

## Board of Supervisors PROCLÁMATION HONORING Coachella Valley Firebirds

WHEREAS, taking the ice this 2022-2023 season, the Coachella Valley Firebirds is the newest team in the American Hockey League and official affiliate of the NHL's Seattle Kraken; and

WHEREAS, the arrival of the Coachella Valley Firebirds to Riverside County and specifically to the unincorporated community of Thousand Palms, in the heart of the Coachella Valley, is a result of the collaboration with the Oak View Group and the County of Riverside on the state-of-the-art Acrisure Arena; and

WHEREAS, starting their season with their first 22 games away from home, on December 18, 2022, the Firebirds dropped the puck to a full house at the brand new Acrisure Arena, a historic day in which they also earned a victory; and

WHEREAS, the Firebirds went on to an incredible inaugural season, finishing with an impressive 48-17-5-2 record, delighting attendees, including many who had their first experience of watching a hockey game in person, and earning a berth in the Calder Cup Playoffs; and

WHEREAS, in the postseason, the Firebirds advanced through all the brackets: the Pacific Division First Round, the Pacific Division Semifinals, the Pacific Division Finals and the Western Conference Finals to reach the Calder Cup Championship Series, along the way setting a record for the highest playoff attendance by one team in league history; and

WHEREAS, the Firebirds met the Hershey Bears in the Calder Cup Finals, a series where the Firebirds made history, becoming the first team west of Texas to ever play in a Calder Cup, and with goaltender Joey Daccord opening the Calder Cup with two consecutive shutouts for the first time since 1939, and the Firebirds played to Game 7 and overtime, for the first time in 70 years; and

WHEREAS, the entire Coachella Valley Firebirds Team represented us proudly, and this season saw many standout stars - Joey Daccord who was the anchor and truly a fan favorite; Tye Kartye who finished the season as the league's Rookie of the Year; Kole Lind, Andrew Poturalski and Ryker Evans who scored clutch goals at key points in the season and playoffs, and many others whose futures are bright; and

WHEREAS, we are proud to be home to the Acrisure Arena and the Coachella Valley Firebirds, and especially proud of the Firebirds team's commitment both on and off the ice to the community, to supporting schools, youth and families, and to expanding the game of hockey throughout all of our communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that I, Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, on this 23rd day of June 2023, honor our Coachella Valley Firebirds team for the phenomenal year they had and all they achieved in their inaugural season, and am #FiredUp for their future! Let's Go Firebirds!

Fourth District



