

**COMMUNITY POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION
(CPRC)**

**Wednesday, November 6, 2019 – 7:00 PM
450 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA 94804
Basement - Employee Lunch Room**

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, PLEDGE

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by **Chair David Brown**

Present: David Brown (Chair), Yenny Garcia (Vice-chair), Diego Garcia, Oscar Garcia, Carol Hegstrom, Randy Joseph, Steven Lacy

Absent: Porschea Brown-Walton

Vacancies: 1

Administrative

Staff: Shané Johnson, Staff Liaison – Present

Council Liaison: Jael Myrick, Council Liaison – Present

City Attorney's

Office Representative: Bruce Soublet, Senior Assistant City Attorney – Present

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (October 2019)

Upon motion by C. Hegstrom and seconded by R. Joseph, the minutes for the meeting of October 2, 2019, were approved by the following vote: **Ayes:** Chair Brown, Vice-chair Y. Garcia, and Commissioners D. Garcia, O. Garcia, C. Hegstrom, and R. Joseph. **Noes:** None. **Absent:** Commissioners P. Brown-Walton and S. Lacy. **Abstained:** None.

III. AGENDA REVIEW – No change

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

Cordell Hindler – Invited the CPRC to the Santa Fe Neighborhood Council event at the Galileo Club on December 5, 2019, from 6pm – 10pm. Tickets are \$50/per person. He also complimented a previous CPRC presentation regarding the Brown Act.

Rick Perez – Expressed his concerns about the handling of police officer cases by District Attorney Diana Becton. He shared comments about the need for officers to have better training.

Patricia Perez – Shared that she and other family members visited the store on Cutting Boulevard on Friday, November 1, 2019, where her grandson, Pedie Perez, was killed. She was greeted warmly by community members.

- V. COMMENTS BY COUNCIL LIAISON Jael Myrick** – Councilmember Myrick provided information regarding the hiring of an investigator for the commission (see item VIII-A). He also stated that Council is in the process of choosing a new City Manager as the Interim City Manager is scheduled to vacate the position by mid-January 2020. Councilmember Myrick’s report included information that the City is moving towards district elections, although not by choice. There is an attorney pushing multiple agencies to comply with a state law that requires district elections. Councilmember Myrick shared his feelings of support for district elections. Commissioner R. Joseph asked questions about reviewing and changing policy related to the purview of the CPRC. More specifically, Commissioner R. Joseph is requesting that sexual misconduct be included. The topic was deferred to the Policy Update Committee consisting of Commissioners D. Garcia, C. Hegstrom, R. Joseph, and S. Lacy for further discussion.

Cordell Hindler – Commented on two City Council agenda items: (1) District elections and (2) Search for a new City Manager.

- VI. COMMENTS BY CHIEF OF POLICE (Interim Chief Bisa French or designate)** – Chief French reported that there were six homicides in the past five weeks bringing the number of homicides to 17 for the current year including the one officer-involved shooting. Through the unfortunate series of events, a partnership was formed with the school district and other community-based organizations with the goal to more effectively respond to these types of incidents. The group developed a structure that requires a 72-hour response to deploy all available resources.

Chief French then answered questions from the commissioners regarding the recent shootings and RPD’s community relationship building before, during, and after violence. She also provided a report of staff that have left or are leaving the Richmond Police Department noting the effect on the department. A significant departure to note is that the only eight RPD CCTV officers are leaving due to PERS-related conflicts. Chief French continues to adjust the 2020 deployment as needed. She also is continuing her open communication with the RPD and the RPOA and reported that everything is going in a positive direction. Chief French ended with a positive update that the recent RPD Halloween event was a success for the department and the community.

Rick Perez – Expressed that he would prefer to hear about what is going on in the city from the Chief’s report instead of crime stats and shotspotter activations only. He said that he would like to speak after the reports are given so that he can comment on what was said.

- VII. REPORTS BY RICHMOND POLICE OFFICERS’ ASSOCIATION (Ben Therriault, President)** – Mr. Therriault commented about RPD’s staffing issues and said that the RPOA is continuing to support Chief French. He spoke about the hiring of a new investigative officer for the CPRC and expressed his feelings about the new incumbent possessing case law and excessive use of force experience. Mr. Therriault continued his report noting that the RPOA recently held a Cops & Goblins event, supported the Commission on Aging for an event, and will sponsor an upcoming toy drive. He also informed the

CPRC of the newly formed Richmond Crime Prevention Foundation that was created to fundraise for the department's needs such as new gear, training, etc. The Foundation is having an event on November 20, 2019, and Mr. Therriault invited the commissioners to attend. He encouraged the Commission to focus on their "mission at hand" and not to overextend themselves. Lastly, Mr. Therriault shared his feelings about District Attorney Becton and ended his report with an introduction to RPOA's newest board member, Sergeant Joe Vigil who leads RPD's canine unit.

Rick Perez – Shared information about the recent San Francisco Police Officer Association election and his feelings about the political conflicts of interest. He reiterated that he wishes to speak after the reports are given so that he can comment on what was said.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS, DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Status of search for new investigative officer (Mr. Soublet & Councilperson Myrick)** – Councilmember Myrick and colleagues are in the process of reviewing applications and choosing a new CPRC investigator. Bruce Soublet and Councilmember Myrick will work with the subcommittee to select interviewees. The councilmember expects there to be approximately six invited candidates. The subcommittee was asked to make sure that they are present for each interview to ensure fairness with the Civil Service Rules. The hiring process is on track to have an investigator in place by the end of the year.

Rick Perez – Stated that an investigator is here to serve the community of Richmond and needs to know the rights of the community.

- B. Review pending cases (Mr. Soublet)** – Mr. Soublet reported that there are no new cases.
- C. Outreach opportunities (Vice-chair Yenny Garcia)** – The Vice-chair was unavailable to give a report.

Cordell Hindler – Complimented Vice-chair Yenny Garcia's presentation at the Richmond Coordinating Council meeting. He offered his help in performing outreach for the CPRC.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Election of officers – 2019-2020 (Chair David Brown)** – Commissioner O. Garcia nominated current Chair D. Brown to continue in his position and current Vice-Chair Y. Garcia to remain in her current position. All present commissioners were in favor.

Cordell Hindler – Shared his feelings about the importance of elections at the commissioner meetings.

- B. Review subcommittee work (All)** – Commissioner C. Hegstrom requested that all subcommittee members respond to their email if they are on a committee.

X. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES, COMMISSIONERS, CIAO AND STAFF

- Chair D. Brown – He will be out of town for two weeks beginning November 15, 2019.
- Commissioner D. Garcia – Attended the North Richmond Shoreline festival and the trick-or-treat event on 23rd Street.
- Commissioner O. Garcia – Participated in a street clean-up organized by Commissioner D. Garcia
- Commissioner C. Hegstrom – Commented that she wanted to do a ride-along with Lt. Stonebraker, but failed to receive a response from him. Staff S. Johnson will follow-up with Lt. Stonebraker to facilitate a smoother arrangement.
- Commissioner S. Lacy – Reported that he found a police reporting platform called Raheem which was launched to address data on police violence. Commissioner Lacy invited the founder to speak at next month's meeting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned to the public at 8:35 p.m.



David A. Brown, Chair