

**COMMUNITY POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION
of the City of Richmond, California
(CPRC)
Wednesday, February 7, 2024
7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, PLEDGE

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Chair Carol Hegstrom in the Richmond Room at 450 Civic Center Plaza, 1st Floor, at Richmond, California.

Present: Carol Hegstrom (Chair), Oscar Garcia, Andre Jackson, Carole Johnson, Daniel Lawson and Rachel Lorber

Absent: Steven Lacy

Staff: Lilia Corral - Present

Council Liaison: Claudia Jimenez – Not Present

**City Attorney's
Office Representative:** Pam Lee - Present

II. STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Pam Lee from the City Attorney's Office advised that while there were no cases to be considered by the Commission on this agenda, anyone who may have any conflict of interest was asked to identify that conflict. There was none.

III. AGENDA REVIEW

Chair Hegstrom reported that she had received an email from Police Chief Bisa French that the Richmond Police Department (RPD) would be attending a celebration and a report would likely not be presented from the RPD at this meeting. She advised that the ShotSpotter Report had been provided to the CPRC.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (January 3, 2024)

ACTION: It was M/S/C (Lawson/Jackson) to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2024 meeting, as submitted; approved by a voice vote: 6-0 (Ayes: Garcia, Jackson, Johnson, Lawson, Lorber and Chair Hegstrom; Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: Lacy).

V. PUBLIC FORUM

Staff Liaison Lilia Corral advised of an email from CORDELL HINDLER: *Hello Chair Hegstrom, Commissioners and staff, I am submitting the following comment into the record. 1. For a future agenda the Commission should discuss about the possibility of*

having a retreat to go over expectations for the CPRC, and a new Administrative Services Coordinator will be coming on board in the springtime. 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)

There was no report from Chief of Police French.

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

There was no report from Sergeant Ben Therriault, President of the Richmond Police Officers' Association (RPOA).

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

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

On the question related to the fact that the City Council Liaison had missed several meetings of the CPRC, it was noted that City Council Liaison attendance at meetings was not mandatory, although there had been discussions with the City Council to change Council Liaison attendance on committees to a mandatory assignment, but a specific process had to be pursued to be able to make that change.

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

A. Status Update

Jerry Threet, Investigative and Appeals Officer, reported there were eight investigations pending that had not been completed to a finding. The first complaint had been on hold for some time due to a murder investigation; the second involved an officer-involved shooting from 2023; the third involved excessive force and discrimination; the fourth was discrimination in a traffic stop; the fifth alleged excessive force through dog bite; the sixth alleged excessive force and discrimination; the seventh alleged excessive force; and the final complaint from January also alleged discrimination. Of those remaining investigations, he had asked for access to all relevant records, had learned he would not receive additional records from the officer-involved shooting until the criminal investigation had been completed by the District Attorney, and he identified those records that he had received to be able to pursue the investigations.

Mr. Threet identified the investigations he was currently working on which included RPD's Missing Persons Policy. He expected to complete that complaint this work and the Simpson investigation by next meeting, after which he would continue with some of the other investigations.

B. Vote and Accept Public Case Summary 2021-7 (Gutzalenko)

Mr. Threet referred to the CPRC's findings in the Gutzalenko Case Summary and requested an amendment to the last paragraph in the summary, as follows: *The Commission recommended that RPD conduct a comprehensive review of incidents involving the use of sedatives and the role of RPD officers, if any, in the decision to administer such drugs.*

ACTION: M/S/C (Lawson/Johnson) to approve the amended Public Case Summary 2021-7 (Gutzalenko); approved by a voice vote: 6-0 (Ayes: Garcia, Jackson, Johnson, Lawson, Lorber and Chair Hegstrom; Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: Lacy).

XI. OLD BUSINESS, DISCUSSION ITEMS: None

XII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Report from NACOLE Conference

Commissioner Johnson highlighted her impressions from her first attendance at the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) conference in Chicago, along with Commissioner Lawson. She spoke to the interesting sessions and reported that she had learned a lot including the fact that police reform had been going on for years.

Commissioner Lawson commented that he had a similar experience. This was his first attendance at a NACOLE conference and the workshops with different themes had been helpful and somewhat overwhelming given the many sessions available at the same time. He stated while the workshops were good, the networking with other people at the conference had been even more helpful. He referred to one of the discussions at the full meeting about tasers, policy and investigations, which included details of how many times tasers had been used in the last year. While he expected that discussion would have been from an oversight point of view, it had seemed to be a booster about tasers and the President of a taser company had been one of the presenters. He had later learned that the taser company had been a sponsor of the conference, which was somewhat troubling to him. He acknowledged there were comments and questions related to the fact that the use of tasers meant that guns had not been used in those cases.

B. Overview of Meeting Rules

Chair Hegstrom recommended an overview of the Meeting Rules to ensure the proper protocol of running CPRC meetings.

Commissioner Garcia suggested that the point of the rules, especially in a heated debate, was to ensure the ability of everyone to speak without speaking over each other and that meeting order was better when the Chair recognized speakers before comments were made.

Chair Hegstrom referred to discussions in closed session when the back and forth was necessary to refine the answer while also ensuring the ability of everyone to speak.

Commissioner Johnson emphasized the need when there was disagreement to keep the comments and the demeanor professional.

Commissioner Lawson appreciated the comments and agreed with the need to avoid speaking unless called upon.

Pam Lee stated that the Chair was the providing officer of the meeting in open and closed sessions, and since there could be times when speakers got passionate about a discussion, she would chime in to move the process along if there was a need to do so.

XIII. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, STAFF, AND RIDEALONGS

Lilia Corral noted that plans were being developed for Cinco de Mayo and Juneteenth and the CPRC might want to start thinking about those events.

Commissioner Garcia stated he could take the lead for the CPRC in getting sign-ups for both Cinco de Mayo and Juneteenth.

Commissioner Lorder asked about the CPRC's membership and when new members would be appointed or reappointed, and staff explained that was expected in the near future.

Chair Hegstrom reminded members of the need to submit Form 700 Conflict of Interest Forms prior to the deadline on April 1, 2024. She also reminded Commissioners of the need to schedule a ridealong at least once a year.

Commissioner Johnson referred to the Community Engagement held on February 5 for AB 481, police use of military equipment, when a quick summary of the report had been presented, with a Q&A session and with a chat that she suggested had been done too quickly and was not as well done as it could have been. She commented that there was a recording of the Community Engagement and she would send CPRC members the link to that recording.

Chair Hegstrom stated the CPRC should specifically be invited to that type of community engagement related to the RPD. She sought more information from the Police Chief.

Commissioner Jackson reported that Irma Anderson, a former Mayor of the City of Richmond, had passed away and her funeral had been scheduled for February 9, 2024 at Easter Hill United Methodist Church.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 P.M.


Carol Hegstrom (Apr 5, 2024 09:01 PDT)
Carol Hegstrom, Chair

CPRC Minutes_02.07.24

Final Audit Report

2024-04-05

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