

**COMMUNITY POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION (CPRC)**

**Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – 7:00 PM**

**Zoom Meeting**

**MINUTES**

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:14 PM by **Chair Yenny Garcia**

**Present:** Yenny Garcia (chair), Dow Tunis (Vice-chair), Carol Hegstrom, Randy Joseph, Steven Lacy

**Absent:** Diego Garcia, Oscar Garcia, Andre Jackson

**Vacancies:** 1

**Administrative Staff:** Shané Johnson, Lilia Corral, Staff Liaison – Present

**Council Liaison:** Claudia Jimenez – Absent

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

**II. INTRODUCE NEW STAFF LIAISON – Lilia Corral (Shané Johnson)** – Shané Johnson introduced Lilia Corral as the new staff liaison.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – No minutes were approved. Shané Johnson stated that City staff has been in contact with a vendor to transcribe all outstanding meeting minutes dating back from November 2020.

**IV. AGENDA REVIEW** – No questions nor comments were made regarding the agenda.

**V. PUBLIC FORUM**

Cordell Hindler – Refer to attached comment (s)

**VI. REPORT OF THE CITY COUNCIL LIAISON (Claudia Jimenez)** – No comments from Council Liaison as she was absent due to a medical issue.

**VII. REPORT BY CHIEF OF POLICE (Chief French)** – Chief French stated that she would give a quick report as Lieutenant Lopez and Officer Caine planned to report on the new military weapons policy, which is a result of legislation that happened this year. The officers previously held a community meeting to discuss the policy, but the last meeting wasn't well attended. While they planned to present tonight at the CPRC meeting, Chief French noted that there were not a lot of community members on the call so she decided they will hold another community meeting with appropriate marketing as they would like to maximize community input. Chair Garcia requested to receive the presentation beforehand, to which Chief French agreed.

July had 2 homicides, 18 aggravated assaults, and 218 property crimes. August had 5 homicides (all within a week), 19 robberies, and 258 property crimes. Officers have had to work mandatory overtime to keep up with minimum staffing. There are 18 current homicides for the year, which is the total homicides for last year. July had 8 total use of force incidents (2 K-9 contacts, 3 taser deployments, and 6 physical force restraints). Regarding staffing, there are 32 sworn vacancies as of August 17<sup>th</sup>, 11 officers on injury or medical leave, and 4 on light duty.

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Commissioner Hegstrom inquired about people who are “mentally ill but are troublemakers” and “the jail won’t keep them.” Chief French answered that being mentally ill is not a crime, so they try to deal with it on the mental health front. They try to get them services or take them to the hospital. She also noted the County has more mental health teams on board so hopefully that will help, and Reimagining is working on a mental health response.

Commissioner Joseph requested flyers for distribution when the military weapons community meeting is planned. He also asked if the shootings that happened in August were gang related. Chief French stated three were gang related and related to each other. The homicide on 25<sup>th</sup> and Madonald wasn’t related to the others.

In addition, Chief French stated last month an officer was terminated for excessive use of force case.

- VIII. **REPORT BY RICHMOND POLICE OFFICER’S ASSOCIATION (Benjamin Therriault)** – Officer Therriault reported that there are 33 officer vacancies, 5 in background and 3 pending retirements by the end of the year.

Commissioner Hegstrom inquired why are the officers leaving. Officer Therriault responded that while there is no one answer, some of it is related to: compensation, internal dynamic within the police department, and external dynamic with City Hall. He stated he would like to see either human resources, the City, or the police department conduct a review of everyone who leaves. Chief French stated she does conduct exit interviews for staff that leaves, but what she hears is some of it has to do with compensation and feeling supported.

- IX. **REPORT BY RICHMOND POLICE MANAGERS ASSOCIATION (Timothy Simmons)** – Captain Simmons reported the Police Management Association was happy to see the City has progressed in negotiations with the POA. The Police Management Association will start negotiating at the end of September to early October. He also noted one of the attractive components of working for RPD was the fact they had several specialty units; however, they have lost almost all the units. They are currently looking at the process to see how they can bring back some stuff creatively so that officers right now don’t have their career development stifled. Lastly, the POA is beginning to plan fall and winter activities, and he will report to the commission as some commissioners had expressed interest in partaking in these events last year.

Vice-chair Dow inquired about an update on the company that was going to compile the use of force records. Chief French responded they should have the information before the next meeting. They plan to roll out the information through community meetings to further explain the reports.

X. **OLD BUSINESS, DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- a. **Update on reports status, pending and completed Investigations (Mr. Threet)** – Mr. Threet noted the commission received a report in May regarding an allegation of bias

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from an officer investigating a domestic violence incident. He recently got a translator under a confidentiality agreement and has sent a translated message to the subject of the complaint twice. This week he also received the remainder of the records regarding this report. The commission also received a new complaint in early August; however, the complaint does not fall within the jurisdiction of the commission. Chair Garcia inquired if they must go through the investigative process for the complaint that doesn't fall under the purview. Bruce Soublet responded that previously the commission stated that a complaint should still be investigated by the investigative officer. The officer will then bring that complaint to the commission, and the commission will vote if the complaint falls within their jurisdiction. Shané asked if they could have the complaint listed as a future agenda item and vote for it in that way. Bruce responded that decision is up to the commission.

- b. **Update on RPD Statistical Data report as requested by CPRC (Mr. Threet)** – Mr. Threet has received the underlying incident report and use of force report but has not looked at the data itself to do an analysis in order to reach a conclusion.
- c. **Update on CPRC ordinance corrections/updates (Counsel Bruce Soublet)** - Bruce Soublet reported that the ordinance posted on the City's website is correct, but the ordinance on the Municipal Code is not. He is working with the City Clerk's Office to fix this issue.

XI. **CPRC BUSINESS** – Chair Garcia shared that the flyer has been updated with the QR code and will be printed soon. In addition, the complaint form will be updated with Lilia's assistance. Chair Garcia is also trying to get information binders for the commissioners. In addition, commissioners are still able to do ride-a-longs, and any commissioner interested can contact Captain Simmons.

XII. **ADJOURNMENT** – the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.

## Lilia Corral

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**From:** Cordell Hindler <cordellhindler@ymail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 7, 2022 2:07 PM  
**To:** Police Commission  
**Subject:** Public Comments-Open Forum

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Good Evening Chair Garcia, Commissioners and staff, I have one comment for the Record

for a future agenda, the Commission should revisit the Retreat that was held in August

Sincerely  
Cordell