

City of Richmond - Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force

Meeting held via Zoom: https://richmond.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=38

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021, 5:30 PM

**video recording available*

I. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL - AGENDA REVIEW

Meeting called to order by Johann Fragd at 5:33 PM.

PRESENT: E. Chacon, L. Chacon, Gosney, R. Joseph, Kilian-Lobos, A. Lee, Leslie, Mangels, Njissang, Pulido, Schlemmer, Small, Soto, Therriault, Tucker, Walker, Whitmore, Williams

ABSENT: D. Joseph, J. Lee, Syon

II. MEETING PROCEDURES

III. APPROVE DECEMBER 3, 2020 AND DECEMBER 9, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve the December 3, 2020 minutes by Small; seconded by R. Joseph; approved by the following vote:

Ayes: E. Chacon, L. Chacon, R. Joseph, Kilian-Lobos, Leslie, Mangels, Njissang, Pulido, Schlemmer, Small, Soto, Tucker, Whitmore, Williams

Noes: Gosney

Abstain: A. Lee, Therriault

Absent: D. Joseph, J. Lee, Syon, Walker

Motion to approve the December 9, 2020 minutes by R. Joseph; seconded by Whitmore; approved by the following vote:

Ayes: E. Chacon, L. Chacon, R. Joseph, Kilian-Lobos, Leslie, Mangels, Njissang, Pulido, Small, Tucker, Whitmore

Noes: Gosney

Abstain: A. Lee, Soto, Schlemmer, Therriault, Williams

Absent: D. Joseph, J. Lee, Syon, Walker

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Yenny Garcia commented that now in 2021, the Community Police Review Commission (CPRC) has the ability to look up footage on cases they are investigating. This shows great effort from the Richmond Police Department (RPD) and the commission for the transparency the community is looking for. It was important for a recent case that they were investigating. Yenny thanked the RPD for working with the commission to make it happen, so that they can better serve the community.
2. Jan Mignone is the president of the North & East Neighborhood Council and has lived in Richmond all her life. Jan commented that she has been talking to neighbors on her block, where there is a fair amount of single women. Jan and neighbors discussed that the police force is currently 25% less than what it has been and that they are not receiving the services that residents expect and deserve. The people Jan is talking with are in many cases senior citizens who pay taxes, and they want to know that when they need to see the police, they will see the police. Everyone who lives in Richmond who pays taxes would like to see that their money is being spent well.

3. Sarah Cantor wanted to alert the task force members about the sweeps that are happening on the encampments of the unhoused folks in Richmond. Sarah encouraged the task force to look into it as part of the task of reimagining public safety, and also wanted to ask RPD to speak to their part in what is happening and what RPD's relationship is with CalTrans.

V. STAFF REPORTS

1. Staff report provided by Johann Fragd regarding the facilitator for the Community Round Table Conversations (Round Table). The City will no longer be contracting an outside facilitator for the Round Tables. Two members from the task force are needed to help facilitate each Round Table, and only a few spots have been filled.
 - a. Gosney asked why the City will no longer be contracting an outside facilitator. Staff noted that it was due to the funding source and issues of conflict of interest.
 - b. Small asked if there will be an interpreter for the Round Tables. Staff responded that there will be a Spanish language interpreter.
 - c. Williams noted that a chair would successfully be able to help facilitate the Round Tables, and that a chair would be beneficial to the group. Mangels agreed.
 - d. Kilian-Lobos asked if panelists for the January Round Table have been contacted and booked. Staff noted that the Round Table is more of a community conversation than a panel, and that service providers are being contacted to partake in the conversation.
 - e. Small and Kilian-Lobos volunteered to co-facilitate the January Round Table.
 - f. E. Chacon volunteered to co-facilitate the March Round Table.
 - g. L. Chacon and Williams volunteered to co-facilitate the February Round Table.
2. Fragd also announced that Sal Vaca, Community Services Director, is retiring.

VI. PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSIONS, & ACTION ITEMS

1. [Presentation by Richmond Police Department \(RPD\)](#) - French, Tirona, Walle, Simmons, and Milam
 - a. Member Comment
 - Gosney asked why the mission statement does not include solving crime. French responded that RPD does not follow up on every report that is made due to staffing; however, if there is information that can be followed up on then they will try to solve that crime and hold somebody accountable.
 - Gosney asked about the swing shift team; commented that if a lot of crime takes place during swing shift hours and on weekends and there is minimized police force during that time, it seems counterproductive. French clarified that RPD added a swing shift team, as they did not have one last year.
 - Gosney asked about noise complaints regarding businesses being handled by Code Enforcement - for instance, if a noise complaint about a nightclub is made on the weekend, is it not addressed by Code Enforcement until Monday morning? French responded that RPD will still respond to those complaints after hours but refer them to Code Enforcement. French noted that Code Enforcement has the ability to do a bit more than RPD can; RPD can issue a citation but Code Enforcement can revoke permits.
 - Gosney asked what a civil standby is. French responded that a civil standby is when presence is requested during certain occasions, such as during a child custody exchange, to ensure arguments or fights do not occur between parties.

- Gosney asked what is an SOS? French responded that SOS is a non-profit organization with which RPD has been partnering.
- Njissang asked for an update on the Safe Park program. Milam responded that they are preparing a ranked list of all potential public and private sites for City Council and will seek direction from City Council on next steps. It will go to City Council on January 26.
- Njissang asked about a coordinated entry system in the City. Milam responded that homeless services are coordinated with the County because Richmond's population is under 300,000.
- Kilian-Lobos asked Chief French how the reforms have been received by RPD. French responded that the reforms have been well received by the community and by staff.
- Williams asked if the officers who are not new, and officers who work the night shift, are included in the Cultural Competency Training? Milam responded that the training is currently for newer officers, and there is discussion and capacity to expand it to others.
- Williams asked why not make the Community Violence Reduction program an ongoing program rather than a project if it actually had good results? French responded that RPD would like to continue the program, but there is currently no staff for it.
- Small wanted to acknowledge that there are two black women from the community in the police force - one who is the Police Chief and who conducts community relations - because that was not something available when she was younger. Small asked if French and Milam would like to do a program for students for Black History Month. French and Milam expressed interest in participating.
- R. Joseph asked what percentage of calls were service reductions taking up before RPD decided to implement the service reductions. French replied that the percentages are not immediately available but she could obtain that information.
- R. Joseph asked what percentage of the RPD budget is spent on salaries. French replied that a little over 80% is spent on salaries and benefits.
- Soto asked if RPD publishes the demographics on checkpoint arrests and stops. French replied that that information is not published. Soto asked why that information is not published, and French responded that there is not particular reason why.
- Soto asked for the description of the gun tracing activity. Simmons described gun tracing by serial numbers and gun tracing through the NIBEN (National Integrated Ballistic Information Network) system.
- Soto asked how many personnel are getting bilingual pay differential and what languages are represented within that. French replied that this information is available and Simmons would provide it at the next meeting.
- Soto asked for RPD to share the current reading list, whether there is an incentive for officers who read materials in the list, whether there are standards and accountability measures to determine comprehension of the materials, and whether new officer orientation includes the 60 Minutes piece around the Roman Guillory case. Milam responded that RPD is considering a variety of materials, such as the 60 Minutes piece. Milam noted that officers would have to demonstrate competency in the materials read and that there is not a community reading list, but there is a reading list for promotional opportunities, and chiefs take an active role in selecting the materials.

- Soto asked from what line item in the budget are videos being produced, and whether the budget for the video production comes from the general fund or grant funds. French replied that it comes out of the professional services budget.
- Soto asked if the rape kits tested in Richmond are currently up to date. Simmons replied that they are not all tested yet. There was not enough money in the budget but there is now a grant that pays for that. Kits are sent out on a monthly basis.
- E. Chacon asked why RPD was in Brentwood during a protest if they are short staffed. French and Tirona described RPD's mutual aid agreement with the County.
- Leslie asked how RPD identifies with whom they will engage and establish relationships, and how RPD goes about establishing or reestablishing the relationships. Milam responded that many have been in their positions for a long period of time, which has led to building trust. Sometimes during investigations, individuals express interest in getting to know the detectives and establishing relationships.
- Leslie asked where community members who have caused harm end up. Simmons responded that they are brought to the jail for a booking process, then transferred to the county jail, and then the legal process takes its course. There are a number of adjudications that can happen.
- Leslie asked if all the incidents that RPD dealt with during the 90 days were homicides. Simmons responded that they were not all homicides, but all involved gun violence, some of which include homicides.
- Walker asked for further information on what situations warrant mutual aid because there are situations where mutual aid should not be provided. French replied that there are situations in which RPD does not provide mutual aid, but generally RPD tries to respond to mutual aid requests to be good partners with other law enforcement agencies. Tirona responded that the determination is made based on information that is provided in the mutual aid request as well as the resources available.
- Walker asked what percentage of DUI stops involve marijuana. Tirona replied that there is no established standard and one needs to be established.
- L. Chacon asked how many times reforms that have been in place since 2006 been reviewed and evaluations. Tirona replied that the reforms are constantly being evaluated, and provided an example.
- L. Chacon noted some law enforcement members' roles in the attempted coup, and asked what is being done to make sure RPD officers are informed? French replied that staff receive briefings about potential issues so that they are informed.
- Leslie commented on what mutual aid means politically.

b. Public Comment

- Sarah Cantor requested to hear comments from French on the RPD practice of having huge numbers of officers show up to really minor scenes even though staffing levels are low. Asked Milam if Point Molate has been considered a spot for the Safe Parking program. Asked what are the plans for handling anonymous calls.
- Yenny Garcia thanked French for the reform efforts; happy to see cultural competency training and really hope it is not just for new officers, but also for those who have been in RPD for a while because we need to get to know our community better. Some streets are different than other streets, and some people get talked to differently. Would like to know what the training will look like.

- Marco asked what incentives RPD has for veteran cops to take on day shifts to promote community engagement with most experienced police officers. Asked how much extra do officers who take the graveyard shift make. Commented that the working group wants to support the efforts that bring funding to the City.
- Carole Yu-Johnson thanked RPD for the presentation.

VII. MEMBER COMMENTS

1. Gosney commented that the questions asked during public comment were good questions, and would like for the task force to receive the answers to those questions.
2. E. Chacon requested co-chairs.
3. Tucker commented that the task force continues to listen to presentations without having any way to resolve or address any issues through policy. Wants to know if any of the information will fall back to the City of Richmond to help inform the residents of the positive things that are happening. Need to start moving forward because if not, the task force will spend more months trying to get information rather than reimagining and figuring out a solution to the issue that is plaguing the community.
4. Walker thanked Fragd and thanked all who volunteered to facilitate community workshops. Also, Richmond has a Health in All Policies framework and all should be familiar with it. If Richmond does not have a Racial Equity in All Policies, a process should be put in place.
5. Leslie asked if any way the questions from Public Comment can be answered live. Staff responded that it is not feasible because all of the general meetings have run over time; the upcoming Round Tables have a format conducive to Q&As from the public.
6. R. Joseph asked if everyone who has wanted to sign up for a subgroup has signed up. Staff noted that all members have signed up for a subgroup except for one.

VIII. ACTION ITEM RECAP & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Upload RPD presentation to [City website](#).
2. Obtain recording of RNCC presentation and upload to [City website](#).
3. Send Community Round Table Conversation Series flier to task force for distribution.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion at 7:16 PM to extend the meeting by 30 minutes by R. Joseph; seconded by E. Chacon; approved. Meeting was adjourned by Johann Fragd at 8:02 PM.

X. SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Community Round Table Conversation Series - Mental / Behavioral Health - Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 6:00 PM via Zoom.

Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force Regular Meeting - Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 5:30 PM via Zoom.