



## PALM SPRINGS POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### ***Palm Springs POA Endorses Pougnet and Lewin for City Council***

**Palm Springs, CA** – For the upcoming November 8th election, the Palm Springs Police Officers Association is supporting Mayor Steve Pougnet and businessman and community leader, Paul Lewin, for City Council.

"Both these candidates have pledged to protect Palm Springs by ensuring that the city's police department has the staffing, training and resources necessary to keep our community safe," says Palm Springs POA President William Hutchinson. "They realize that a world-class-destination city must first be a safe city."

In addition to being the CFO of K&L Endeavors, Paul Lewin holds a master's degree in International trade and development and is campaigning on building a thriving year-round economy in Palm Springs. A third-generation resident, Lewin was the co-founder of the Coachella Valley Citizens United, which blocked the proposed construction of California's largest jail adjacent to Palm Springs, and currently serves on the Sustainability Commission. The stand Lewin took when meeting with the POA was that, "Public safety and economic development are deeply intertwined and are mutually dependent."

Pougnet has served on the City Council since 2003, becoming mayor in 2007. He has pushed back against the recession with an effort to increase tourism through the Hotel Incentive Program. In recent discussions with the POA, Mayor Pougnet stated, "Public safety, police and fire, account for nearly 50% of the budget. It is the number one priority of local government."

Before making its endorsements, Hutchinson points out that the Palm Springs POA has interviewed and evaluated all the candidates running for City Council in 2011. "In endorsing Pougnet and Lewin, we believe we're supporting two civic leaders who will prioritize public safety in the city budget and who will adequately fund crime prevention and crime fighting by restoring police officer staffing so that we can continue to protect residents, business owners and visitors."

The Palm Springs Police Department is currently staffed by 88 sworn officers, covering 96 square miles, serving 50,000 year-round residents and hosting 2.5-million visitors annually.