

RICHMOND POLICE COMMISSION

**Wednesday, April 2, 2014 – 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 Felix Hunziker**

ROLL CALL

Present: Therese Barquet
Nemy Bautista
Scott Gillespie
Felix Hunziker
Alejandro Navarro (Arrived 7:06)
Bea Roberson
Eleanor Thompson
Yenny Velazquez (Arrived 7:10)

Absent: Glenn Stephenson

Vacancies: None

Administrative Staff: Terry Simpson, Investigator – Absent
Malia Glover, Executive Secretary I – Present

Council Liaison: Jael Myrick, Council Liaison – Present

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

II APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 5, 2014

Upon motion by **Commissioner Roberson** and second by **Commissioner Bautista**, the minutes for the regular meeting of March 5, 2014, were approved as written.

III REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON JAEL MYRICK

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

Councilmember Myrick gave a report on Housing Authority issues. He said they are working on a relocation plan for the Hacienda residents. They will be meeting on April 14, 2014, with representatives of HUD that will include himself,

Councilmember Booze, Mayor McLaughlin as well as the city manager and Tim Jones. They will get feedback from HUD on how to move forward and also about what they're willing to approve. It will be a good opportunity for them to figure out their strategy in terms of getting HUD to be receptive to their requests and to expedite what needs to be done to take care of the people in public housing. He reported that the banning of the clapping of hands by audience members at council meetings was defeated with a 6 to 1 vote.

B. Report, discussion and action on the joint Celebratory Gunfire Prevention Project

Councilmember Myrick said they had a meeting last week with representatives from the police department to discuss how to move forward on this item and how they can be most effective in the coming months with July 4th approaching soon. He said it was a very productive meeting. They reviewed Shotspotter data. It showed that gunfire had gone down in recent years but still needs to be dealt with. He said that they discussed working with the police department's regulatory unit to encourage liquor stores to distribute flyers with every sale or have a poster placed in the store so that every person that buys alcohol will see this reminder that celebratory gunfire is illegal and that it can hurt people, etc. They are also considering YouTube videos and PSA's and working with young people's organizations like RYSE and Raw Talent.

Commissioner Barquet asked if they considered getting young people from the Ceasefire program involved and making a PSA with ONS. He agreed that that was a good idea.

Commissioner Thompson asked what they are going to do with the director of the Housing Authority. **Councilmember Myrick** said that it's up to the City Manager. He said that it's more important to solve the problem now than figure out who's to blame for the situation. If he was fired, then they would have to find a new Housing Director, which would become the top priority for the Housing Authority. He said that he considers that secondary and that they should solve the problem first.

Commissioner Navarro suggested that they should reach out to a shooting range and allow people to fire their guns on the days that seem to have the most celebratory gunfire. **Councilmember Myrick** agreed that that was a good idea.

Chair Hunziker asked what the age group of the people are that are doing the shooting and how can the RYSE/Raw Talent team create a video that appeals to them if they're buying alcohol; they're obviously older. **Councilmember Myrick** said they are usually in their 30's or a little older. He said it probably wouldn't be to target young people, but they've done this sort of thing before and they can use them as a resource. They also talked about reaching out to the faith community.

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

A. Report of recent crime statistics with monthly/annual comparisons

Chief Magnus said that **Sgt Walle** was with him tonight to help answer questions regarding the use of force policy.

The chief gave an update on crime stats. He had tentative numbers between February and March and year to date for 2013 versus 2014. Violent crime, armed robberies increased 19%, assault with a deadly weapon is down 31%, assault with a firearm is down 27%, attempted homicide is down 100%, attempted robbery down 83%, battery with serious injury down 13%, rape down 40%, strong arm robberies down 26%. Violent crime overall is down 21%. Property crimes, arson is down 42%, auto burglary down 3%, commercial burglaries is down 47%, residential burglaries down 40%, grand theft down 34%, petty theft down 19%, stolen vehicles down 34%. Property crime overall is down 28%. Total for part I crimes is down 27%.

B. Report of recent ShotSpotter statistics with monthly/annual comparisons

Chief Magnus said that shots fired calls are now calculated based on the number of shots fired incidents that dispatch puts out for the month which includes all ShotSpotter calls plus other areas where people called in gunfire. That reflects a decrease year to date of 44% from the same time last year. As the weather gets warmer, the amount of gunfire in the city increases.

C. Report of the year-to-date number of excessive force investigations conducted by Professional Standards

Chair Hunziker said he asked the chief about this via e-mail because he was curious how it would compare to the number of excessive force complaints that the police commission receives. He said that the numbers are pretty closely aligned. In all of 2013 the Professional Standards Unit received a total of 4 excessive force complaints and only one so far in 2014.

D. Report of other recent activities, events, incidents, and related matters

The chief reported that they are continuing to work on prostitution on 23rd Street and Ohio. They're continuing to do undercover operations working with other jurisdictions in regards to human trafficking. The chief said that he, **Capt. French, Bill Lindsay, Commissioner Navarro** and several other people had a good walk on 23rd Street this past Saturday to meet with several business owners. He said that people have noticed that progress is being made in this area. **Chief Magnus** said that he was invited to be on a panel in New York on policing in communities of color. It does highlight that Richmond is getting a very good reputation around the country for how they are dealing with a diverse community and how they can lower crime without resorting to policing tactics that are more akin to being an occupying force than to being a partner with residents and neighborhoods. He thinks that this compliments officers and supervisors in the community and that they are continuing to make good progress in addressing violent crime but doing it in a way that focuses on the right people and dealing with them in a professional and respectful way. He thinks that's why they've had a relatively small number of use of force complaints. He said that there was a good article in the San Francisco Chronicle that focused on two of their officers, Off. Ruffin and Off. Cortez, who, along with other officers in the department, get the idea of full service policing. The chief said in regards to Ceasefire, they will be working with federal probation people to do some one on one visits with individuals who are on federal probation and back in the community.

There are some people coming from Vallejo to see Richmond's model to see if it can work for them. Oakland is also interested in what Richmond is doing to address crime. They had a visit with a contingency from Washington that are evaluating Contra Costa County, specifically Richmond, Concord, and Brentwood for a pilot project involving reducing domestic violence related homicides. They will then decide which six counties around the country make it into the final six for this project. The chief also reported that the new chief of police for San Pablo is Lisa Rosales who comes from Pasadena.

Commissioner Bautista asked if RPD would be participating in Cinco de Mayo. The chief said yes. The parade is on Saturday 5/3/14, and the festival is on Sunday, 5/4/14. The police department will be helping in all the logistics associated with the parade as well as keeping the street closed throughout the weekend. They will also be part of the festival on Sunday. He reported that the City of Richmond spends, in terms of police, fire and public works services, about \$50,000 on each event in the city. He said these events are wonderful to be a part of and they're good for the community but it does come out of the police department budget and sometimes people wonder where they are spending their money. He would like to see the events budgeted for in a different way so that there would be a little more honest communication in the city about how much all of these events really cost.

Commissioner Velazquez said that someone recently tried to break into her house. She called 911 and the officers that responded did an excellent job and she was very thankful. The chief said he appreciates that.

Commissioner Barquet said that she's lived in Richmond three different times in her life and she has noticed that crime has gone down. She said that she finds the chief to be a very strong leader yet very compassionate. **Chief Magnus** thanked her and said he does his best to set a tone and expectation for what he wants but the heavy lifting is done by the officers. He appreciates her noticing.

Commissioner Navarro said that the walk on 23rd Street was very successful. Business owners liked getting information that they can pass on to their customers. **Chief Magnus** thanked him for setting this up.

Chair Hunziker asked if RPD could take on doing Coffee with a Cop events. The chief said he is very open to it. **Sgt. Walle** said they will be doing it; he will let the commission know when they choose the date.

V POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICIES, PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES REVIEW

- A. Discussion and action regarding RPD policies 300 Use of Force and 1050 Nepotism and Conflicting Relationships

Sgt. Walle said that he is the use of force instructor that teaches defensive tactics for the department. He also manages the taser program. He said he was here to answer any questions they may have about Policy 300.

Chair Hunziker said that he and **Commissioner Gillespie and Stephenson** reviewed the policy and did their best to streamline it and remove any contradictory sentences.

Commissioner Gillespie said they tried to make it easy to read and easy to understand. They were concerned about stepping in front of a vehicle where it might create a deadly force situation where none existed before. They are trying to make it so it is not so restrictive and allows for flexibility.

Commissioner Barquet said she appreciated the policy committee reviewing this policy. She asked about civilians using tasers. **Sgt. Walle** said that civilian tasers have a 30 second cycle; they're intended for you to get away. If you are assaulted, you would deploy your taser and drop it and it would give you 30 seconds to get away. As long as you file a police report, your taser will be replaced. They are expensive. **Sgt. Walle** said that the commission is invited to come and watch their annual taser training. He will let them know of the date.

Commissioner Gillespie made a motion to approve the revisions on Policy 300 and forward it to the chief for his consideration. It was seconded by **Commissioner Roberson**. All were in favor.

Commissioner Gillespie made a motion that the commission take no action on Policy 1050 and instead refer it to the city manager as a personnel matter. It was seconded by **Commissioner Roberson**. All were in favor.

VI PUBLIC FORUM

Cordell Hendler said he was concerned that vendors in front of Nichol Park are selling food without permits. He said it is a health violation as well as a safety violation. He is also concerned that there is graffiti inside the bathrooms near the baseball fields and that people are selling drugs in the park after it closes. He recommends that they get a security system in the park so that it will be safe for kids and everyone else.

VII POLICE COMMISSION CONTINUING EDUCATION

- A. Discussion of planned or proposed educational and training opportunities for members of the Police Commission

No discussion on this item.

VIII POLICE COMMISSION OUTREACH

- A. Discussion and action on planned or proposed outreach projects to educate the community about the Police Commission

Chair Hunziker asked for volunteers to work at the Cinco de Mayo festival on 5/4/14. **Commissioners Navarro, Barquet, Roberson and Chair Hunziker** volunteered. **Commissioner Barquet** said that she will bring books for the kids.

Commissioner Navarro suggested doing Coffee with a Cop on 23rd Street. **Chair Hunziker** said he'd like to table this for the next meeting.

Chair Hunziker said that the police commission will bring their own tent to the Juneteenth celebration. **Commissioner Barquet** said she has books for this event also.

IX POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS

- A. Discussion of planned or proposed outreach projects to strengthen partnerships between the community and the Police Department

No discussion on this item.

X DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Chair Hunziker nominated **Scott Gillespie** for chair. He accepted the nomination. **Commissioner Thompson** nominated **Felix Hunziker** for chair. He declined. **Commissioner Navarro** nominated **Eleanor Thompson** for chair. She declined. All were in favor of **Scott Gillespie** for chair.

Commissioner Bautista nominated **Therese Barquet** for vice chair. She accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. All were in favor of **Therese Barquet** for vice chair.

XI REPORTS BY:

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

Chair Hunziker

- Thanked the commission. He enjoyed being chair for the past year.

Commissioner Roberson

- Attended foster care event put on by Youth Division of RPD
- Helping out at RPAL reception desk
- Attended 4 Richmond meeting
- Attended Council of Industry meeting
- Attended city council meetings

Commissioner Bautista

- Attended Celebratory Gunfire Reduction meeting

Commissioner Navarro

- Attended walk on 23rd Street

Commissioner Barquet

- Attended a quilting festival

Commissioner Thompson

- Attended council meetings
- Attended parks and recreation commission meeting

XII ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Felix Hunziker, Chair