

RICHMOND POLICE COMMISSION

Wednesday, May 3, 2006 – 7:00 p.m.
Community Services Building
330 - 25th Street
Conference Room 1

MINUTES

I CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Albert R. Martinez, Chair
Emile de Vera
Susan H. Geick
Dolores Hembree
Glenn Stephenson
Cora J. Ward
Naomi Williams

Absent: Don Zingale

Vacancies: One

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

II APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 5, 2006

Upon motion by **Commissioner Hembree** and second by **Commissioner Williams** the minutes for the regular meeting of April 5, 2006, were approved as written with one abstention.

III REPORT BY CHIEF OF POLICE (or his representative)

Chief Magnus said they are working on making sure that information is getting out to the community in both English and Spanish. He distributed a copy of a letter that was sent to residents of the Iron Triangle. They met with a large group of the residents who wrote down their questions and concerns about crime and quality of life issues in the neighborhood. They responded to the most commonly asked questions in this letter.

The Chief also distributed a flyer that listed the rules of conduct for public celebrations, printed in both English and Spanish. These rules were being distributed to citizens in preparation for the upcoming Cinco de Mayo events, to try to head off some of the problems that have occurred in past Cinco de Mayo celebrations. They are working with City of San Pablo on events taking place Saturday and Sunday.

Commissioner Geick asked if any of the Police Commissioners would be involved in the monitoring. The Chief said if any commissioners were interested in being monitors, they should contact the event coordinators, John Marquez or the Mayor of San Pablo.

Commissioner Hembree said she's heard a lot of positive thoughts from people who are very appreciative of his efforts to close 23rd Street down. Chief Magnus said they will try it this year but he can't guarantee a trouble free Cinco de Mayo. **Commissioner Hembree** asked if they were getting good cooperation from the businesses on 23rd Street. The Chief said yes; the majority of the businesses said they wanted the street closed.

Commissioner Williams said the Police Commission has always been involved in the monitoring of the Cinco de Mayo events. Chief Magnus said the Commissioners are more than welcome to monitor or to ride-along with the officers. He will talk with Capt. McBride and make sure the Commissioners are contacted.

Commissioner Stephenson asked Chief Magnus his plan for blocking off 23rd Street. The Chief said 23rd Street will be totally blocked off in both directions. People will have to use alternative routes which will be posted. There will be no cruising allowed.

Chair Martinez asked the Chief if he would be in charge of all the multi-agencies assisting the City. Chief Magnus said the Incident Commander will be Eugene McBride, but he, himself, will ultimately be in charge of what's going on. **Chair Martinez** asked if the other agencies will be given the same briefing as RPD officers. The Chief said Lt. Clark will involve the other agencies in the briefings.

Commissioner Williams said there should be no dogs used for crowd control from Richmond or any other agency. Chief Magnus agreed.

CIAO Casimere commended the Chief for the way he his handling the Cinco de Mayo events and for his communications to the community about what is going on in the department. This is a key part in strengthening relations between the police department and the community.

Chair Martinez told the chief that the citizen complaint forms have not been available in the lobby of the police station. Chief Magnus said they have been trying to keep it filled. They also keep some behind the desk in case people ask for them. He will check into it.

Commissioner de Vera commended the Chief on his two Deputy Chief appointments.

Chief Magnus reported that the school district has decided to make the school resource officers the primary people responsible for security at the schools. They have agreed to pay \$118,000 per two officers at each of the high schools. The district has asked the police department to take over as the Public Safety Director and be over school security personnel. He says this is a great opportunity for them to solidify their relationship with the schools, develop a better crime fighting strategy and improved relationships with students.

IV REPORT BY POLICE OFFICER ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

Det. Kevin Martin said they have been busy assisting the chief in getting ready for Cinco de Mayo. He asked the commission's assistance with a lottery scam originating out of Canada. He said people have been receiving checks in the mail claiming that they are winners in a lottery and they are asked to cash the check, send a money order in and they will receive the rest of their winnings. He said if the commissioners know of anyone that has received similar checks, tell them not to cash the checks and ask them to contact him at 620-6629.

Commissioner Williams suggested that someone come to the Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council meeting and pass this information along. Det. Martin said he will come and speak with them.

V REPORT BY GUARDIANS OF JUSTICE REPRESENTATIVE

Off. Darrell Jones said they appreciate the efforts that the chief is bringing to the department, especially the ideas for moving them toward the community and in recruiting for the department. They participated in the job fair and also plan to be at future events. Off. Jones said he appreciated the commissioners coming to the Officer of the Year Awards dinner. The commissioners congratulated him on his award.

VI REPORT BY LATINO POLICE OFFICER ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

Off. Rafael Samayoa reported that their crab feed was very successful and he thanked the commissioners for supporting them. They're starting up a scholarship in the name of David Hanes and are looking for college bound students from local high schools to further their career in law enforcement. They will have a booth set up in the plaza representing the LPOA at the Cinco de Mayo celebration.

VII COMMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE

Phil Mehas said the ACLU will be putting on a series of four films at the Richmond Public Library. They will be shown on the second Tuesday of the month for the next four months. Mr. Mehas said that the Berkeley Police Officers' Association has filed suit against the Berkeley Police Commission in an attempt to stop some of the activities that

they are doing in Berkeley. He said it is due to a concerted effort statewide, primarily by police officer associations, in conjunction with Rains, Lucia and Wilkinson Law Firm, who are trying to render police commissions impotent in dealing with police departments. He just wanted to make the commission aware of this.

VIII REPORT BY CONFIDENTIAL IAO

CIAO Casimere said that Mr. Mehas has requested e-mail addresses for members of the commission. He has asked the City Attorney's office to look into this to see if this information could be given out. Mr. Mehas said he requested this information to send public information that the commissioners may be interested in.

Mr. Casimere informed the Commission that he will be retiring effective May 22, 2006, from full-time employment. He has been talking with the City Council to continue servicing the Commission on a contractual basis.

IX REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. West Contra Costa Alcohol Policy Working Group

Commissioner Williams said she attended a meeting. They had visitors from RPD. She said she is on the subcommittee for the license policies and conditions. They are changing some conditions and improving others.

B. Church Outreach Committee

Chair Martinez said they had a presentation on Sunday, April 16. Commissioner Ward was also there. It went very well. They want to continue the outreaches and include the Hilltop area, Easter Hill and the northeast area. He said they also need to continue outreaches with the Neighborhood Councils.

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

A. Discussion and Action Regarding RPC Complaint #01-2006

Upon motion and second, the report and finding of **Unfounded** for one allegation of Unnecessary Force were accepted.

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

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

There were no new complaints received in the past month.

XI REPORTS BY COMMISSIONERS/FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Ward

- Attended the State Democratic Convention representing Loni Hancock.

Commissioner Williams

- Was on the oral board for police officers last Wednesday.

XII ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by **Commissioner Ward** and second by **Commissioner Williams**, the meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Don Casimere
Confidential Investigative & Appeals Officer