

CITY OF COACHELLA  
CALIFORNIA

*Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, Bonifacio De La Cruz began his career in 1979 as a Volunteer Firefighter in the community of Mecca, California; and

**WHEREAS**, he took his first fulltime fire department job with the City of Coachella in 1985 as a Firefighter/EMT, joined the CAL FIRE team in 1990 as a Fire Apparatus Engineer (FAE). In 1998, he was promoted to the rank of Fire Captain in Western Riverside County and worked assignments at Bautista Conservation Camp, San Jacinto Forestry Fire Station and the Emergency Command Center; then returned to serve as the Fire Captain of Mecca Fire Station #40 in 2003; and

**WHEREAS**, as an FAE for eight years, Bonifacio made the rounds working at various fire station assignments throughout the Coachella Valley. Along the way he has trained many volunteer firefighters who are now career firefighters with CAL FIRE and other departments; and

**WHEREAS**, beginning in March of 1998, he stepped up as a Limited Term Fire Captain for three seasons at the Bautista Conservation Camp and San Jacinto Station 25. His permanent Fire Captain tour began in the Emergency Command Center in Perris, California in September 2000; and

**WHEREAS**, Bonifacio returned to the Coachella Valley in 2003 as the Fire Captain of the Mecca Fire Station where he assisted with the implementation of its Paramedic Fire Engine program along with numerous community programs, and then in April 2012, he was promoted to the rank of Battalion Chief; and

**WHEREAS**, Bonifacio is a Coachella Valley High School graduate and holds an Electronics Engineering Technology degree. He has served on numerous department Academies, cadres and committees throughout the years and is currently an Adjunct Faculty member with COD's Fire Technology program; and

**WHEREAS**, as a Battalion Chief, Bonifacio oversees the day-to-day operations of seven fire stations, including those in the contract cities of Coachella and La Quinta. In 2017, he was instrumental in helping the City of Coachella obtain a SAFER grant which provided daily staffing of 4 firefighters on the City's fire engine.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Steven A. Hernandez, Mayor of the City of Coachella, by the power vested in me, do hereby recognize

*Bonifacio De La Cruz*

and urge all citizens of the City of Coachella in recognizing his many successes and congratulate him on his retirement.

**IN WITNESS HEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City of Coachella, California to be affixed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of June 2022.



Steven A. Hernandez, Mayor  
City of Coachella, California

