

RICHMOND POLICE COMMISSION

Wednesday, April 5, 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
Susan H. Geick
Dolores Hembree
Glenn Stephenson
Cora J. Ward
Naomi Williams

Absent: Emile de Vera

Vacancies: Two

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

II APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 1, 2006

Upon motion by **Commissioner Geick** and second by **Commissioner Hembree** the minutes for the regular meeting of March 1, 2006, were approved as written.

Chair Martinez introduced and welcomed the newest appointed Police Commissioner, Glenn Stephenson.

III REPORT BY CHIEF OF POLICE (or his representative)

Chief Magnus distributed copies of the department's new organizational chart, ideas regarding neighborhood-based policing and a list of services for the Spanish speaking community. He said the focus of the department, starting in May, is to build stronger relationships within the community by dividing the City into three sectors: the north, the south and the central sector. One captain, 2 lieutenants, 3 sergeants and several officers

will be assigned to each sector. There will also be two new deputy chief positions beginning in May; one will oversee Field Services and the other will oversee Support Services. The Chief said that in order to serve the Spanish speaking community they have made most of their forms available in Spanish. They have hired several bilingual officers and have Spanish speaking personnel assigned to all primary public contact points within the department. The Tip Line now has instructions for Spanish speaking callers. The Chief said they took part in the City Job Fair and it was very successful. He also reported on the departments strategies for the upcoming Cinco de Mayo celebration. They have been working with San Pablo and members of the community and trying to be part of a proactive process to plan family oriented events on Saturday and Sunday. He said he was open to any ideas the commissioners may have.

Commissioner Williams said that in the past, the Commission was invited to take part in the preplanning meetings along with members of the business community. She said that they helped develop the department's Crowd Control Manual which states there would be no dogs used to control the crowd. She said they were also invited to ride along with some of the officers. Chief Magnus said that the commissioners are welcome to help in a monitoring role if they would like to. He said they will have another pre-plan meeting next week. He will contact Commissioner Williams when he gets the details.

Commissioner Hembree said that maybe some of the businesses on 23rd Street that sell alcohol would cooperate by closing early or for a couple hours.; that may cut down on some of the problems.

Commissioner Geick asked how soon they would start monitoring the area on Friday night. Chief Magnus said it would start between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m.

Lt. Anthony Williams came to speak to the Commission regarding recruiting for the department. He said they went to the job fair that was held at the convention center recently. A lot of people stopped by and were interested in seeing what they had to offer. He said that Chief Magnus has come up with some other good ideas in their recruiting efforts in trying to hire people from this area. They are looking into faith based organizations, schools, businesses and trying to recruit people that have the right character to be police officers. They are also going to local colleges and schools to recruit for police cadets.

Commissioner Williams asked if the Commissioners will take part in the oral boards for new police officers. Lt. Williams said they are looking into expanding their board and getting members of the community involved.

Phil Mehas asked what kind of enticements Richmond is offering in their recruiting process. Lt. Williams said Chief Magnus has been talking to the City Manager and City Council regarding this issue. They're looking into silent seconds on homes purchased in

Richmond, increasing the amount of equipment and training and also a larger salary in their efforts to become more competitive.

IV REPORT BY POLICE OFFICER ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

Sgt. Monahan reported that they recently donated approximately \$1,600.00 to various organizations throughout the city. He said the new chief is constantly making changes to the organization which affects their members. In the past the POA has, at times, resisted change and they want the public and the Commission to know that in this particular case, they haven't seen any problems with the changes. So far, they've been very supportive of the changes that he's made as well as some of the policy changes that are being implemented.

V REPORT BY GUARDIANS OF JUSTICE REPRESENTATIVE

Off. Rudy Bridgeman said that last month their vice president, Darrell Jones, was nominated as Officer of the Year. This month, approximately 14 of their members will attend the Black Police Officers' Western Regional Conference in Phoenix.

VI REPORT BY LATINO POLICE OFFICER ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

Sgt. Monahan reported for the LPOA. They had their annual crab feed last month and it was a big success.

Commissioner Geick said she noticed on the organizational chart that the Chief handed out there was one Forensic Specialist under Robbery/Homicide. She asked what kind of training that person has had. Sgt. Monahan said that would be Jeff Solers, their senior CSI. He has been to many schools but he doesn't know what kind of specific training he has had. Commissioner Geick suggested that he or another CSI give a presentation to the Police Commission on this subject.

VII PRESENTATION BY LT. JOE DECOSTA FROM CCC ANIMAL SERVICES

Lt. Joe DeCosta has been with CCC Animal Services for 20 years. He has just been assigned as the West County Area Commander. He is currently giving training to the officers in Advanced Officer's School. The training gives an awareness of situations involving dogs and to give officers some options and some additional tools they may be able to use while performing their duties. The training deals with the new county ordinance as it pertains to animals. There is a clause that requires ex-felons to get a permit. If they get complaints about an ex-felon with an aggressive dog there is a hearing procedure that they can implement to seize the animal and the owner will have to obtain a permit to maintain the animal. There's also been a change in the law relative to how aggressive animals are treated. If there is prior knowledge that a dog has a propensity to

cause injury and the owner doesn't take the reasonable action that a normal citizen would take, it can be construed as a misdemeanor or felony if they are convicted in court. They have suggested that Richmond officers use the pepper spray that Animal Services is using because it is significantly stronger than the spray they are currently using. Animal Service officers also carry an expandable, collapsible baton that gives them the option to wear it on their belt. Another thing they discuss in the training session is the use of force and some additional options that they can use. He said he appreciates that several of the members have attended the training and that Al Martinez has done a great job in putting the training together.

Commissioner Williams said she attended one of the trainings and she was very impressed with the options that Lt. DeCosta gave the officers. Lt. DeCosta said they are all optional but something that they may want to have available.

Commissioner Geick asked if there was any way of impressing on people that it's not a good idea to let their animals roam freely through a neighborhood. Lt. DeCosta said he will pass out his card before he leaves. They have been trying to get into more policing as it relates to animals. If anyone is having a particular problem, just give him a call. He said they'll do whatever it takes to get together to coordinate a problem and a solution.

Commissioner Hembree asked Lt. DeCosta to explain the new decal that they now have. He said that if they've investigated an aggressive dog complaint, they give decals to the responsible owner to put in their window. This notifies everyone that there is an aggressive animal on the property.

VIII COMMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE

None.

IX REPORT BY CONFIDENTIAL IAO

CIAO Casimere said he gave a presentation to the Law and Justice Committee at the Contra Costa Grand Jury on 3/15/06. They were interested in asking questions about the workings of the Commission and its operations. He briefed them about what the Commission can and cannot do, what its authority is, and how complaints are investigated. He said that representatives of that same body interviewed the police chief as well, about the workings of the Police Commission. Mr. Casimere distributed the final copy of the Confidentiality Statement from the City Attorney's office. He said that he attended the Officer and Firefighter of the Year Awards Dinner. He thanked the other Commissioners that attended the dinner.

X REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. West Contra Costa Alcohol Policy Working Group

Commissioner Williams said she wasn't able to attend the last meeting because she was appointed by the Human Resources Department to take part in the firefighter oral board. She did hear reports that it was a good meeting.

B. Church Outreach Committee

Chair Martinez invited the Commissioners to attend the presentation that he will be giving at Bethel Temple Church at 3429 Cutting Blvd. on Sunday, April 9, 2006 at 12:00 noon.

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

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

There were two new complaints received in the past month.

XII REPORTS BY COMMISSIONERS/FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Williams

- Took part in the firefighter oral board.
- She represented the Police Commission and RNCC at a developers meeting at the library where she informed new citizens of Richmond about the services available to them.
- Attended Officer and Firefighter of the Year Dinner

Commissioner Ward

- She and Commissioner Hembree attended the Women's History Program Celebration at Contra Costa College where Commissioner Williams was given an award for her civic volunteerism.
- Attended Officer and Firefighter of the Year Dinner

Commissioner Hembree

- Attended the Advanced Officer Training on 3/8/06
- Attended Women's History Program Celebration at Contra Costa College on 3/11/06.
- Attended Officer and Firefighter of the Year Dinner

Commissioner Geick

- Attended Alcohol and Other Drugs Board Meeting at the Neighborhood House of North Richmond. A tour of the facility was given and they will soon be opening a women's wing.

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XIII ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by **Commissioner Hembree** and second by **Commissioner Williams**, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Don Casimere
Confidential Investigative & Appeals Officer