

RICHMOND POLICE COMMISSION

Wednesday, June 4, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.
Community Services Building
330 - 25th Street
Conference Room 1

MINUTES

I CALL TO ORDER (Roll Call) (Chair Cora Ward)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Cora Ward

ROLL CALL

Present: Nemy Bautista
Dolores Hembree
Cochise Potts
Roberto Reyes
Glenn Stephenson
Chris Tallerico
Cora J. Ward
Naomi Williams

Absent: Robert Ham

Vacancies: None

Administrative Staff Present: Don Casimere, Confidential Investigative & Appeals Officer
Malia Glover, Administrative Secretary

Council Liaison: Councilmember Harpreet Sandhu – Present

City Attorney's Office Representative: Mary Renfro, Assistant City Attorney – Present

II PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 7, 2008

Upon motion by **Commissioner Hembree** and second by **Commissioner Bautista** the minutes for the regular meeting of May 7, 2008, were approved with one revision.

IV COMMENTS REGARDING LIABILITY ISSUES FOR APPOINTED POLICE COMMISSIONERS AND VOLUNTEER VS. APPOINTED STATUS (City Attorney Louise Renne or her representative)

Assistant City Attorney Mary Renfro said the question still to be addressed from the last meeting was whether or not the City covered police commissioners while on ride-alongs. She said the answer is yes. The City of Richmond is covered for liability from the acts of any covered individuals, including members of boards and commissions. If further specifics are needed, contact Risk Manager Marilyn Kelley.

V COMMENTS BY COUNCIL LIAISON HARPREET SANDHU

Councilmember Sandhu reported that they discussed having Police Commission meetings in other areas of the City at the council meeting. They are also going through budget review at this time.

VI REPORT BY CHIEF OF POLICE (Chris Magnus or his representative)

A. Current Topics

Chief Magnus reported that the crime rate is still very good compared to last year. In comparing the period year-to-date for January through June of 2007 and 2008, violent crime is down 22%. Part I and Part II total crime, violent and property, is down over 22%. Burglaries were reduced from 808 to 620. Auto thefts went from 1069 to 833. Robbery was decreased from 263 to 188. He said the homicide rate is a continued frustration. There have been 15 homicides to date.

The Chief said the West County Gang Task Force is up and running. They have a location outside of the police department. It includes personnel from RPD, San Pablo PD, Sheriff's Office, FBI and part-time help from other agencies.

Chief Magnus said he appreciates the council protecting public safety funding. They've done a good job in maintaining and increasing funding for personnel. There will be two officers graduating from the Napa academy this month.

They are continuing to promote the rewards campaign for citizens that provide tips on serious crimes. They will pay a portion of the reward money for information that leads to the DA filing charges, with additional money paid at the point of conviction.

The Chief said Lt. Booker has been assigned to update and analyze policies in the RPD Policy Manual. They will ask the Commission for input and feedback. Lt. Whitney has been assigned to Professional Standards. Some of the things he will be involved with are community outreach, developing mediation and trying to develop a more positive relationship with the unions.

Chief Magnus reported that they are continuing to focus on their demand that property owners abate their nuisance properties and drug properties with the help of Trish Aljoe from the City Attorney's office.

Commissioner Williams thanked the Chief for the ABC Licensing unit, including Capt. McBryde and Sgt. Williams. She said they're doing a very good job and with their help, the West County Alcohol Policy Coalition has received an award from John Gioia's office that will be presented on June 17, 2008.

Commissioner Bautista asked the Chief if he was concerned about the railroad delays on police emergency response. **Chief Magnus** said it is an ongoing frustration and the City Manager is looking into ways to address the issue.

Commissioner Potts asked if the reward program only targeted specific crimes. The Chief said their program focuses more on violent crimes related to homicides and shootings. Other types of crimes are handled by Bay Area Crime Stoppers.

Commissioner Hembree asked for an update on the curfew ordinance. The Chief said there is no update at this time. He said the issue is whether or not they can start the juvenile diversion program. Once that is in place, then they can move forward with the curfew.

Commissioner Stephenson commented that RPD is doing well because several people called in after a recent shooting. **Chief Magnus** said the officers are creating relationships in the community. He said when people see that people are going to jail for committing serious crimes, it gives them more confidence in reporting these crimes.

Commissioner Reyes asked the Chief if he had been in contact with Judge Lois Haight regarding the juvenile diversion program. The Chief said he meets with her on a regular basis and she will be involved in this diversion effort.

Commissioner Reyes asked what type of work Lt. Whitney would be doing in the community. **Chief Magnus** said he will be involved in getting the word out to the community on how to file a complaint and educating them as to what the office of Professional Standards does.

Commissioner Tallerico suggested that they get the Iron Triangle substation computer working and possibly add more computers so that officers don't have to go back to the Hall of Justice to write reports. The Chief said he was not aware that the computer wasn't working and he will look into it.

Chair Ward thanked **Chief Magnus** for coming to the meetings each month and giving excellent reports.

VII REPORT BY POLICE OFFICER ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

Det. Kevin Martin reported that they have been involved in contract talks that they hope to resolve soon. The memorial piece is now displayed in the lobby at the Hall of Justice. Every officer's name listed died in the line of duty. He said his position has changed to training manager. He can be contacted at 620-6629.

VIII REPORT BY GUARDIANS OF JUSTICE ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

No report.

IX REPORT BY LATINO POLICE OFFICER ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

No report.

X PUBLIC FORUM

There were no public speakers.

XI REPORT BY CONFIDENTIAL IAO

CIAO Don Casimere said this Sunday at 3:30 p.m. Chair Ward will be giving a Police Commission presentation at the Antioch Baptist Church on So. 18th Street. He will be attending also and all commissioners are welcome to attend. He said the Commissioners will be receiving a packet of information tonight that will include comments regarding PC investigations provided by Mary Renfro, a daily contact log and a copy of the complaint form that was sent to the CCC Grand Jury.

XII REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. West County Alcohol Policy Working Group (**Commissioner Naomi Williams**)

Commissioner Williams said she went on a ride-along with Impact and Shoulder Tap with the police and ABC.

B. Church & Neighborhood Council Outreach Committee (**Chair Cora Ward**)

Chair Ward said this committee is for all commissioners and that they are all responsible for doing community outreach.

C. Reports on Community Events/Training Attended

Commissioner Reyes

- Attended Brookside Community Health Ctr. Meeting in April and May
- Attended meeting with Mayor McLaughlin
- Met with Councilmember Viramontes and Director of Public Health regarding housing issues in Richmond

Commissioner Potts

- Went to homicide scene on A Street on 3/28/08

Commissioner Hembree

- Attended ADT media event on 5/14/08
- Attended presentation by Sir Christopher Fox at Claremont Hotel on 5/15/08
- Attended swearing-in/promotional ceremony on 5/29/08
- Attended volunteer awards ceremony on 5/29/08
- Attended child advocacy event sponsored by San Pablo Eagles on 5/31/08

Commissioner Tallerico

- Ride-Along with Off. Hauschild
- Attended promotion ceremony
- Attended Police Volunteer Awards

Commissioner Williams

- Went to homicide scene on A Street on 3/28/08
- Attended ADT media event on 5/15/08
- Attended swearing-in/promotional ceremony on 5/29/08
- Attended volunteer awards ceremony on 5/29/08
- Attended Fallen Officer Memorial dedication

Commissioner Bautista

- Attended Cinco de Mayo parade on 5/3/08
- Attended Cinco de Mayo event on 5/4/08
- Attended May Valley NC meeting on 5/22/08
- Ride-Along for 4 hours with Off. Llamas on 5/26/08

Commissioner Stephenson

- Attended ADT media event
- Attended police promotion ceremony
- Attended Office of Neighborhood Safety Meeting
- Attended East Richmond NC meeting
- Met w/several officers from around the world while on a cruise and discussed problems in other areas including Canada, Wales, England

Commissioner Williams

- Suggested that they ask the police department to put an enclosure around the bodies of people that have been murdered at crime scenes so that family members and the public can't view the deceased. This will be included on next month's agenda.

XIII EXECUTIVE SESSION: Public Employee Performance and Discipline/Release (Police Officers)

A. Discussion and Action Regarding Complaint #01-2008

Upon motion and second, the report was accepted as submitted.

Upon motion and second, Finding #1 – Exonerated, Finding #2 – Unsubstantiated and Finding #3 – Unsubstantiated, were accepted by acclamation.

Upon motion and second, Finding #4 – Substantiated, was accepted with the recommendation that officers get additional training in the use of tasers. The vote was as follows: Ayes-6, Noes-0, Abstentions-1. One commissioner did not vote. One commissioner was absent.

The Complainant, Officers and Chief of Police will be notified in writing of the findings regarding this complaint.

B. Discussion Regarding Complaints Received in the Past Month and Past Complaints

One new complaint received in the past month.

XIV ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by **Commissioner Reyes** and second by **Commissioner Williams**, the meeting was adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Don Casimere
Confidential Investigative & Appeals Officer