

City of Richmond - Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force
Meeting held via Zoom: https://richmond.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=38

MINUTES
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020, 5:30 PM

**video recording available*

I. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL - AGENDA REVIEW

Meeting called to order by Johann Fragd at 5:30 PM.

PRESENT: Eddy Chacon, Luis Chacon, Don Gosney, Randy Joseph, Kristin Kilian-Lobos, James Lee, Armond Lee, Shirley Leslie, Marcus Njissang, Tania Pulido, Joey Schlemmer, Deborah Small, Nakari Syon, Ben Therriault, David Tucker, Tamisha Walker, Linda Whitmore, BK Williams

ABSENT: DeWanda Joseph, Laura Mangels, Andres Soto

Agenda Items VI-2 and VI-3 were moved before VI-1.

II. MEETING PROCEDURES

III. APPROVE OCTOBER 28, 2020 MINUTES

Task force members requested the following revisions for the October 28, 2020 minutes: mark James Lee as present; identify individuals motioning and seconding each motion; note whether responses were provided to questions asked during the meeting.

Staff to make the requested revisions to the October 28, 2020 minutes and present to task force members at the December 9, 2020 task force meeting for approval.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Yenny Garcia asked all task force members, and City Council, to have an open heart and mind to everyone's experiences, and urged everyone to work together.

V. STAFF REPORTS

1. Johann Fragd, Staff Liaison - oral report
2. Timothy Simmons, Richmond Police Department - oral report
 - a. Marcus Njissang asked about the process for the release of information related to SB1421 on social media.
 - b. Randy Joseph asked if there is a way to get information faster.
 - c. Deborah Small asked from where federal grant money awarded to the police department comes and for the racial and income breakdown of people who have their assets seized.
 - d. Don Gosney commented on the transparency of information provided to task force members.
 - e. Eddy Chacon asked about the timeline and budget breakdown for the funding the department received for personal protective equipment.
 - f. Michelle Milam suggested allocating time during meetings for follow up Q&As, and suggested that task force members provide timelines for when answers are needed to each question. Suggested development of internal procedures for follow up items.
 - g. *Staff to follow up and provide further information, via e-mail or staff report at next meeting, on the racial and income breakdown of people who have their assets seized. Staff responded to all other items not noted for follow up.*

VI. PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSIONS, & ACTION ITEMS

1. Discussion of timeline
 - a. Member Comment
 - Joey Schlemmer suggested a presentation by the County Mental Health Evaluation Team (MHET) and/or any Richmond Police Department staff who work with MHET; suggested

- a presentation by Michelle Milam on homelessness.
 - Linda Whitmore requested information and statistics on the impacts of School Resource Officers (SROs) removed from schools. Don Gosney and Joey Schlemmer commented on SROs being a City and/or school district issue.
 - Ben Therriault suggested coordination with the Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council.
 - Michelle Milam recommended bringing in partners like the County Homeless Director, Director of Behavioral Health, school district, Department of Children and Youth to present at future meetings.
 - Luis Chacon asked when budget presentations start and whether May and June is too late for budget presentations.
 - Linda Whitmore asked if the new City Councilmembers can be introduced to the task force before they are sworn in.
 - Tania Pulido recommended creating scopes for each subcommittee and offered to volunteer to help create the scopes.
- b. *Staff to follow up and provide further information, via e-mail or staff report at next meeting, on the following items: when budget presentations begin; introductions to new City Councilmembers.*
2. Discussion of priority subject areas of work
- a. Member Comment
- Randy Joseph, David Tucker, Joey Schlemmer, Don Gosney, BK Williams, Kristin Kilian-Lobos provided recommendations for priority areas of work that included: current and suggested budget; mental health; budget (re)allocation; homelessness; community involvement of City services; use of non-uniformed police officers for certain issues; substance abuse;
 - Marcus Njissang asked if there is a mobile response team for mental health.
 - Luis Chacon suggested subtopics: youth; immigration; physical, mental, and emotional health; re-entry, diversion, and prevention; joblessness, living wage, and poverty; crime prevention; homelessness prevention.
 - Timothy Simmons commented that public safety is very broad and should be looked at from a standpoint of fire services as well.
 - Don Gosney commented that subcommittees may result in task force members being left out due to scheduling conflicts.
 - Randy Joseph suggested beginning the process of the subcommittee groups to focus discussions.
- b. Public Comment
- Helene Burkes commented that there is going to have to be outside work done, and it will be important to have transparency for this work. Individual issues such as the school district will derail the focus of the group.
 - Jan Mignone, president of the Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council (RNCC), would like for the RNCC to assist the task force, and suggested formation of subcommittees for the work to move forward in a timely manner.
3. Presentation by Richmond Reimagining Public Safety Working Group
- a. Member Comment
- Don Gosney and Linda Whitmore requested the presentation file to be shared with members; Linda Whitmore requested time at the next task force meeting for follow up questions.
 - Don Gosney, Joey Schlemmer, Randy Joseph, and Ben Therriault discussed liability for the proposed program.
 - Ben Therriault noted that county and state laws often supersede local laws, and the City needs to work in partnership with the County.
 - BK Williams asked if any of the model cities are similar in size to Richmond, how much does it cost to arrest a person, and whether this cost has been factored into the models.
 - Deborah Small commented that we need to take a public health approach, which means inherently rebalancing the budget.

- Ben Therriault and Helene Burks discussed police staff reductions, budget cuts, and victims of crime.
 - Joey Schlemmer asked how the \$5-14 million dollar figure in the Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS) statistics was tabulated.
 - Armond Lee suggested that members think about crime from a sociological perspective.
 - Timothy Simmons commented that the Chief of Police has given the directive for the Community Police Review Commission (CPRC) is involved in the hiring process. Also commented that there are currently penalties for officers when they turn off body cameras, and that under no circumstances are officers hired if they were fired for use of excessive force.
 - Michelle Milam commented that there is some ongoing work of the Police Department that overlaps and aligns with the presentation.
- b. Public Comment
- Sadie Guthrie hopes to see the task force imagine big things and go beyond the limited narrative that is being seen in the media.
 - Yenny Garcia asks task force members to keep an open mind and be understanding of each other.
- c. *Followup items for the presenters include: liability for the proposed programs in the presentation; if any of the model cities are similar in size to Richmond; cost to arrest a person; and whether cost to arrest a person has been factored into the models; source/explanation of the \$5-14 million dollar figure in the ONS statistics.*

VII. MEMBER COMMENTS

1. Don Gosney asked about public comment, requested archivable videos of the task force meeting, and asked for clarity in e-mails sent from staff.
2. Luis Chacon asked that all participants center the humanity of community members they are serving.
3. Tamisha Walker commented that the work of Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS) is more than just sitting in an office. ONS puts their lives on the lines to reduce violence in Richmond. They do it holistically, and their budget is under threat constantly. Violence was the lowest when police worked with the community, and that is not currently happening. Thanked Johann and other City staff who are supporting the task force.
4. Deborah Small noted an initiative that passed in Oregon that decriminalized possession of all drugs and comments that locally, we have the ability to deprioritize arrests for drugs.

VIII. ACTION ITEM RECAP & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Staff to follow up on items listed in V-2-g and VI-1-b.
2. Develop, send, and tabulate results of a questionnaire for members regarding priority areas, sub-working groups, and scheduling.
3. Begin coordinating presentations on the following topics at dates to be determined: homelessness (Richmond Police Department and Contra Costa County Healthy); mental and behavioral health (Contra Costa County Health); Richmond Police Department budgeting; removal of SROs (WCCUSD).
4. Presentation from Community Police Review Commission in December.
5. Agenda item follow up to the Richmond Reimagining Public Safety Working Group (RRPSWG).
6. Send copy of RRPSWG presentation to members and post on the website.
7. Agenda item for reports from Interdepartmental Team, rather than staff reports.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion at 7:10 pm to extend the meeting to 7:45 pm by Randy Joseph; seconded by Don Gosney; approved.
Motion at 7:45 pm to extend the meeting by 30 minutes by Randy Joseph; seconded by Joey Schlemmer; approved.

Meeting was adjourned by Johann Fragd at 8:25 PM.

X. SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Reimagining Public Safety Task Force Meeting - Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 5:30 pm via Zoom.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie Ny, Associate Administrative Analyst