

# **RICHMOND POLICE COMMISSION**

**Wednesday, May 6, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Community Services Building**  
**330 - 25<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Conference Room 1**

## **MINUTES**

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

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

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Nemy Bautista  
Scott Gillespie  
Dolores Hembree  
Jim Jenkins  
Roberto Reyes  
Bea Roberson  
Glenn Stephenson  
Cora J. Ward  
Naomi Williams

**Absent:** None

**Vacancies:** None

#### **Administrative**

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

**Council Liaison:** Councilmember Jeff Ritterman – Present

#### **City Attorney's**

**Office Representative:** Mary Renfro, Assistant City Attorney – Present

### **II APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 1, 2009**

Upon motion by **Commissioner Bautista** and second by **Commissioner Reyes** the minutes for the regular meeting of April 1, 2009, were approved with one correction.

### III COMMENTS BY CHAIR CORA WARD

#### A. Discussion and Action Regarding Committee Formations and Assignments

**Chair Ward** assigned the commissioners to the following committees:

Street Vendor Committee: Roberto Reyes, Nemy Bautista, Glenn Stephenson  
Community Relations: Scott Gillespie, Jim Jenkins, Dolores Hembree  
Alcohol Committee: Bea Roberson, Naomi Williams, Cora Ward

Contacts in PD are as follows:

Street Vendor Committee: Capt. Anthony Williams  
Community Relations: D/C Ed Medina  
Alcohol Committee: Capt. Eugene McBride

She said if commissioners don't agree to the above committees, they can discuss it at the next meeting.

**Assistant City Attorney Mary Renfro** said that if these are ongoing standing subcommittees, an agenda must be posted 72 hours in advance of each meeting and the public would be aloud to attend. If it's an ad hoc subcommittee with four or fewer members, the meetings can be held anywhere and a posted agenda is not necessary.

### IV COMMENTS BY COUNCIL LIAISON JEFF RITTERMAN

**Councilmember Ritterman** congratulated Chief Magnus on auto thefts in the City being down 31%. He said it shows how new technology is able to help solve problems. Mr. Ritterman shared his insights on economy and crime.

### V COMMENTS BY CHIEF OF POLICE (Chris Magnus or his representative)

#### A. Current Topics

**Chief Magnus** reported that the Cinco de Mayo celebration went well with no problems. He said it was a good effort of community working together with City staff. The Chief distributed a flyer describing the effort that they are involved in regarding Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC). He said there are a lot of young people of color that are disproportionately involved in the criminal justice system. They've done a lot of research on this subject, developed recommendations, and are putting together a plan on how to reduce it through diversion programs. **Chief Magnus** reminded the commissioners of the upcoming RPD centennial celebration on 5/16/09. He also mentioned that they've done some research on outreach to the Latino Community. They have 62 bilingual personnel in the department with many of them being Spanish speaking. They have a language line service that they can use if nobody is readily available.

**Commissioner Gillespie** asked what they do on the streets when a translator is not available. **Chief Magnus** said that all supervisors have cell phones that they can use to call the language line.

**Commissioner Bautista** asked when GPS would be installed in all patrol cars. **Chief Magnus** said it has been approved by the council and may be installed this fall.

**Commissioner Roberson** asked about the status of the shot spotters. The Chief said they are in the final stages of installation.

**Commissioner Stephenson** asked if the Police Department was involved in green light operations for emergency vehicles in the City. **Chief Magnus** said they did contribute a small amount of funding to help the Fire Department.

#### **VI REPORTS BY POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION, LATINO POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION AND GUARDIANS OF JUSTICE**

No representatives present.

#### **VII PUBLIC FORUM**

**Cochise Potts** spoke about the importance of the role of the Police Commission in community involved policing. He said that the City Manager should not be allowed to overrule the decisions of the Police Commission without an independent study.

#### **VIII REPORTS BY COMMISSIONERS, CONFIDENTIAL IAO AND CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE**

##### **Commissioner Jenkins**

- Attended RPD Orientation
- 4 hour Ride-along with Off. Campos

##### **Commissioner Reyes**

- Fully endorsed everything that Mr. Potts said
- Requested that the City Manager present himself in Executive Session

##### **Commissioner Hembree**

- Attended swearing in ceremony of lateral officers
- Attended Cinco de Mayo festival

##### **Commissioner Gillespie**

- Attended RPD Orientation
- 4 hr Ride-along with Off. Evans
- Walked in Cinco de Mayo Parade

**Bea Roberson**

- Attended RPD Orientation
- Was in a Driver's License Checkpoint – it was handled very well
- Walked in Cinco de Mayo Parade
- Attended Cinco de Mayo Festival
- Attended Open House for Richmond Convention and Business Bureau
- Attended PAL Scholarship Event
- Attended meeting for the Home Front Festival
- Attended meeting for Grand Re-Opening of City Hall
- Attended Easter Egg Hunt at Nevin Park
- 6-1/2 hour Ride-Along with Off. Saepanh

**Commissioner Stephenson**

- Attended East Richmond NC Meeting

**Commissioner Bautista**

- Attended swearing in ceremony of lateral officers
- Attended May Valley Community Center Meeting
- Attended Earth Day Celebration
- 4-hr Ride-along with Off. Sanchez

**Chair Ward**

- Walked in Cinco de Mayo Parade

**CIAO Casimere** suggested that the commissioners take a look at the new City Hall. He also suggested that a new picture be taken for the Commission brochure. He met with BART officials regarding the establishment of civilian oversight at BART.

**Asst. City Attorney Mary Renfro** said there are a few things that should be clarified in the City ordinance about the Commission's function. One is whether or not the CIAO has the authority to investigate a complaint of off duty conduct; the other is public hearings. The ordinance states that this Commission can conduct public hearings, but the Supreme Court has struck down the right of citizen oversight committees to conduct public disciplinary hearings. It has been deemed a violation of the Peace Officers' Bill of Rights. Tonight's suggestion by Commissioner Reyes and former Commissioner Potts indicates that the role of the City Manager should be re-examined. She will discuss these issues with Mr. Riddle. **CIAO Casimere** said there may be some other areas of the ordinance that need to be revisited. **Chair Ward** asked if each commissioner can review the ordinance and have questions ready for the City Attorney at a future meeting. It was suggested that they form ad hoc committees to review the ordinance (overview, refinement and final review committees).

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

- A. Discussion and Action Regarding RPC Complaint #01-2009

Page five

Upon motion and second, the report and findings of Unfounded for the allegation of Excessive Force in RPC #01-2009 were accepted.

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

The commissioners were briefed on RPC Complaint #02-2009.

**X      ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by **Commissioner Hembree** and second by **Commissioner Reyes** the meeting was adjourned at 9:07.

---

**Don Casimere**  
**Confidential Investigative & Appeals Officer**