

# HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

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## AGENDA

Monday  
December 12, 2016, 3:00 p.m.



Palm Springs City Hall  
Large Conference Room

Wesley Rankins, Chair  
Jilska Chandrasena  
Denise Chappell  
Sam Ciraulo  
Ron deHarte

Suzanne Severin, Vice Chair  
Christy Holstege  
Janel Hunt  
Deborah Sutton-Weiss

### Student Representatives

Zjarvre Crawford, Palm Springs High School  
Jaiden Hunt, Raymond Cree Middle School

### Staff Liaison

Dale Cook, Community Development Administrator

*City of Palm Springs Mission Statement: Palm Springs is an inclusive world-class city dedicated to providing excellent and responsive public services to enhance the quality of life for current and future generations.*

Please silence electronic devices.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

2. FLAG SALUTE:

3. MISSION STATEMENT:

*"The Mission of the Palm Springs Human Rights Commission is to promote and protect the diversity of our community and to improve human relations through education and community awareness."*

4. ROLL CALL:

5. POSTING OF THE AGENDA:

This Agenda was available for public access at the City Hall exterior bulletin board (west side of Council Chamber), the City Clerk's office, and Planning Services counter on or before 4:00 p.m., Thursday, December 8, 2016. A courtesy website posting of the Agenda may be found at the City's website [www.palmspringsca.gov](http://www.palmspringsca.gov). Pursuant to the Government Code Section 54957.5, the designated office for inspection of public records in connection with the public meeting of the Human Rights Commission is the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, at 3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, California.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Any person who wishes to speak on a topic within the City's jurisdiction during this portion of the agenda must file a "Speaker Card" with the Staff Liaison BEFORE that portion of the agenda is called. [Three (3) minutes per speaker] Although the Commission values your comments, pursuant to the Brown Act, it generally cannot take any action on items not listed on the posted agenda, Commissioners will not enter into discussion with speakers, but during Commission Comments, may refer the matter to staff for report and recommendation at a future Commission meeting.
7. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** November 14, 2016, Meeting
8. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / AND OR VOTE:**
  - 8.A Community Service Awards – Monday, February 13, 2017, 3 p.m., Council Chamber
  - 8.B Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast – Friday, May 19, 2017, 9:30 a.m., PS Convention Center
  - 8.C Student Representatives Subcommittee
  - 8.D Meeting Topics Ad Hoc Committees:
    - October, November & December – Homelessness, Vice Chair Severin
    - January, March & April – Race Relations/Equality, Commissioner Hunt
    - May, June & July – Human Trafficking, Commissioner Sutton-Weiss
  - 8.E Subcommittee Reports:
    - Community Outreach – Commissioner Chandrasena
    - Community Service Awards Nominations – Chair Rankins
    - Homelessness Task Force – Vice Chair Severin
    - PSPD LGBTQ Community – Chair Rankins
    - Parades – Commissioner Hunt
    - Press & Social Media – Commission Holstege
  - 8.F Topical Newsworthy Items
9. **STUDENT COMMENTS:**
10. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**
11. **STAFF COMMENTS:**
12. **AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT HRC MEETING:**
13. **ADJOURNMENT:** The next regular Commission meeting will be Monday, January 9, 2017, at 3:00 P.M. in the Large Conference Room, City Hall, 3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs.

The Human Rights Commission regular meetings are aired on the City's PSCTV Channel 17 following the meeting on every Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. and every Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

It is the intention of the City of Palm Springs to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in all respects. If, as an attendee or a participant at this meeting or in meetings on a regular basis, you will need special assistance beyond what is normally provided, the City will attempt to accommodate you in every reasonable manner. Please contact the Department of Community & Economic Development, (760) 323-8321, TDD (760) 864-9527, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to inform us of your particular needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible.

Pursuant to G.C. Section 54957.5 the designated office for inspection of public records in connection with the meeting is the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, California.

AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

I, Dale E. Cook, Jr., Community Development Administrator, City of Palm Springs, California, certify this Agenda was posted on or before 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 8, 2016, as required by established policies and procedures. Pursuant to the Government Code Section 54957.5, the designated office for inspection of public records in connection with the public meeting of the Human Rights Commission is the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, at 3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, California.



Dale E. Cook, Jr., Community Development Administrator



THE PUBLIC IS INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETINGS at 3:00 p.m. THE SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH IN THE LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM IN CITY HALL, 3200 E. TAHQUITZ CANYON WAY.

**Human Rights Commission  
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA**



**FOR APPROVAL**

**MINUTES  
Regular Meeting**

Monday, November 14, 2016  
Palm Springs City Hall • 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Large Conference Room

	<u>Present This Meeting</u>	<u>Present to Date</u>	<u>FY 2016/2017 Excused Absences</u>	<u>FY 2016/2017 Unexcused Absences</u>
Jilka Chandrasena	x	2	1	
Denise Chappell		2	1	
Sam Ciraulo		2	1	
Ron deHarte	x	3		
Christy Holstege	x	3		
Janel Hunt	x	3		
Wes Rankins, Chair	x	3		
Suzanne Severin, Vice Chair	x	3		
Deborah Sutton-Weiss		1		2

Zjarvre Crawford, Student Rep, Not present  
Jaiden Hunt, Student, Not present

Other Staff Present:  
Dale Cook, Community Development Administrator, Staff Liaison  
Annie Rodriguez, Housing Program Assistant

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Rankins called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.
2. **FLAG SALUTE:**
3. **MISSION STATEMENT:** *"The mission of the Palm Springs Human Rights Commission is to promote and protect the diversity of our community and to improve human relations through education and community awareness"*
4. **ROLL CALL:** Commissioner Hunt and Commissioner Chandrasena arrived late.
5. **POSTING OF THE AGENDA:** the agenda was posted in accordance with the Brown Act on or before 4:00 p.m., Thursday, November 10, 2016.

*Commissioner Chandrasena joined at 3:11 p.m.*

**6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Tamika Fouts-Rachal, Regional Manager for the State Council of Developmental Disabilities thanked the commission for bringing up housing as an important topic of conversation and was excited to hear the

information presented during the meeting. Ms. Fouts-Rachal indicated that housing is one of the State's plan goals and commented that many individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are greatly impacted by housing disability rights.

Sharon Kolb - shared her life's experience of being homeless, at one point for 3-½ years, and how she did not have the resources then that are available now such as Roy's where people can shower, eat a meal and have a bed to sleep at night. She expressed gratitude for the resources created that helped her educational and employment achievements and helped to obtain her own apartment.

## 7. PANEL DISCUSSION

*Vice Chair Severin* - Thanked those who attended the educational film screening "Storied Streets" last month. The film is available online for those who were interested and were not able to attend.

*Vice Chair Severin* - The professional advocates invited to speak today are people who work closely with the homeless and advocate on their behalf in terms of resources, priorities, and housing. She introduced Julie Bornstien, Executive Director, Coachella Valley Housing Coalition.

Ms. Bornstien shared that her organization is a non-profit who provides permanent affordable housing through government programs to build rental multi-family housing, and home ownership housing that is affordable. Permanent affordable housing is provided so people can have a safe and decent place to live at the end of the Continuum of Care. Ms. Bornstien shared statistics on affordable housing in Riverside County. She identified households based on income level who need affordable housing and fair housing opportunities in cities. Ms. Bornstien's presentation handout is attached hereto and is made part of the meeting record.

*Commissioner Hunt joined at 3:28pm*

Commissioner Chandrasena introduced Christie Holstege – Human Rights Attorney; she is Human Rights Commissioner. Commissioner Holstege identified a need in the first part of the Continuum of Care of the homeless. She brought forward the ordinances of the City of Palm Springs that are currently affecting homeless individuals. Ordinance 11.40.015 - makes it illegal to camp in any street, park, public parking or public area. Ordinance 11.40.030 - No adult shall in public or private camp on private or public property within the city limits, except with authorization. Ordinance 12.12.055 - prevents sitting or lying on public sidewalks downtown. Because of the ordinances, homeless individuals are receiving multiple misdemeanor charges and are arrested monthly. Commissioner Holstege discussed how it is unconstitutional to ban the homeless from sleeping outside and is a violation of the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment. She would like the Commission to follow up on the policy and take action in helping people get out of poverty and access to benefits.

Vice Chair Severin introduced Marcus Canon, Behavioral Health Specialist Supervisor and Amanda Young, Outreach Specialist. The City of Palm Springs entered into an agreement with Riverside County to contract with (1) Behavioral Specialist III and (1) Peer Support Specialist. The two outreach specialists are working 5 days a week providing engagement; they assess each homeless person's story, level of vulnerability and identify barriers. Mr. Cannon stated their role is to use their expertise to work with the substance abuse and mental health challenges someone may have and link them to the resources, including housing stability. He agrees that finding a solution to having affordable housing opportunities dovetails nicely with the work they are trying to accomplish.

A question and answer period followed at the end of the panel presentations by the Commissioners regarding, but not limited to, the following topics: ordinances, defining public areas, partnership history of Coachella Valley Housing Coalition, affordable housing developments and their impact on property values, current waiting list length of affordable housing developments, budgets/funding for affordable housing resources and homeless engagement challenges.

In response to an audience question, panel presenters stated citizens can get involved in the homelessness issues and solutions in Palm Springs by attending the Homelessness Task Force meetings, provide time and resources to organizations working with the homeless, and taking part in advocacy by writing to your state and local elected officials.

The Commission took a brief five-minute recess at the end of the Q&A period announced by Chair Rankins.

**8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2016.

**MOTION:** By Vice Chair Severin, second by Commissioner Chandrasena, to approve Regular Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2016; unanimously carried.

**9. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR VOTE:**

**9.A "Storied Streets" Film Screening Follow-up Report and 'Call to Action' – Homeless Facility Tour**

*Vice Chair Severin* - Reported good turnout and thanked the subcommittee, Commissioner Holstege, Commissioner Chandresena and Julie Warren of Palm Springs Public Library. Would like to recommend seeing more educational events/films at the library when possible.

*Chair Rankins* – Thanked Vice Chair Severin and the subcommittee, the film was very good and powerful with a great turnout on a Wednesday night. He suggested that the film be budgeted for next year as well.

*Commissioner Holstege* – Stated that they had a great turnout of about 25 to 30 people.

*Commissioner Chandresena* – Suggested they promote the film to the students at the various school districts.

**9.B Community Service Awards – Monday, February 13, 2017, 3:00 p.m., Council Chamber**

*Mr. Cook* – Nominations closed on Friday November 11, 2016. Eighteen nominations were received (10 individuals and 8 groups). The subcommittee will be meeting and reviewing the nominations to present their recommendations to the full Commission.

*Chair Rankins* – Next month the Commission will vote on their recommendations. There is no set criteria for how many awards are presented. In prior years, each Commissioner and student representative has a nominee.

There was a brief conversation on setting an award criteria and methods of recognition that was introduced by Commissioner deHarte. The topic is to be discussed further at next year's planning meeting.

*Commissioner Hunt left at 4:20pm*

*Vice Chair Severin* – Found it helpful last year when the subcommittee gave them a list of the nominees they recommended with a summary of what the award was for. Would like to receive the same information in writing if possible.

**9.C. Meeting Topics Ad Hoc Committees:**

- October, November & December – Homelessness, Vice Chair Severin

*Vice Chair Severin* – Subcommittee will be meeting to plan the December “Action” topic. At their last meeting, they had planned to suggest organizations currently involved in Christmas, toy and food drives, etc. and let them individually decide if they would like to participate on that level. Due to the Holidays, tours of Roy’s and the Well in the Desert have been postponed.

*Chair Rankins* – During the months of January (Educate), March (Advocate) & April (Action) – Commissioner Hunt and Chair Rankins will be addressing race relations/equality specifically within Palm Springs. They are working on having the Historical Society involved for the education topic.

May, June & July – Human Trafficking will be discussed, Commissioner Sutton-Weiss

*Vice Chair Severin* – SafeHouse has an interest in participating in the Human Trafficking segment if the subcommittee is interested. She will be providing Mr. Cook with literature from SafeHouse for the library.

*Chair Rankins* – Stated that they chose three great segments for this year.

**9.D. Subcommittee Reports:**

- Community Outreach – Commissioner Chandrasena – No Report
- Community Service Awards Nominations – Chair Rankins – No Report
- Homelessness Task Force – Vice Chair Severin - Will be having Mr. Cook email her report from the last Homelessness Task Force meeting to Commission members.
- PSPD LGBTQ – Chair Rankins – They did not meet last month due to the loss of our fallen police officers.
- Parades - Chair Rankins – Black History parade will be on February 25, 2017.
- Press & Social Media – Commissioner Holstege - No report

*Commissioner Holstege* - Suggested that RSVP’s for the parades be addressed at the prior meeting or in a different way.

**9.E. Topical Newsworthy Items**

*Vice Chair Severin* – Palm Springs received the Equality Award. Palm Springs received 100% in the equality index in the Human Rights Campaign.

*Commission Holstege* – Wanted to acknowledge the Presidential election that just occurred and the importance of Human Rights.

**10. Student Comments – No Report**

**11. Commissioner Comments**

*Vice Chair Severin* - Following the meeting there will be a discussion and celebration on Transgender Voices in Council Chamber. The program will begin at 5:30pm.

A conversation on changing the meeting time was discussed. Chair Rankins addressed attendance rules in place. Commissioners are only allowed three excused meetings a year. Be cognizant of everyone else’s time and schedule. Arrive five minutes early.

*Chair Rankins* - Thanked Commissioner deHarte for the two parades back to back. He reported that he understands everyone has their own commitments. However, they missed a really great show with the Veteran's Day Parade and Pride Parade. Vice Chair Severin, Commissioner Hunt and himself participated in the Parades. He would like to see more participation from the Commissioners at the upcoming Black History parade.

*Chair Rankins* - Please give a prayer out and lots of support for Commissioner Chappell for the loss of her father.

There was brief conversation on how the Human Rights Commission has worked hard and has increased their outreach and momentum in the community.

*Vice Chair Severin* - Is proud that they have student representatives. She suggested the subcommittee's idea of putting together a subcommittee for the student representatives to increase focus and participation. Would like to bring the item up for vote at the next meeting.

*Vice Chair Severin* - Wants the website up-to-date. Recommends that they take down old information/pictures. If anyone has any suggestions or updates for the webpage, please give them to Mr. Cook. They will be referring people to the website and would like it to be the source for information. She thanked Mr. Cook for doing the updates.

*Mr. Cook* - HRC is the only commission that has student representatives. He thinks it's great they will be looking at a subcommittee for the student representatives to crystalize their involvement.

*Mr. Cook* - Identified some challenges, they have had full agendas with engaging conversations. Would like to ask that the committee work is done prior. You know your obligations and responsibilities. It's imperative that the file and staff report is received. City Council has been very supportive in bringing resources further, there's more to be done but with their help we will all get there.

*Mr. Cook* - In regards to the website, they had asked last month how many hits they have had. For the last month, they have had two hits. They will work on prioritizing how to get the word out. He will be working with Vice Chair Severin to get her recommendations on how we can manicure and update the website.

***Commissioner Holstege and Commissioner Chandresena left at 4:47pm.***

*Vice Chair Severin* - Thanked Mr. Cook for his responsiveness and everything he has handled for the commission.

### **13. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING**

1. Discussion on the Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast
2. Community Service Award Nominations
3. Student Representative Subcommittee

- 13. ADJOURNMENT:** The Human Rights Commission adjourned at 4:54 p.m. to a Regular Meeting, Monday, December 12, 2016, at 3:00 p.m., Palm Springs City Hall, Large Conference Room, 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, CA.

Respectfully submitted,

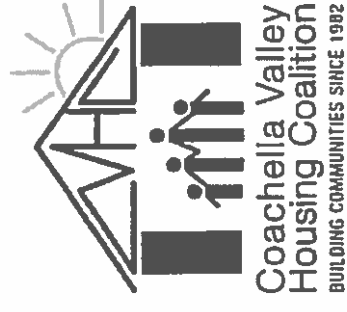
Annie J. Rodriguez  
Housing Program Assistant



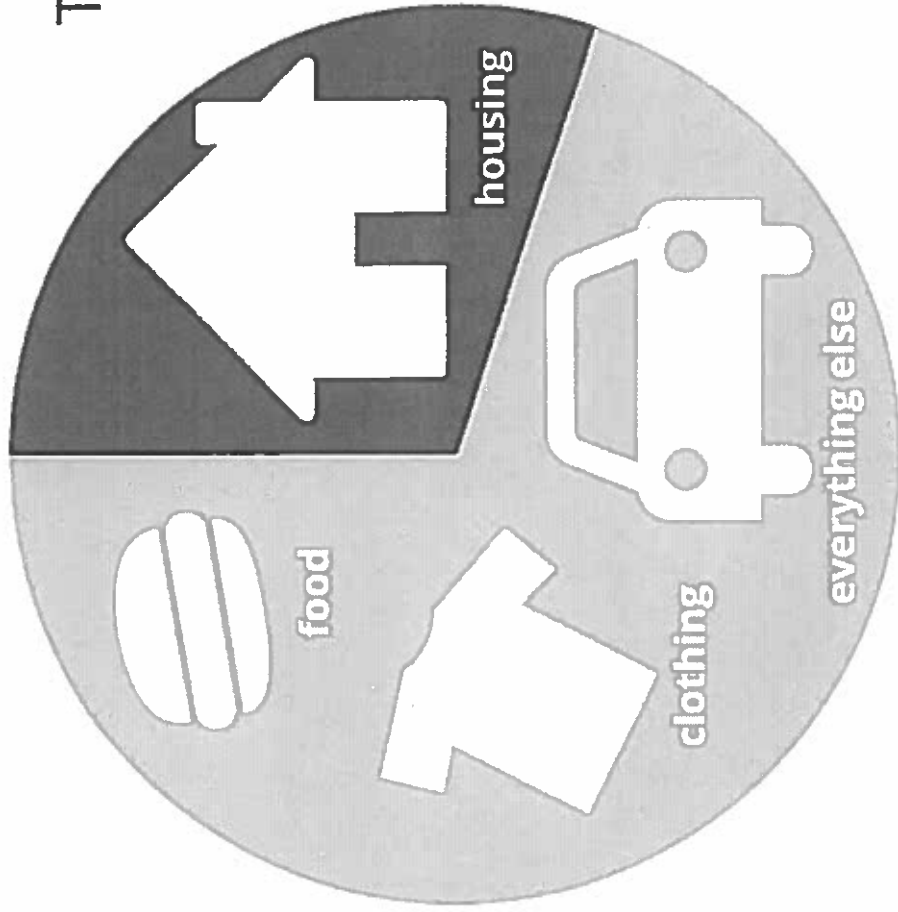
# Affordable Housing

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**Presented by Julie Bornstein**  
**Executive Director**  
**Coachella Valley Housing Coalition**



# WHAT IS AFFORDABLE HOUSING?



The government says housing is "affordable" if a family spends **no more than 30%** of their income to live there.

# WHO NEEDS HOUSING THAT'S AFFORDABLE?



**HOUSEHOLDS BELOW  
POVERTY LEVEL**

**Less than  
\$13,450**

*For an individual*

People living below poverty level including those 95 years of age or older and people with disabilities who live on fixed incomes such as Social Security



**LOW-WAGE  
WORKERS**

**Less than  
\$22,400**

*For an individual*

Childcare providers, nurses aides, bus drivers, retail service people, cashiers, cooks, custodians, farmworkers

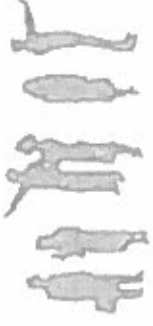


**LOW-INCOME  
FAMILIES**

**\$35,800 - \$51,100**

*For a family of four*

Medical assistants, bookkeepers, social workers, elementary school teachers, electricians, plumbers, paralegals, teachers' aides



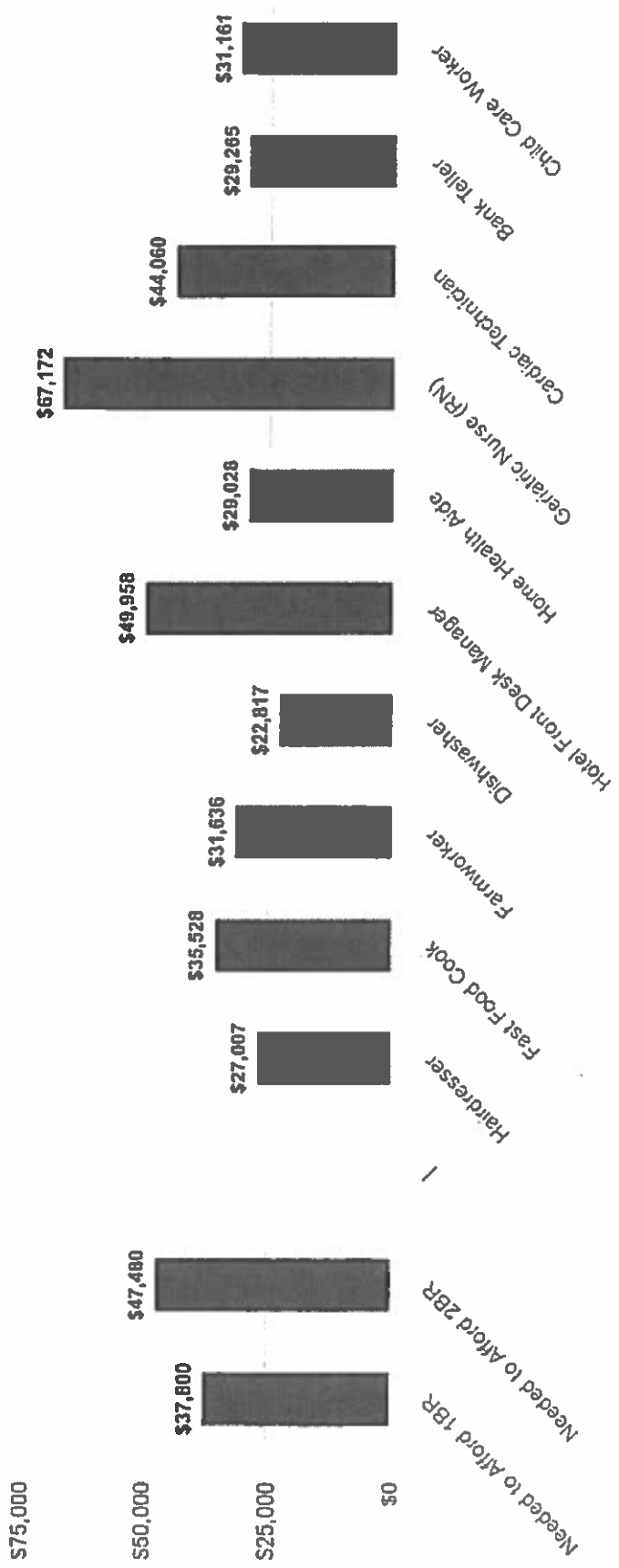
**MODERATE-INCOME  
FAMILIES**

**\$51,100 - \$67,500**

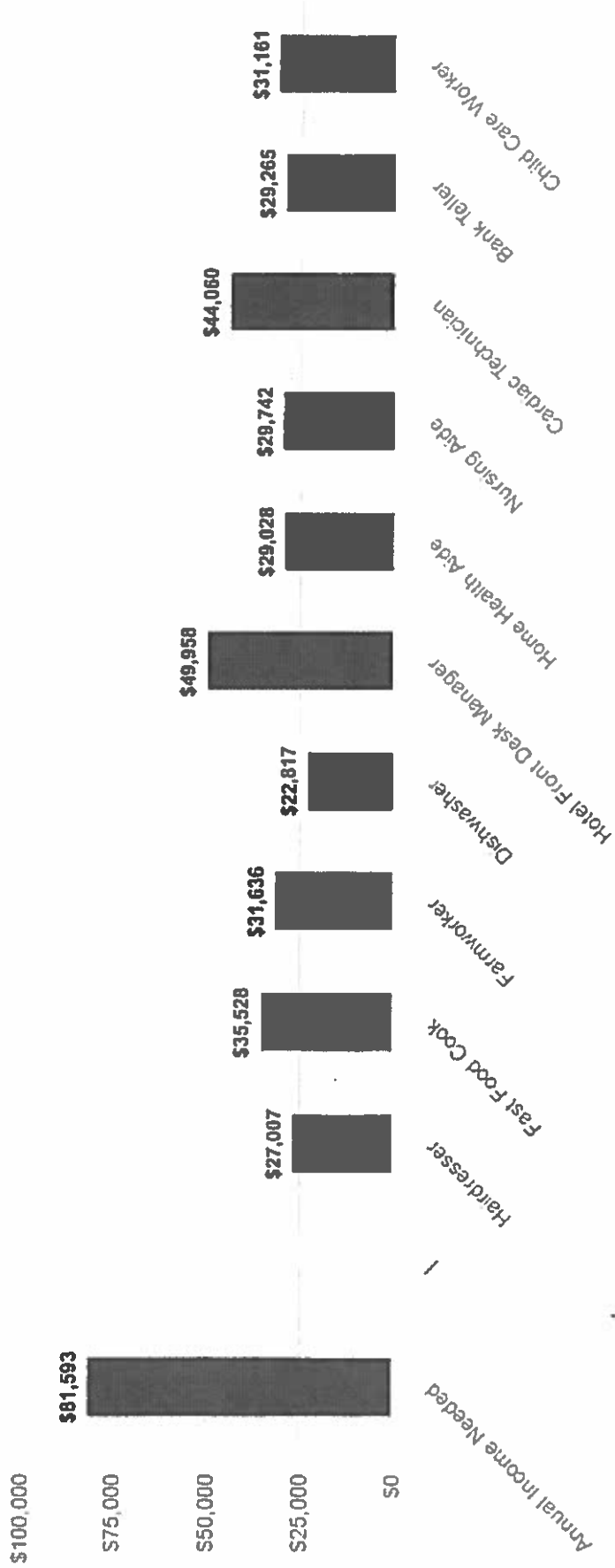
*For a family of four*

Teachers, public safety workers, architects, physical therapists, computer programmers, dental hygienists

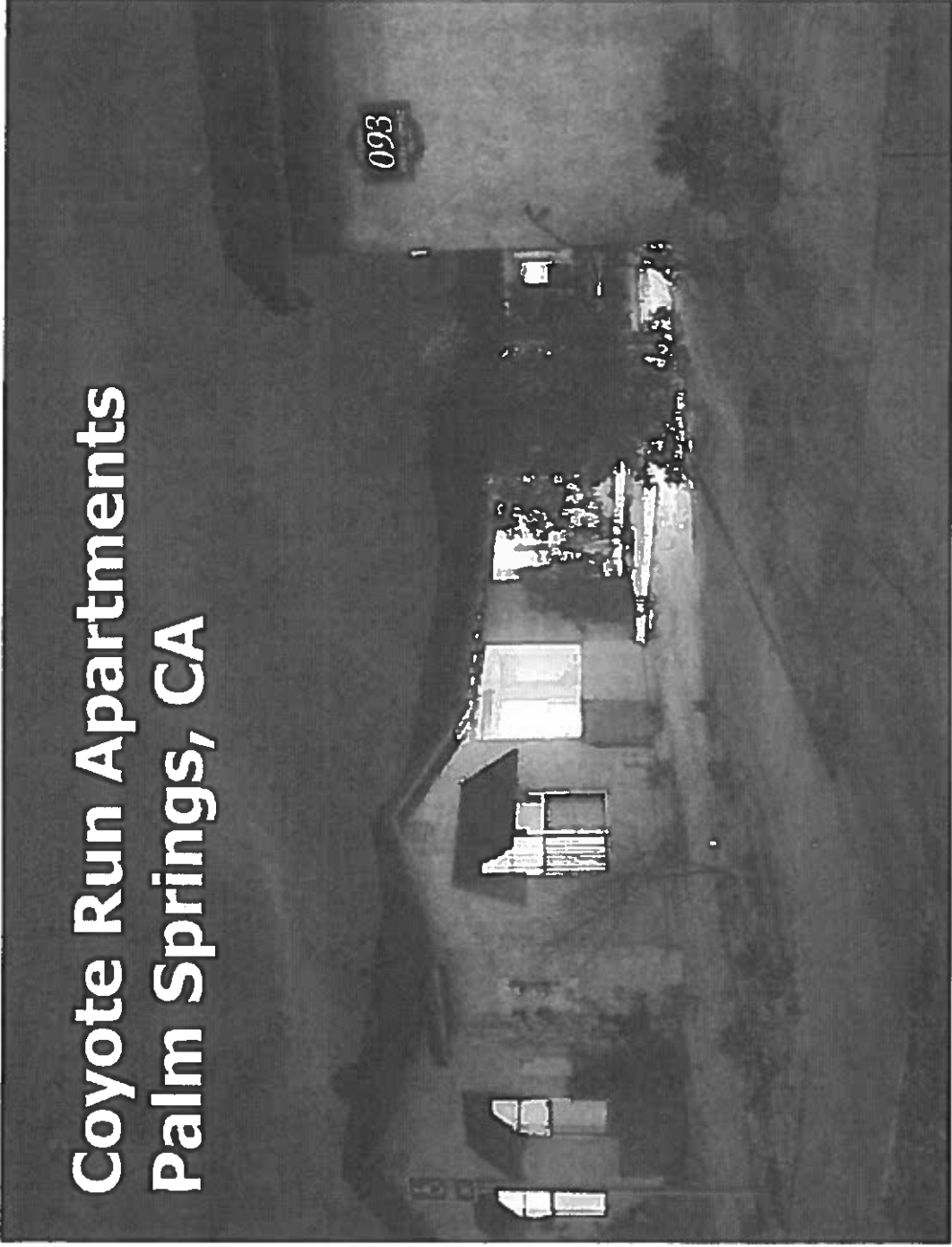
# Riverside, CA, Rental Market



# Riverside, CA, Homeownership Market



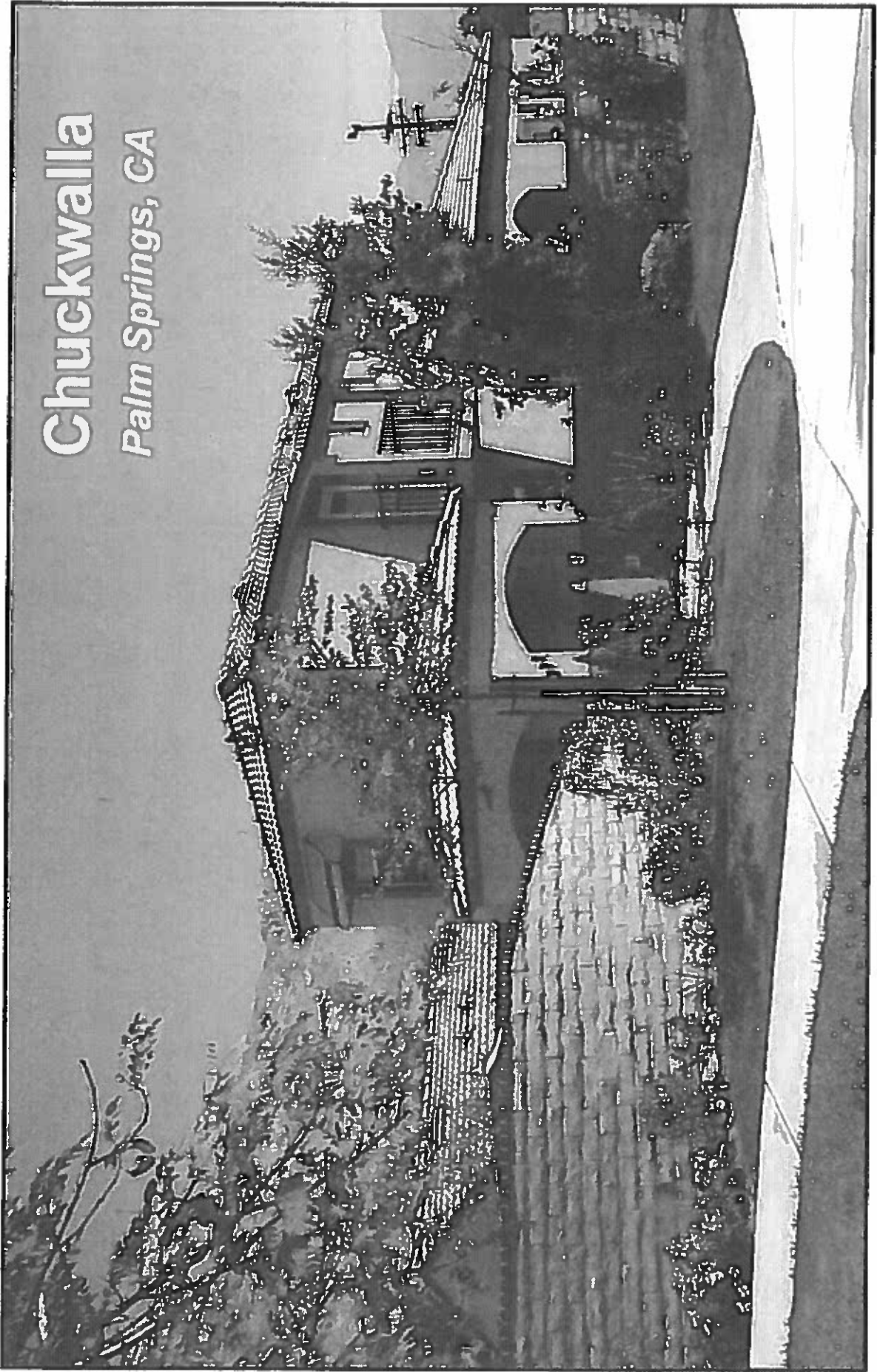
# Coyote Run Apartments Palm Springs, CA



**The reality is attractive, well-built  
affordable homes.**

# Chuckwalla

*Palm Springs, CA*





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