

**CITIZENS POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION  
(CPRC)**

**Wednesday, January 3, 2018 – 7:00 PM**

**Employment & Training Building**

**330 – 25<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Conference Room 1**

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, PLEDGE**

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m. by **Chair David A. Brown**

**Present:** David Brown, Diego Garcia, Yenny Garcia, Carol Hegstrom, Bea Roberson

**Absent:** Oscar Garcia, Felix Hunziker

**Vacancies:** 2 Vacancies

**Administrative**

**Staff:** Shané Johnson - Present

**Council Liaison:** Jael Myrick, Council Liaison – Present

**City Attorney's**

**Office Representative:** Bruce Soublet, Assistant City Attorney – Present

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes were not available for approval.**

**III. AGENDA REVIEW**

Chair Brown moved agenda item IX-A (Dialogue with Bill Lindsay) to be heard immediately following item IV (Public Forum). No objections were heard.

**IV. PUBLIC FORUM**

**Cordell Hindler** – He would like to see younger people fill the two existing vacancies on the commission because he believes that a younger person could offer a different perspective on community policing that would be valuable.

**Rick Perez** – He referred to an article in the Richmond Confidential and expressed his discontentment with the article's published comments from Officer Ben Therriault regarding the public's satisfaction with the police investigation. Mr. Perez was in

disagreement with the investigation and believes that the CPRC exists so that the truth can be told. Lastly, when speaking about the regard for human life, Mr. Perez referenced a shooting case in Wichita, KS and a domestic violence case in Colorado and communicated his hope that the Richmond Police Department (RPD) employs their specialized training skills before resulting to the use of firearms.

**Patricia Perez** – She intends to be at every CPRC meeting to make a difference until she can no longer physically attend.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Dialogue with City Manager Bill Lindsay regarding consistent staffing** – Chair Brown announced that Shane Johnson was assigned by City Manager Bill Lindsay to be the new staff person to the commission and he raised the question of what kind of consistency the role would provide. Bill Lindsay acknowledged and apologized for the past failings when providing administrative support to the commission, and stated his commitment to do better. Mr. Lindsay informed the commission that Councilmember Myrick had previously placed an item on the City Council's agenda to alert the entire Council to the issue which resulted in the Council's direction to evaluate city-wide commission staffing over the next several months and to provide a specific proposal during mid-year budget review in late January/early February. Bill Lindsay spoke about Ms. Johnson's qualifications and expressed his confidence in her ability to perform the job. Commissioner Bea Roberson inquired about the phone line for CPRC and requested a monthly summary of the calls received. Bill Lindsay reassured the commission that the phone lines would be answered, a log of the received calls would be provided, and CPRC's complaint forms would be kept stocked and continue to be turned into the City Clerk's Office. Chair Brown expressed his satisfaction with Ms. Johnson's communication so far and he reiterated that consistency is most important.

**Cordell Hindler** – Expressed his happiness about the commission being assigned a staff person.

**VI. COMMENTS BY COUNCIL LIAISON Jael Myrick** – The council member apologized for prior failures and for the timeliness in addressing CPRC's staffing issue. He repeated the council's December 19<sup>th</sup> instruction to evaluate commission staffing and to provide a proposal through the budget process. Councilmember Myrick also pointed out that the item was initially placed on the council's agenda with a directive to hire staff, but after speaking with the City Manager, decided that the best approach would be through the annual review process to ensure that the issue is handled in the most responsible way. Commissioner Hegstrom asked questions about the resources allocated for staffing needs and Councilmember Myrick reiterated that the budget process would be the determining factor. Chair Brown summarized his understanding of the City Manager's commitment to making sure the commission is staffed adequately, and he commended Councilmember Myrick on his conveyance of CPRC's concerns to the council about the current staffing issue. Commissioner Y. Garcia requested for Councilmember Myrick to

speaking with the Mayor's office about the review and appointment of commissioners for the vacancies. Commissioner D. Garcia suggested that the Chair and/or Vice-Chair be allowed to participate in the selection of future commissioners to aid in member retention. Councilmember Myrick agreed to speak with Mayor Butt about joint interviews, but pointed out that CPRC has not historically had any problems with keeping commissioners and that joint interviews could mean a significantly longer appointment process.

**Cordell Hindler** – He pointed out that the City has 28 boards and commissions and said that he believes staff support to the commission is important.

- VII. COMMENTS BY CHIEF OF POLICE (Allwyn Brown or his designate)** – Reported crime down 9-10% overall throughout 2017; final tabulations for December and for the year are not yet available. Trend offending crimes that carried over from previous years included smash and grab crimes and homicides. There was a significant decrease in the number of homicides declining from 24 in 2016 to 15 in 2017. The decrease was attributed, in part, to RPD's special investigators and FBI Safe Streets Task Force. Three major operations targeting the most violent and most active gang members were also credited for the decline in the homicide rate for 2017. There was a decrease in the number of calls received concerning gunfire during New Year's Eve in 2017 compared to 2016. Police Chief Brown noted an example of RPD's success with stopping such gunfire and announced the start of a plan to reengineer their approach to prevent the same gunfire on the upcoming July 2018 holiday. Chief Brown apologized for miscommunication related to the Open Data terminal; its public launch will happen in mid-January at the latest. Transfers and rotations on assignments will take place during the department's annual transfer day on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Recruiting efforts are ongoing and continuous in an effort to fill 15 vacancies; three new officers were sworn in last week.

Commissioner Y. Garcia inquired about RPD's awareness for racing (side shows) and educational opportunities for the new marijuana law. She suggested that more education is needed for the law and Commissioner D. Garcia suggested the item be discussed with the City Council. Commissioner Y. Garcia also asked if there is an existing report to show the number of officers who take advantage of the city's peer support program. Chief Brown responded by pointing out that the program's anonymity is important and, therefore, is not documented to encourage participation and to prevent stigmas or barriers.

Chair Brown inquired about the seized firearms from New Year's Eve. Chief Allwyn Brown said that the firearms would be returned to lawful owner if stolen, or otherwise be destroyed by court order. Chair Brown also asked if there is an existing policy regarding the storage of firearms in private vehicles. Chief Brown confirmed that there is a written policy in the manual.

Commissioner Roberson inquired about Captain Williams' retirement.

Commissioner D. Garcia referred to last month's shot spotter report and questioned its accuracy. Chief Brown confirmed the accuracy of the report.

Commissioner Hegstrom inquired about the number of hours that RPD officers are allowed to work at one time. Chief Brown responded with 16 hours in a 24 hour period. Commissioner D. Garcia asked for the police chief to provide more information at the next meeting.

**VIII. REPORTS BY RICHMOND POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION (Ben Therriault)** – The Richmond Police and Fire toy program was successful with 714 families served. Food and toys were provided and approximately 500 families received bicycles thanks to the funds (\$19,700) donated by Rotary. Next year's goal will be to meet a 1:1 ratio. Donations were received from many including Rotary, Chevron, Costco, Marriott, Rich City Rides, and Mechanics Bank. Det. Therriault mentioned that staffing is a big concern for RPOA and continues to be a challenge while trying to meet all levels of service with fewer resources.

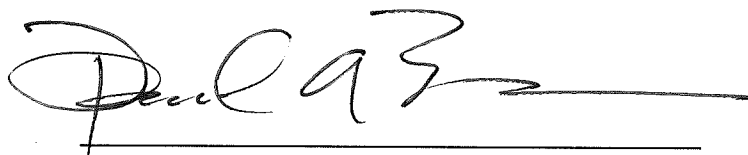
**IX. OLD BUSINESS, DISCUSSION ITEMS** – None

**VII. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS, CIAO AND STAFF**

- Commission Y. Garcia – Volunteered to help with bagging groceries for last month's toy program. Will also attend the Sisters of Solidarity event for Women's International Day. She asked the commissioners if they would like a table and will provide more detailed information.
- Commissioner Roberson – Worked lots of hours on the toy program and was instrumental to ensuring its success.
- Chair Brown – Worked intensively on fundraising for the bike and toy program. This year \$14,000 was raised by the community compared to \$8,000 previously. Rotary has contributed over \$60,000 since the program has been in place. He is looking forward to working with the commission's new staff person.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Brown", with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

David A. Brown, Chair