

RICHMOND POLICE COMMISSION

Wednesday, January 3, 2007 – 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 Naomi Williams

ROLL CALL

Present: Dolores Hembree
Cochise Potts
Glenn Stephenson
Chris Tallerico
Cora J. Ward
Naomi Williams
Don Zingale

Absent: None

Vacancies: Two

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

II APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 1, 2006

Upon motion by **Commissioner Ward** and second by **Commissioner Stephenson** the minutes for the regular meeting of November 1, 2006, were approved with one revision.

III REPORT BY CHIEF OF POLICE (or his representative)

Chief Magnus said they have new crime control plans for the new year. He invited the commissioners to attend the Public Safety Committee meeting on 1/18/07 at 9:30 a.m. where he and Capt. Alec Griffin will be presenting their strategy on crime reduction. They will have new information regarding COMPSTAT. He said they could possibly use COMPSTAT as a topic at a future Police Commission meeting if the commissioners were interested. There will eventually be a version of COMPSTAT on the website for the community to view. They will also be talking about focusing their crime fighting efforts around key locations where they've had return calls and ongoing complaints, and also around key individuals who are repeat offenders. Chief Magnus said he will give an update of where they are with cameras and closed circuit TVs. They have an RFP out

that is due this month. There are also plans to utilize outside help such as CHP and other law enforcement agencies in dealing with key areas. They will also strengthen the Neighborhood Watch program and fill a Crime Prevention Project Manager position with a civilian employee.

Chief Magnus distributed a booklet called Partnering with the Community that addresses many neighborhood concerns in the City. He also reported that they will soon have a dispatch phone tree. There are a limited number of dispatchers and several of the calls they answer are transferred to other extensions somewhere in the department. He said this will give people better service instead of being put on hold for an extended period of time. Chief Magnus asked the chair to designate a commissioner to work with them on revising the department's sick leave policy. He said having a representative from the Commission would be very helpful. Chief Magnus handed out an updated District Contact List that will be effective on 1/28/07.

Commissioner Tallerico congratulated the Chief and the department on raising the homicide closing rate to 50%. He asked the Chief to comment on bringing in outside agencies such as the CHP as opposed to using specialized units from RPD. Chief Magnus said sometime in the future they hope to have a street team that they can use. They are not currently in the position, from a staffing standpoint, to have a baseline level of coverage in each of the nine beats and have street teams also. CHP has been used in Richmond before. He said they would like to use them in a strategic way on a timetable that's not just crisis driven and include them in meetings and work cohesively with them. Chief Magnus said as far as the homicide rate, he sees it as a community accomplishment. Citizens are now beginning to come forward and give information. In the past they had been reluctant to do this and he believes it is due to changing dynamics in many neighborhoods. He said another reason is that they have a good group of investigators who have been working very hard and deserve a lot of the credit. He also mentioned that they will start their recruiting campaign next month. They have been working with a recruiter that has ideas that will specifically meet Richmond's needs.

Vice Chair Hembree asked if the Chief had seen an improvement in the cooperation between Richmond, El Cerrito and San Pablo since he's been here. Chief Magnus said those agencies struggle with many of the same things that Richmond does. He has been impressed with the other chiefs and their willingness to work with him on a lot of issues.

Commissioner Potts asked if the monitoring of the cameras was going to be done by the police department or contracted out. Chief Magnus said it will probably be a combination of both as well as some volunteers.

Commissioner Stephenson said in regards to focusing on repeaters to reduce crime, this has been tried for years and nothing changes. He asked the chief if he had some different ideas. Chief Magnus said they would need to be creative about what kind of interventions they could use with different individuals. They have a new Field Interrogation card where information about each contact comes in and gets back out to the people that need to use it. They want to work with the City Attorney to focus on

some creative civil processes that are being used in other cities to target individuals that are chronic problems. He said he would be happy to give updates on how it's going.

Chair Williams welcomed Councilmember Marquez to the meeting. **Councilmember Marquez** stated that he came here to visit and listen to the concerns of the community. He said as Chair of the Public Safety Committee, it is helpful to hear reports such as the Chief's report and the questions that are being asked. He said it is important for all of us to be cognitive of the concerns of the community and what the City is doing to alleviate some of the concerns that have been expressed.

IV RPD/WCCUSD TRAINING DAY

Commissioner Tallerico inquired as to when it is appropriate for the Police Department to invite the Police Commission to oversee special training and events that RPD has such as the SWAT Training/Drill at Richmond High School and the Truancy Sweep that took place in October 2006. **Chief Magnus** said it is important to have the Police Commission's oversight on these things. They will try to give the Commission advance notice when these types of events take place so that they can be part of it.

V REPORT BY POLICE OFFICER ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

Det. Kevin Martin reported that the POA has set up a college scholarship fund in the name of Off. Kaliah Harper. There will be several fund raisers in the future for this scholarship. The first year will be earmarked for Off. Harper's sister.

VI REPORT BY GUARDIANS OF JUSTICE REPRESENTATIVE

Sgt. Jim Jenkins reported that he is the 2007 president of the GOJ. All of the board members could not attend the meeting but Secretary Michelle Arriaga and Member at Large Saeda Lars were present. There will be fund raising events planned throughout the year. Sgt. Jenkins distributed copies of discs from the POST Workbooks that they talked about at the orientation. Also attached is a folder on Law Enforcement Ethical Behavior. He also handed out contact information for the 2007 Board of Directors.

Commissioner Tallerico said he looked at the GOJ website and was happy to see the video clip of Off. Vinson on Channel 5.

Sgt. Jenkins said that Off. Delon Jackson is hosting a Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, January 6, 2007, at Hilltop Community Church at 8:00 a.m.

VII REPORT BY LATINO POLICE OFFICER ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

Sgt. Rafael Samayoa reported that he is the 2007 president for the LPOA. He said they did their 3rd annual Christmas gift handout on 12/19/06. They also adopted four needy families including 13 children. Counselors from Social Services as well as some business owners from 23rd Street also donated money and items to assist these families. Sgt. Samayoa said they will be having their annual crab feed on 3/10/07. It will be at the El

Sobrante Boys & Girls Club. It benefits the Leonard Garcia and David Haynes Scholarship programs.

VIII BRIEFING ON PAL PROGRAM – OFF. LARRY LEWIS

No report.

IX PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Simms Thompson expressed his concerns about gated communities leaving their gates open and not using their own security services. He said it creates an added burden for the safety net in the City of Richmond. He feels that the Commission should check out some of these unsafe conditions and help support the Police Department.

X REPORT BY CONFIDENTIAL IAO

CIAO Casimere said he attended the service and wake for Off. Harper. On 12/9/06 he attended the Parchester Village Neighborhood Council Meeting. He was impressed with the staff and the members of the community. He said the center is a beacon for that community. On 12/15/06, he met with the NAACP President, Ken Nelson and talked about issues related to police accountability. He encouraged everyone to attend the Prayer Breakfast on 1/6/07 and the swearing-in ceremony for Mayor McLaughlin and the re-elected council members on Tuesday, 01/09/06.

Commissioner Tallerico asked if the Commission had received a response from the DA's office regarding their invitation to attend next month's Police Commission Meeting. CIAO Casimere said no; a follow-up letter will be sent out.

XI REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. West County Alcohol Policy Working Group

Commissioner Williams thanked everyone who participated in writing letters to BART. Their participation was enough to stop BART from having advertisements for alcohol in the trains or at the stations. The WCAPWG was also instrumental in helping pass the SB1234 policy for liquor stores. Chair Williams would like to know how many nuisance calls that RPD receives in the next month at the 3717 Wall Street liquor store. She said it needs to be closed down.

Phil Mehas said he appreciates the work Chair Williams did on the alcohol policy for BART and her work in the community. He commented on the Copley decision in San Diego regarding the confidentiality of police officers' records. He said we will be hearing more on that subject. Mr. Mehas said the POA in Los Angeles filed a suit against the City of Los Angeles in attempt to keep the investigative officer out of police officer hearings. Now the investigative officer can no longer attend these hearings because of the confidentiality. He just wanted to make the Commission aware of this.

B. Church Outreach Committee

No report.

C. Neighborhood Council Outreach Committee

It was decided to combine the Church Outreach and the Neighborhood Council Outreach Committees. **Commissioner Ward** requested that a letter go to Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council regarding Police Commission presentations to Neighborhood Councils.

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

A. Discussion and Action Regarding Complaint #04-2006

Upon motion and second, the report and findings of Exonerated for Unnecessary/Excessive Force and Unfounded for Racially Abusive Treatment in RPC #04-2006 were accepted.

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

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

No new complaints this month.

XIII REPORTS BY COMMISSIONERS/FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMISSION

A. Reports on Community Events/Training Attended

Commissioner Stephenson did a ride-along with CHP in Oakland; did Ethics Training online.

Commissioner Ward attended Ethics Training.

Commissioner Tallerico attended Ethics Training; attended funeral of a San Francisco police officer with the Richmond PD Honor Guard; did ride-along with Sgt. Samayoa's team.

Commissioner Zingale did the Ethics Training.

Commissioner Potts attended Foster Training. He will complete it next Saturday and will be working with youth at the Independent Living Skills Program in Martinez.

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Commissioner Hembree said the person in charge of the Communications Center would like to do a special presentation for the Police Commissioners. The Commissioners need to choose a day.

XIV ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by **Commissioner Ward** and second by **Commissioner Potts**, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Don Casimere
Confidential Investigative & Appeals Officer