



palm desert area
chamber of commerce



March 23, 2017

Honorable Jan Harnik, Mayor
City of Palm Desert City Council
73-510 Fred Waring Drive
Palm Desert, CA 92260-2578

Madam Mayor and Members of the City Council:

Please be advised that, on behalf of our over 1,000 member businesses in and around the great City of Palm Desert, the Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce (PDACC) is proud to support Resolution No.s 2017-28 and 2017-29, to expand the Community Outreach Resource Program (CORP) throughout the Coachella Valley, and to implement CORP within the City of Palm Desert itself.

PDACC and its Board of Directors believes that homelessness in many areas of Riverside County has reached epidemic levels. The City of Indio created and implemented its CORP under the guidance of former Chief of Police Richard Twiss, with exceptional success. PDACC believes, however, that efforts to identify homeless individuals, connect with those individuals, deal with the obstacles faced by each individual, and get them to the necessary resources, should not be limited to one organization or City. Such efforts should be shared by all Coachella Valley cities, so as to leverage the resources, energies, and empathy of the entire communities where we live and work.

The Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce believes that CORP is a proven program, that has demonstrated exceptional success in assisting homeless individuals and at-risk families. We wholeheartedly support the City of Palm Desert and the Coachella Valley Association of Governments' efforts to embrace the template created by the City of Indio's CORP, and to replicate CORP in Palm Desert and throughout the Coachella Valley.

The citizens of Palm Desert, its surrounding communities, and the entire Coachella Valley business community, will realize the benefits of CORP as well, through the resulting improvements in our quality of life. PDACC is proud to be part of these efforts.

As always, keep up the great work!

Respectfully,

Laurie Baldwin President/CEO
Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce