

RICHMOND POLICE COMMISSION

**Wednesday, April 4, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.
Employment & Training Building
330 – 25th 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 Bea Roberson

ROLL CALL

Present: Therese Barquet
Nemy Bautista
Scott Gillespie
Felix Hunziker
Alejandro Navarro
Bea Roberson
Glenn Stephenson
Eleanor Thompson

Absent: None

Vacancies: One

Administrative Staff: Don Casimere, Confidential Investigative & Appeals Officer – Present

Malia Glover, Executive Secretary I – Present

Council Liaison: Jeff Ritterman, Council Liaison – Present

City Attorney's Office Representative: Bruce Soublet, Assistant City Attorney – Present

II APPROVAL OF MINUTES –March 7, 2012

Upon motion by **Commissioner Bautista** and second by **Commissioner Stephenson**, the minutes for the regular meeting of March 7, 2012, were approved as written.

III REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON JEFF RITTERMAN

Councilmember Ritterman reported that City Attorney Bruce Goodmiller's contract was ratified at last night's council meeting. He said that two items on the agenda regarding the Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS) were withdrawn. **Chair Roberson** handed out copies of the ONS 2011 Annual Report that she received at a city council meeting.

Councilmember Ritterman said there has been discussion on how they can best use LBNL as an anchor institution. He reported that they had a startling victory regarding Chevron's property tax assessment. Jim Goins gave the 5-year financial report for the city. There is a significant shortfall of approximately 15 million in the near future.

Commissioner Bautista asked for an update on the marijuana ordinance. **Councilmember Ritterman** said that a fourth dispensary was approved last night.

Commissioner Hunziker asked **Councilmember Ritterman** to comment on the recent newspaper articles regarding LBNL's synthetic biology and the possible dangerous risks. **Councilmember Ritterman** commented on it and said that he didn't think that it should be a municipal decision as to what kind of research is done in the lab. He said that he doesn't think the city is in any danger.

Commissioner Stephenson asked who in the city should be credited with getting the city a 5 million dollar state grant for Unity Park. **Councilmember Ritterman** said it was a tremendous undertaking between a lot of people who did a terrific job.

Commissioner Bautista asked if there had been any budget preparation for Cinco de Mayo. **Councilmember Ritterman** said he wasn't sure yet.

IV REPORT OF CHIEF OF POLICE (Chris Magnus or his representative)

A. Report of recent activities, events, incidents, and related matters

Capt. Anthony Williams was there to represent the chief. He reported there has been a spike in crime in January and February. Violent crime, property crimes and part one crime are all up 30%. Homicides are also up; there was one through February 2011 and six through February 2012. He said that he would send the COMPSTAT report electronically to the commission. **Capt. Williams** said that the spike in crime may be due to the fact that 400% more non-violent criminals have recently been released into the community due to Proposition 109. The police department is working with crime prevention to try to reduce some of the statistics.

B. Briefing on Operation Cease Fire by Capt. Anthony Williams

Capt. Williams reported that the first call-ins for the cease fire were on 3/1/12 and 3/2/12. They included identified criminals in the area that they know are shooters and people that are associated with those shooters. Of 42 people invited to the call-ins, 39 showed up. Their probation/parole officers contacted them and told them

they had to attend. The participants were offered support from the community to move forward with their lives if they stopped shooting. They were told if they don't stop shooting, the police department, as well as several other law enforcement groups, would be coming after them. The police department is working on following up on the participants. He said they are working on the services that they are trying to get together for them. He said if there is anything that the Police Commission can do to suggest to the city that they invest in some local services that they can use for these young men, that would be helpful. **Capt. Williams** said that so far, there have not been any shootings that they can attribute to either of the first two groups.

Commissioner Barquet asked who to contact if they wanted to suggest any organizations that may be able to help with the cease fire program. **Capt. Williams** said to start by calling or sending an e-mail to him and he'll make sure the information gets to the proper people.

Commissioner Hunziker asked what kinds of services are missing. **Capt. Williams** said the young men need to tell them what they need, then they will help find the services. Basic services are needed, such as education/GED, help in getting their California ID card or driver's license, substance abuse treatment programs, job readiness programs, job training programs and eventually jobs.

Gina Swirsding said that people that experience retaliation have a symptom of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). She said that when you are a victim of gun violence, inside you feel like you want to retaliate. When you experience being shot at, you feel like you've lost control due to fear. Contra Costa County does have funds to deal with Operation Cease Fire victims and those involved with gangs. She suggested that some of the young men may need a group session so that they can interact with one another with the issues of PTSD in the matter of wanting to retaliate. She said she knows some therapists that are willing to come to Richmond and talk about gun violence.

V REPORTS BY RICHMOND POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION, LATINO POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION, GUARDIANS OF JUSTICE

No representatives present.

VI PUBLIC FORUM

Gina Swirsding talked about Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) for consumers. She said she is concerned about education and history. She said she is aware of the Contra Costa Sheriff's Department's program and she is concerned about obtaining history of the consumer. Getting history from family, psychiatrists or psychologists will not work. The person who knows what triggers them, the medications they are on and the understanding of their own mental illness is person who is the consumer. She said Memphis, TN's program emphasizes getting information from the consumer themselves. She said that is not on the program through the sheriff's department and said she knows that the police department is sending their officers to the sheriff's department for training.

She would like to see a list of officers that should not be approaching consumers of mental health; not every officer should approach.

Commissioner Stephenson asked how an officer will have information about each consumer that they approach. **Ms. Swirsding** said that Memphis has an officer follow-up on chronic callers and they get to know the consumer themselves. Each consumer has an officer that they know personally.

Commissioner Stephenson asked how big Memphis' force was. Ms. Swirsding said it was much bigger than Richmond's. Commissioner Stephenson said that it was kind of limited so the same officer would not be there each time. Ms. Swirsding said that Concord is using the Memphis CIT program. They have one officer that deals with the mentally ill for a six month period. They get to know the consumers, and then they inform the other officers about each person's history.

VII DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR PROMOTING POSITIVE POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY ABOUT THE POLICE COMMISSION (Commissioner Hunziker)

Commissioner Hunziker thanked everyone who provided comments on the video. They are still working on arranging Coffee with a Cop.

VIII DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING FORMING AN RPC POLICY COMMITTEE

Commissioner Gillespie said that during the last experience in reviewing policies, there were some very complex issues with no time to discuss them. He said it would be a good idea to have a smaller committee to meet and make recommendations to the whole commission. The entire commission could then modify, adopt and discuss the policies further.

Commissioner Stephenson said that it was a good idea but he would like to see a diversified group of people on the committee. **Chair Roberson** said that **Commissioner Gillespie** would be the chair and they are asking for volunteers. **Commissioners Hunziker** and **Stephenson** volunteered, as well as **Chair Roberson**.

A motion was made by **Commissioner Gillespie** to set up the ad hoc policy review committee with appointments set by the chair. It was seconded by **Commissioner Stephenson**. All were in favor.

IX REPORTS BY:

- **CHAIRPERSON**
- **COMMISSIONERS**
- **STAFF**

Chair Roberson

- Attended RPAL Luncheon
- Attended RNCC meeting
- Attended Council meetings

Commissioner Stephenson

- Attended LPOA Crab Feed
- Recommended to chair to have Lt. Booker and/or Sgt. Dickerson come to a PC meeting and brief the commission on their training involving Connecting Cops and Kids

Commissioner Navarro

- Attended City Council meetings

CIAO Casimere

- Welcomed **Alejandro Navarro** to the commission
- Handed out daily activity log
- Gave an update on the Police Commission budget and upcoming budget meetings
- Announced his retirement from the Police Commission
- Thanked **Asst. City Attorney Bruce Soublet** and **Chair Roberson** for their work with the commission
- Thanked **Commissioner Thompson** for her commitment in speaking out against violence in the city

X ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Bea Roberson, Chair