

**COMMUNITY POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION  
(CPRC)  
Wednesday, June 3, 2020 – 7:00 PM  
Zoom Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, PLEDGE**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by **Chair David Brown**

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

**Absent:** Diego Garcia

**Vacancies:** 2

**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** – May 6, 2020 meeting minutes were not available. Staff will present them at the next meeting.

**III. AGENDA REVIEW** – No change

**IV. PUBLIC FORUM**– See attached comments

**V. COMMENTS BY COUNCIL LIAISON JAEL MYRICK** – Councilmember Myrick reported that the City Council unanimously passed an urgency motion stating that they stand with protestors across the country and call for the justice for George Floyd. He also reported that the City Council discussed and rescinded the city-imposed curfew because of concern that the curfew would invite more confrontation.

The councilmember provided an update on the city budget for FY 20/21 and noted that cuts are still being discussed. The budget started with a \$29 million deficit which has since been significantly reduced. Points of contention on the budget remain budget items surrounding policing and the freezing of sworn positions.

Lastly, Councilmember Myrick spoke about unity in the community and how proud he was to see community come together during the protests.

**VI. COMMENTS BY CHIEF OF POLICE (Interim Chief Bisa French or designate)** – Chief French began her report with comments and thoughts about her attendance and speech during the Black Lives Matter rally. The Chief reported that RPD had been dealing with lots of looting and vandalism throughout the city as a response to the killing of George Floyd. She noted that the night of Monday, June 1st, was the worse resulting in two firearms being recovered during arrests. People were coming from cities throughout the

Bay Area. She expressed optimism regarding change despite the current state of affairs. When asked why RPD officers were present at protests in Oakland, the Chief responded citing mutual aid. She explained that mutual aid involved counties asking for help and neighboring cities deploying officers to assist. Mutual aid is voluntary assignment for officers and cities are reimbursed by the State of California.

Chief French reported that Richmond had seen its 2<sup>nd</sup> homicide of the year which was statistically good considering past history. The Chief also responded to an inquiry regarding illegal fireworks and noted that this year would be extremely challenging especially since the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday falls on a Saturday. RPD is doing social medial educational outreach to assist with the problem.

The Chief provided an overview of the staffing and budget for the department. She reported that 12 officers had been tested for COVID-19 and all were negative. There are currently 11 officers on injury leave and 4 officers on light duty. Also, 3 new recruits had recently started the academy, but had already seen 2 drop out. Vice-Chair Y. Garcia inquired about participating on the interview panel for prospective officers and Chief French welcomed her. Vice-Chair Y. Garcia also inquired about the process for establishing the MOU between the City of Richmond and the RPD. The MOU process is reserved for City staff and RPD only; Citizens are not able to participate.

- VII. REPORTS BY RICHMOND POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION (Jason Wentz, Vice President)** – Officer Wentz made a statement that the incident in Minneapolis did not reflect RPD's mission. He shared examples of how the Richmond community has shown support of RPD. Officer Wentz reported that the RPOA met with the Captain and Police Chief to discuss plans to handle the looting and increased violence during this time.

Officer Wentz expressed his support of citizens sitting on the oral board for new hires and talked about the benefits of doing so. He concluded his report with details about the recent homicide involving cannabilism where Chief Brown chimed in to speak about the need for mental health support for officers.

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS, DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A. Case Summaries** – O. Garcia moved to approve the cases summaries for release to the public. R. Joseph seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following votes: **Ayes:** Chair Brown and Commissioners O. Garcia, C. Hegstrom, R. Joseph, and S. Lacy. **Noes:** None. **Absent:** D. Garcia **Abstained:** Vice-chair Y. Garcia
- B. Update on reports status** – Jerry Threet reported 14 complaints are pending. He made contact with all except the most recent complaint. Mr. Threet has 5 investigations underway: 2 officer-involved shootings, 2 complaints to the CPRC,

and 1 appeal. Mr. Threet will have 2 investigations ready to present to the Commission at the next meeting.

Commissioner R. Joseph requested that the officer-involved shooting of Vallejo resident Eric Reason by Richmond Police Sgt. Virgil Thomas be added to the list of cases for investigation.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Succession planning for CPRC leadership** – Chair D. Brown’s term will end in November and he doesn’t plan to continue as a commissioner. A new Chair will need to be elected in November.

Public Comment – See attached

- B. Discussion of George Floyd death and take any action, including issuance of a statement, as the Commission may adopt** – Discussion and thoughts were shared between commissioners. After an initial motion was rejected by the CPRC, a subsequent motion to accept an official statement was approved with the following vote: **Ayes:** Chair Brown, Vice-Chair Y. Garcia, and Commissioners, C. Hegstrom, R. Joseph, and S. Lacy. **Noes:** None. **Absent:** D. Garcia **Abstained:** O. Garcia

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

- Chair David Brown – Retiring from the practice of law. He is in the process of transferring cases and wrapping up his business.
- Commissioner Carol Hegstrom – Attended the NACOLE training webinar and felt that it was a great training.
- Commissioner Randy Joseph – Shouted out Steve Lacy for organizing the rally, and Chief French for speaking at the event.
- Commissioner Oscar Garcia – Said he is looking forward to implementing things that the community is asking for.
- Commissioner Steven Lacy – Echoed the previous two commissioners and thanked everyone for their support. He said that he encourages everyone to work to bridge the gap between policing and civilians.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned to the public at 9:07 p.m.

***Approved by vote of the Commission on September 2, 2020***

**Shane Johnson**

---

**From:** Tania Pulido <pulido.tania@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 03, 2020 2:53 PM  
**To:** cprc@ci.richmond.ca.us  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Public Forum

**PLEASE READ COMMENT**

Name: Tania Pulido  
Phone Number: 510-253-9221  
Item: Public Forum

Comment: We need the Richmond Police Department not to use intimidation tactics and violence on protestors. We are seeing videos and listening to friends' stories about police aggression in peaceful protests. I condemn the use of weapons such as guns, rubber bullets, tear gas, and other forms of violence. I also encourage the City of Richmond Police to partner with community-based organizations to address conflict in our neighborhoods and schools. Police officers should not be contracted to be in schools. We should teach our youth how to resolve a dispute by building their capacity to mediate conflict and invest in their mental health. I studied mediation in college, and there's a lot of proven practices and programs for schools and neighborhoods. Minneapolis approved to remove the police from schools. Thank you to commission members, especially those who speak up against injustices in our community.

**Shane Johnson**

---

**From:** Cordell Hindler <cordellhindler@ymail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 01, 2020 10:01 PM  
**To:** cprc@ci.richmond.ca.us  
**Subject:** Public Comments

hello Shane, i have a couple of comments for the Police review Commission:

1. i would like to invite the Commission to the EL CERRITO chamber of commerce Luncheon on the 16th of this Month at the El cerrito royale
2. also the Mayor did mention about the Community Police review commission, and i do have a meeting coming up and i will contact the high school to see if there is a club on campus

Sincerely  
Cordell

**Shane Johnson**

---

**From:** Cordell Hindler <cordellhindler@ymail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 01, 2020 10:08 PM  
**To:** Police Commission  
**Subject:** New Business

hello Shane, i have some comments in Regarding the Leadership for the Community Police review commission

i was thinking that for the next agenda. that there should be a retreat to discuss the ideas on how the commission will be able to move forward

Sincerely  
Cordell



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: David A. Brown, Chairman  
Phone: (510) 307-8007  
Email: [cprc@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:cprc@ci.richmond.ca.us)

OFFICIAL STATEMENT  
Death of George Floyd

Richmond, CA, June 4, 2020 -- The Community Police Review Commission of the City of Richmond, California, condemns the needless death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police officers. We urge the Richmond Police Department to continue its work toward being a model of community policing.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David A. Brown", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David A. Brown  
Chair

###