

**COMMUNITY POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION**  
**of the City of Richmond, California**  
**(CPRC)**  
**Wednesday, November 1, 2023**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 P.M. by Chair Carol Hegstrom in the Richmond Room at 450 Civic Center Plaza, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, at Richmond, California.

**Present:** Carol Hegstrom (Chair), Andre Jackson, Daniel Lawson and Rachel Lorber

**Absent:** Oscar Garcia, Carole Johnson and Steven Lacy

**Staff:** Lilia Corral - Present

**Council Liaison:** Claudia Jimenez – Not Present

**City Attorney's  
Office Representative:** Legal Counsel - Present

**II. STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

[REDACTED], Legal Counsel representing the City Attorney's Office, explained that this was the time of the meeting for any member of the CPRC who had a conflict of interest with respect to any item on the agenda to identify that conflict of interest.

**III. AGENDA REVIEW**

There were no changes to the meeting agenda.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (September 6, 2023 and October 4, 2023)**

<b>ACTION:</b> It was M/S/C (Lawson/Jackson) to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2023 and October 4, 2023 meetings, as submitted; approved by a voice vote: 4-0 (Ayes: Jackson, Lawson, Lorber and Chair Hegstrom; Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: Garcia, Johnson and Lacy).
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**V. PUBLIC FORUM**

Staff Liaison Lilia Corral advised of a written comment from CORDELL HINDLER, as follows: *Hello Chair Hegstrom, Commissioners and staff, I am submitting the following comments into the record: The update is that there is going to be a new classification to represent the director at commission meetings and I would like to see a young person to join the Community Police Review Commission because of past experience with law enforcement. Sincerely, Cordell.*

**VI. REPORT OF CITY COUNCIL LIAISON (Claudia Jimenez)**

Council Liaison Claudia Jimenez was not present at this time.

**VII. REPORT BY CHIEF OF POLICE (Chief French or Designee)**

Police Chief Bisa French advised with respect to RPD recruitment that three police officers had graduated from the San Joaquin Delta Police Academy on October 31, 2023, would be sworn in on November 6, 2023, and would then begin at least six months of training. An additional police officer in training had just started at the Police Academy with two others who had been hired in September. She explained that two officers had resigned and one officer had been released from the RPD from probation. Another resignation had been received last week from another officer who would be leaving next week. Two of those officers had gone to the Department of Justice and one had gone to the Contra Costa County District Attorney's (DA's) Office. She added that there were nine officers on injury leave or modified duty. Currently there were 121 positions filled with 24 vacancies.

Chief French highlighted five shootings in the City in October which had led to the death of two people. She stated the RPD was following good leads in several of those cases. Other issues continuing to be addressed at this point related to homeless encampments that had been abated at two sites in the City, and RPD was also working to address parking problems, speeding, and prostitution issues on 23<sup>rd</sup> Street.

Chief French referred to the CPRC's question last month about a table in the crime analyses statistics and the numbers using UCR (Uniform Crime Reporting) data versus NIBRS (National Incident-Based Reporting System), which she had evaluated. Several other tables had identified the actual numbers of the different crimes and the new NIBRS reporting, and she did not see that particular table as being problematic or misleading.

Chief French reported there had been nine use of force reports with four canine-involved. The RPD had also participated in a number of events including the Faith in Blue with three days of service starting with the blessing of the badge on Friday, a service activity at a rescue mission delivering groceries to several people who had just been housed after being homeless for some time on Saturday, and a church service in the City on Sunday. There had also been a fundraising event by the Youth Service Bureau in which a scholarship had been awarded to a female criminal justice student at Contra Costa College.

Chief French also reported on her participation in a Chiefs' Panel at the DA's office for the Community Safety Academy; and on the Community Policing Committee panel at the International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference where a presentation had been made and which had been well attended. She also reported that on October 27, 2023, the Guardians of Justice (the Black Police Officers' Association) had held an event at Crescent Park where there had been a three-on-three basketball game at the community center. RPD had also participated in Hilltop Community Church's Trunk or Treat event, which had been so well attended that it had ended at 9:00 P.M. instead of the 8:30 P.M. scheduled closing. The RPD's own Cops and Goblins event had also been so well attended that the food and candy had run out and had to be replenished. The RPD had also participated in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Trick or Treat event along 23<sup>rd</sup> Street on Halloween.

In response to Commissioner Lorber, Chief French described the process of abating homeless encampments and noted that before there was a response from the RPD it would partner with the County CORE Team to visit the unhoused community, identify and offer services and bed space, and if the unhoused chose not to take advantage of the services, the Richmond Public Works Department (PWD) would post a Notice of Abatement and the unhoused would be given 72 hours to abate. If that was not done, the PWD would go to the site and RPD would provide support and security and the site would be abated. The unhoused were given the opportunity to get their possessions and if there was a vehicle involved on the street that had been there for more than 72 hours and had been red tagged, it could be towed.

Chief French also reported that there had been six homicides so far this year, which was the lowest total since the 1950s.

**VIII. REPORT BY RICHMOND POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION (Ben Therriault or Designee)**

Sergeant Ben Therriault, President of the Richmond Police Officers' Association (RPOA), urged everyone to go on line to the site of the 30-year plus Richmond Fire and Police Toy Program to start the process to contact people who needed extra help during the holidays. He reported that on November 4 at 9:00 A.M. the annual application process would be open for the first 500 families, with one application per family. The Fire and Police Toy event would take place on December 16 and the Shop with a Cop would be held on December 21, 2023. Toys and contributions could be dropped off at any fire station. He was also working on a separate toy drive with the Latino Peace Officers Association and the Guardians of Justice.

**IX. REPORT BY RICHMOND POLICE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (Eric Smith or Designee)**

There was no report from the Richmond Police Management Association (RPMA).

**X. REPORT BY INVESTIGATIVE AND APPEALS OFFICER (Jerry Threet)**

**A. Status Update**

Jerry Threet, Investigative and Appeals Officer, advised that there were currently six investigations that had not been completed. The oldest remained the Gutzalenko investigation, which had proven to be more complicated than expected given interplay between the De-escalation Policy and the Use of Force Policy. He added that the sound on the body camera videos and audio was distorted and getting the transcriptions accurate had been challenging. Most of the investigation report was complete and would be provided at the next meeting.

Mr. Threet stated he would then turn to the Macdonald officer-involved shooting which would leave four complaints; the complaint still on hold because of the open murder investigation from 2022 and the remaining recently-filed complaints. A recent complaint had focused on the need to change the RPD's policy on missing persons and there may be some investigative aspects involved. While that complaint was not within the CPRC's purview, he recommended it be tracked in some way given that it was not an investigation per se but a policy that was within the CPRC's purview.

On the question of the number of pending cases and whether the tracking document was correct, the six pending cases and the case related to policy were clarified.

B. Approve and Vote Public Case Summary: 2022-12 (Foster)

**ACTION: M/S/C (Lawson/Lorber) to approve Public Case Summary 2022-12 (Foster) as submitted; approved by a voice vote: 4-0 (Ayes: Jackson, Lawson, Lorber and Chair Hegstrom; Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: Garcia, Johnson and Lacy).**

XI. OLD BUSINESS, DISCUSSION ITEMS: None

XII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Nominate and Vote on Vice Chair

Chair Hegstrom opened up nominations for Vice Chair and nominated Rachel Lorber to serve as Vice Chair. There were no other nominations.

**ACTION: M/S/C (Hegstrom/Lawson) to elect *Rachel Lorber* as the Vice Chair of the Community Police Review Commission; carried by the following Roll Call vote: 4-0 (Ayes: Jackson, Lawson, Lorber and Chair Hegstrom; Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: Garcia, Johnson and Lacy).**

XIII. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, STAFF, AND RIDEALONGS

Lilia Corral presented the tracking document and Commissioner Lawson commented that it looked like the only cases where there had been a report back from the Police Chief were from 2022.

Chair Hegstrom explained that the Police Chief had to respond if the CPRC had found a sustained complaint. On whether the Chief's responses had been reported to the CPRC, she recommended that the Police Chief's responses be forwarded to the entire Commission and since personal information would be involved it would not be part of the public record.

Commissioner Lawson stated that he and Commissioner Johnson would attend the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) Conference on November 16, 2023 in Chicago, Illinois.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 P.M.

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Carol Hegstrom, Chair