

**COMMUNITY POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION  
(CPRC)**

**Wednesday, January 8, 2020 – 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 7:03 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 – Absent

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (December 2019)**

Upon motion by C. Hegstrom and seconded by O. Garcia, the minutes for the meeting of December 4, 2019, were approved by the following vote: **Ayes:** Chair Brown, Vice-chair Y. Garcia, and Commissioner R. Joseph. **Noes:** None. **Absent:** Commissioners D. Garcia and S. Lacy. **Abstained:** None.

**III. AGENDA REVIEW – No change.**

**IV. PUBLIC FORUM**

**Rick Perez** – Expressed his feelings about the respect that the City Council shows to the CPRC.

**Patricia Perez** – Reminded everyone that it has been six years since the killing of Pedie Perez. She and her family are still waiting to receive a letter from the City Manager regarding the Perez case.

- V. COMMENTS BY COUNCIL LIAISON JAELE MYRICK** – Councilmember Myrick introduced Jerry Threet who began work on January 6, 2020, as the new investigative officer for the CPRC, and announced the hiring of the new City Manager Laura Snideman. Councilmember Myrick told the CPRC that he is willing to use his position as a councilmember to change policies in an effort to recruit officers more quickly. Chair Brown requested that the City Council hold the recruitment of police officers as the highest priority and Commissioner Hegstrom asked questions about a permanent police

chief. Councilmember Myrick agreed that hiring officers should be a priority and that he would be pushing that the new City Manager appoint a permanent police chief as quickly as possible.

**Rick Perez** – Disagrees with the hiring of more police officers and would like to see the City go towards a model that supports more community policing.

- VI. COMMENTS BY CHIEF OF POLICE (Interim Chief Bisa French or designate)** – Chief French led with a report on vacancies in the police department. Currently, RPD has 178 authorized sworn positions, but only 152 are filled leaving 26 positions open as follows: 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 3 sergeants, and 21 officers. There are also 12 officers on medical leave. In addition to the officer vacancies, the chief reported that there are 5 dispatcher vacancies for which people are currently going through background checks. A new voluntary program in RPD allows officers to assist dispatchers with answering phones during this time of short staffing.

Chief French continued her report addressing ride-alongs. Beginning January 19, 2020, RPD will be on an open-door policy for the commissioners. An appointment is not needed, but the commissioners should try to arrive at line-up for a more expeditious process. Commissioner Lacy shared his positive experience while completing a ride-along and encouraged everyone to participate. Chief French then provided the commissioners with a list of elementary school officer liaisons before reporting on the high number of DUI's in the city. She reported that 202 people were arrested for DUI's of which 44 of the incidents were collisions with many of the people being repeat offenders. RPD received a grant that will help with the problem and will also help to purchase more traffic enforcement equipment.

Lastly, Chief French answered questions regarding the shotspotter report, crime along the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street corridor, and RPD's ability to attract more police officers to the department. At the CPRC's request, the chief will share the new organizational chart, deployment schedules, and lineups as they are released.

**Rick Perez** – Feels that the police department has a military structure and that the department's staff doesn't respect the public when they visit the office. He commented that he sees RPD officers taking breaks at locations other than Richmond while on duty.

- VII. REPORTS BY RICHMOND POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION (Ben Therriault, President)** – Detective Therriault apologized for his absence at the December 2019 meeting and said that he is happy that the POST budget is being increased. He met the new investigator last week and is glad that the CPRC can move forward in their work. Mr. Therriault reported that the RPOA provided toys, gifts, etc. for 1,500 families with almost every family receiving a bicycle during the holiday toy program. Mr. Therriault echoed Chief French and encouraged the commissioners to participate in a ride-along. He then commented on officer staffing levels and answered questions from Commissioner

Joseph regarding Chief French's relationship with RPD officers. Detective Therriault feels that the overall direction of the department is positive.

Commissioner D. Garcia acknowledged that four of the recently hired officers are Richmond natives and thanked the department for that.

#### **VIII. OLD BUSINESS, DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A. Review pending cases (Mr. Soublet) –** No report
- B. Outreach opportunities (Vice-chair Yenny Garcia) –** Vice Chair Y. Garcia requested that outreach be discussed during the subcommittee reports since the work is related.

#### **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Introduction of new investigative officer (City Attorney's Office) –** Jerry Threet introduced himself to the commissioners and shared his work experience. He has already started on the first investigation and plans to work the remaining cases in order of expiration of the statute of limitations. The idea would be the first cases in will be the first cases out. He welcomed the CPRC to share any ideas or concerns that they have.

**Rick Perez** – Shared that he is happy to have an investigator and hopes that families do not have to wait long for the investigation process to occur.

- B. Expand the scope of CPRC jurisdiction to include any firearm discharge and complaints of gender bias and sexual assault (Commissioner Hegstrom) –** Discussion took place about proposed CPRC scope changes. The issue of including and defining sexual harassment and gender bias was debated. The subcommittee was encouraged to go back and re-work their proposal to include definitions of sexual harassment and gender bias. The item will be discussed at the February 2020 meeting.

**Rick Perez** – Spoke about sexual harassment and gender bias being investigated by the CPRC. He mentioned that there was a complaint of sexual harassment against former police chief Chris Magnus. Lastly, he expressed his feelings that investigating the firing of a firearm is important because it can show the history of an officer.

**Ben Therriault** – Offered his feelings about changing the ordinance and spoke about the email that the RPOA sent to the CPRC. The email stated that any changes to the ordinance would require a meet/confer with the union. He also said that all material should be publicly accessible to prevent violation of the Brown Act.

- C. Social Media outreach –** The City's social media policy was distributed to all commissioners prior to the meeting. The subcommittee is interested in meeting with the IT Director to get clarification for what is allowable. Commissioner R. Joseph will work with staff to set-up a meeting with the IT Director.

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**D. Review subcommittee work (All) –**

**Communication Subcommittee** - The group is moving forward on the tri-fold brochure, but would like to wait to see if the ordinance will be changed before developing content for the publication.

**Outreach Subcommittee** – The group will do a presentation to RYSE in an ongoing effort to get information to the community.

**E. Ride-along scheduling & process (Vice-chair Yenny Garcia) –** Chair Brown is very satisfied with Chief French's cooperation with making the ride-along process easier for the commissioners. Vice-chair Y. Garcia has a ride-along scheduled for next week and she encourages commissioners to go on at least 6 rides per year.

**X. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES, COMMISSIONERS, CIAO AND STAFF**

- Commissioner D. Garcia – He organized and participated in a toy drive on December 28<sup>th</sup>. It was the second annual event.
- Chair D. Brown – He put in a lot of effort in the past few months for the Police & Fire toy drive. The rotary community donated over \$14,000 towards the purchase of bicycles and an additional \$3,300 raised from the fire house dinner.
- Vice Chair Y. Garcia – She helped distribute toys to over 10 families, attended 2 sessions for the district community mapping, and met with Superintendent Duffy. She thanked Commissioners R. Joseph and O. Garcia for their donations to the latino community.
- Commissioner Joseph – He is part of BAAQMD, a group that monitors the air in Richmond and San Pablo. The next monthly meeting for BAAQMD is January 15, 2020, at the Richmond Auditorium and Commissioner Joseph invited all to join the meeting to discuss air quality and health.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned to the public at 9:14 p.m.



David A. Brown, Chair