIME:

5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

HOW TO REGISTER:

<u>https://tinyurl.com/Lakelandvill</u> agerefresherAugust

CALL:

County of Riverside Emergency Management Department

(951) 955-4700

OR VISIT:

https://www.rivcocert.org/

Community Emergency Response Team



Refresher Training

## **Building Resilient Communities**

CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where residents will be initially on their own and their actions can make a difference.

Refresher training is open to all CERT graduates, 18 years of age and older.

The training is free of charge and will cover medical triage topics.



Wednesday, August 7, 2019 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM

COME JOIN US!

## HOSTED BY:

County of Riverside Emergency Management Department



#### WHERE:

Trilogy Gold Club 24400 Trilogy Pkwy Corona, CA 92883

DATE:

Wednesday, August 28th, 2019

TIME:

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**Register at:** 

https://tinyurl.com/TrilogyCER TRefresherAugust

For more information contact us:

County of Riverside Emergency Management Department

(951) 955-4700

OR VISIT:

https://www.rivcocert.org/

# Community Emergency Response Team



Refresher Training

**Building Resilient Communities** 

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August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

COME JOIN US!