



**City of Richmond  
Human Rights and  
Human Relations Commission  
MEETING MINUTES**

*Jasmine Jones, Chair  
Joyce Harris, Vice Chair  
Betty Burrus-Wright, PhD, Commissioner  
Texanita Bluitt, Commissioner*

*Courtney Cummings, Commissioner  
Carole Johnson, Commissioner  
Crystal Johnson, PhD, Commissioner*

Monday, November 16, 2015 at 6:30 pm  
City Council Chambers  
440 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA 94804

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Human Rights and Human Relations Commission was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Chairperson Jones.

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Chairperson Jones, Vice Chair Harris, Commissioner Burrus-Wright, Commissioner Bluitt, Commissioner Cummings, Commissioner Carole Johnson, and Commissioner Crystal Johnson.

ABSENT: None.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

November 16, 2015 Regular Meeting Agenda approved as presented.

**OPEN FORUM #1**

None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Commissioner Burrus-Wright, seconded by Vice Chair Harris, to accept the September 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion is passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT**

None.

## **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

Commissioner Crystal Johnson encouraged Commissioners and members of the public to volunteer at the Thanksgiving dinner event for the homeless organized by Salute's in partnership with city agencies and community organizations.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chairperson Jones shared her recent trip to New York City to attend a conference for young African American leaders.

## **STAFF REPORT**

Mr. Jenkins reported that Memorial Services for former Richmond Mayor Lonnie Washington will take place at the Richmond Memorial Auditorium on Monday, November 9, 2015. He also encouraged HRHRC Commissioners to pay close attention to student demonstrations on college campuses across the country and recent tragic events in Paris.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **K.1 STUDY SESSION WITH RICHMOND POLICE DEPARTMENT (45 MINUTES)**

HEAR PRESENTATION FROM RPD CHIEF CHRIS MAGNUS

*Chairperson Jones*

Chairperson Jones framed the item and thanked the Richmond Police Department for its continued partnership with the HRHRC.

Richmond Police Chief Chris Magnus answered the list of the questions compiled by the HRHRC Police-Community Relations Commission and introduced Cpt. Louie Tirona, Cpt. Bisa French and Lt. Hill to provide in depth answers.

1. We understand that RPD representatives meet regularly with the Neighborhood Councils in Richmond. What other regular community-specific engagement conversations/events does RPD conduct (e.g, LGBTQI, immigrant, Native American, Latino, African American)?  
In 2006, Chief Magnus implemented a plan that included reorganizing the way the officers think about the geographical boundaries of neighborhoods. The City is divided into three different districts and each district is divided again into three smaller beats. Each beat area has a beat officer whose job is to work with the local communities.
2. RPD and youth. What are RPD policing policies and practices on school campuses? In the community? What has RPD involvement been in the opening of the new Greenwood Academy/Leadership Public Schools campus? How do you develop the cultural sensitivity of your officers?

### **(REFER TO HANDOUT FOR DETAILED SCOPE OF WORK)**

The City of Richmond in collaboration with the West Contra Costa Unified School District conducts the School Resource Office (SRO) Program in order to provide school administrators and staff with law enforcement resources and expertise they need to maintain safety and order. The SRO program is intended to ensure that no student's right to receive an education is abridged by

violence or disruption.

3. Please provide an overview of RPD's new anti-domestic violence initiative that identifies and reaches out to the highest risk victims.

Cpt. French provided detailed information about the Richmond Police Department's new initiative to address domestic violence. Contra Costa County is one of the four areas around the country selected by the U.S. Department of Justice to pilot an initiative called the Lethality Assessment Program, which helps assess the danger a woman may be in and connect her to appropriate resources, such as counseling or a local shelter. For more information about this pilot initiative, contact Cpt. French at [bfrench@richmondpd.net](mailto:bfrench@richmondpd.net).

4. What is the high-speed chase policy in residential neighborhoods? (Circumstances, number of vehicles, discharge of firearms, etc.)

**(REFER TO HANDOUT FOR RPD'S POLICY ON VEHICLE PURSUIT)**

5. The ACLU is proposing that police departments hold open public discussion prior to the adoption of any new surveillance technology. What is the RPD position on this proposal?

"A lot of complex issues around body camera. We are learning collectively." RPD currently holds camera footages for 90 days; if requested, footages are kept longer.

6. Please describe the new mental health team approach.

The Richmond Police Department is working with STAND!, community based organizations. STAND! takes approach to eliminating family violence is well-rounded and community-wide. In addition to providing a complete spectrum of prevention, intervention, and treatment programs. For more information, visit <http://www.standffov.org>

7. What is the communication/investigation process after an officer-involved shooting? Is there a public hearing? If not, why not? Given your wealth of experience, what are your thoughts about how this process might be improved?

**(REFER TO HANDOUT FOR RPD'S POLICY ON OFFICER-INVOLVED SHOOTING)**

8. Tucson?

Chief Magnus served as the Police Chief of Richmond for ten years. He indicated that it has been a difficult decision to make and eager to take on new challenges in a bigger department. The Human Rights and Human Relations Commission thanked Chief Magnus for his leadership and innovative programs that he implemented to reduce violence and promote community policing.

## **K.2 ELECTION OF COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2016 (10 MINUTES)**

HEAR NOMINATIONS FROM NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND ELECT COMMISSION OFFICERS

*Commissioner Burrus-Wright, Commissioner Bluitt and Commissioner Cummings*

The Nominating Committee members Commissioner Burrus-Wright, Commissioner Bluitt and Commissioner Cummings nominated Jasmine Jones as Chair and Joyce Harris as Vice-Chair for 2016. A motion was made by Commissioner Burrus-Wright, seconded by Commissioner Bluitt, to nominate Jones as Chairperson and Harris for Vice Chair for 2016. The motion was approved by the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**YAY:** Commissioner Burrus-Wright, Commissioner Bluitt, Commissioner Cummings, Commissioner Carole Johnson, and Commissioner Crystal Johnson.

**NAY:** NONE. **ABSTAIN:** Chairperson Jones and Vice Chair Harris.

**K.3 COMMITTEE REPORT: POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE (10 MINUTES)**  
HEAR REPORT FROM NOVEMBER 9, 2015 COMMITTEE MEETING  
*Commissioner Crystal Johnson, Commissioner Cummings, Commissioner Carole Johnson, Chairperson Jones, Victoria Sawicki, and Vivien Feyer*  
Commissioner Crystal Johnson framed the item and shared that the PCRC is planning to organize a community forum on police-community relations.

**K.4 COMMITTEE REPORT: ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING (60 MINUTES)**  
DISCUSS AND SET PRIORITIES FOR 2016  
*Chairperson Jones*

Continued to January 25, 2015 Regular Meeting.

## **REPORTS**

None.

## **OPEN FORUM #2 (At approximately 8:30P.M.)**

Chairperson Jones invited Ada Recinos to introduce herself. Ada is a Emerson National Hunger Fellow with the Congressional Hunger Center. She has recently moved to Richmond applied to become a HRHRC Commissioner.

Cordell Hindler presented a poem by Maya Angelou.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Human Rights and Human Relations Commission's Regular Meeting in November 2015 was adjourned at 8:55 in the memory of victims of violent events at UC Merced and Paris and in the loving memory of Debra Vaca's brother. The next Regular Meeting is scheduled on Monday, January 25, 2016 in the Richmond City Council Chambers, 440 Civic Center Plaza.