

**City of Richmond - Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force**  
Meeting held via Zoom: [https://richmond.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view\\_id=38](https://richmond.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=38)

**MINUTES\***  
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 2021, 5:30 PM**

*\*video recording and meeting transcript available*

**I. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL - AGENDA REVIEW**

Meeting called to order by Johann Fragd at 5:41 P.M.

PRESENT: H. Burks, M. Cantú, E. Chacon, L. Chacon, D. Gosney, R. Joseph, K. Kilian-Lobos, A. Lee, J. Lee, M. Njissang, J. Schlemmer, L. Whitmore,

ABSENT: D. Joseph, L. Mangels, D. Small, A. Soto, B. Therriault, D. Tucker, T. Walker, B.K. Williams

**II. AGENDA REVIEW AND ADOPTION**

A motion was made to adopt the agenda by H. Burks; seconded by M. Njissang; approved by the following vote:  
**Ayes:** H. Burks, M. Cantú, E. Chacon, L. Chacon, D. Gosney, R. Joseph, K. Kilian-Lobos, A. Lee, M. Njissang, J. Schlemmer, L. Whitmore

**Noes:**

**Abstain:**

**Absent:** D. Joseph, J. Lee, L. Mangels, D. Small, A. Soto, B. Therriault, D. Tucker, T. Walker, B.K. Williams

**III. MEETING PROCEDURES**

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Katrinka Ruk thanked the Task Force for their work and alluded to her emailed written public comment.
2. Carole Johnson wanted to offer condolences for the Father's Day shooting and mentioned that is not a time to talk about defunding the police.
3. Mike Parker thanked the Task Force for their work and mentioned some people were trying to distort the work being done and encouraged them to keep moving on..
4. Luis Chacon mentioned that the family of the shooting incident is collecting funds for funeral expenses and could donate if wanted.

**V. STAFF REPORTS**

1. Johann Fragd mentioned updates on website/resources uploaded for Task Force members to check it out. She also encouraged Task Force members to review the Council meeting from last night on Councilmember Johnson's plans for reparations and race equity. She is also transitioning out of her role at the City of Richmond.

**VI. PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSIONS, & ACTION ITEMS**

**1. DISCUSS June 15, 2021 and June 22, 2021 City Council Meetings**

No discussion was held.

Public Comment

1. Chris Broglio invited the Task Force members for a public panel the following Saturday and encouraged them to accept Measure E funds.

**2. DISCUSS meeting schedule of extended period from July 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021**

J. Fragd led a discussion with the Task Force members regarding a new regular schedule for the Task Force. Discussion ensued.

Public Comment

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1. Michelle Hayes asked about whether questions can be made before making a motion.

A motion was made to reduce and conduct general Task Force meetings once a month on the fourth Wednesdays by L. Whitmore by M. Cantú; seconded by M. Njissang; approved by the following vote:

**Ayes:** H. Burks, M. Cantú, E. Chacon, L. Chacon, D. Gosney, R. Joseph, K. Kilian-Lobos, A. Lee, J. Lee, M. Njissang, J. Schlemmer, L. Whitmore

**Noes:**

**Abstain:**

**Absent:** D. Joseph, L. Mangels, D. Small, A. Soto, B. Therriault, D. Tucker, T. Walker, B.K. Williams

### 3. RECEIVE reports from Task Force Subcommittees:

#### a. Accountability as Safety

A brief update was given by R. Joseph regarding the meeting with GreenKey and the Police Chief and the Police Dispatcher positions.

#### b. Community Based Solutions

Subcommittee member E. Chacon and City of Richmond staff Bouakhay Phongboupha gave an update regarding the Summer Youth Employment program. Discussion ensued.

Public Comment: There were no speakers.

#### c. Health and Safety

Subcommittee member L. Chacon gave an update regarding subcommittee work and also provided an overview of SOS! Richmond's work alongside Daniel Barth and Alison Gill. Subcommittee member M. Njissang also shared information regarding gun violence and solutions and national recognition of the ONS program. K. Kilian-Lobos gave an update regarding the Community Crisis program proposal and County Mental Health updates. Sara Cantor, community member, gave an update on implementation plans for the new subcommittee. Discussion continued.

Public Comment:

1. Carole Johnson asked about the fire department's program that addresses homelessness programs.

#### d. Implementation Team

M. Cantu briefly mentioned the new scheduling of the implementation subcommittee meetings.

Public Comment:

1. Emily Ross extended gratitude to the implementation subcommittee members, City staff and Task Force members. She also thanked Johann for her years of service in the City.

## VII. ACTION ITEM RECAP

1. J. Fragd reminded the Task Force group that the resources will be on the webpage for review.

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 7:27 PM

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**From:** Katrinka Ruk <kpruk@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 22, 2021 5:02 PM  
**To:** Recreation  
**Cc:** Jim Nantell; Stephanie Ny; Johann Fragd; Guadalupe Morales  
**Subject:** Public Comments; -6/23/21 Reimagining Public Safety Task Force Meeting  
**Attachments:** 06.23.21 TaskForce meeting.docx

**COUNCIL OF INDUSTRIES**

**P.O. BOX 70088, PT. RICHMOND, CA 94807**

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**501(C)(6) FED ID# 94-0672760**

June 22, 2021

/Email recreation@ci.richmond.ca.us/

To: Reimagining Public Safety Committee

To: J Nantell, S. Ny, J. Fragd, G. Morales

The following comments are being submitted on behalf of the Council of Business and Industries. We want to thank the Task Force for their work and recommendations regarding enhancement of public safety programs. Along with the police department, we are in agreement that programs to address the homeless in our community, provide jobs for our youth, and response to mental health issues-overall, provide for a healthier community. Where we differ is the source of funding and scope of the programs.

We have seen an increase in crime in our business community– robberies, break-ins, vandalism. Limiting the police staffing and budget led to increases in public safety risks in other bay area cities. If that happens in Richmond, our businesses will suffer through loss of customers; leading to lower revenue, lower business taxes to the city, increased businesses moving to a "safer" city, loss of local jobs, less opportunity to support YouthWorks programs...all adding to the same systemic root causes the task force is hoping to address with its recommendations.

With a \$2.3 million reduction in the police budget, Police Chief French stated that police response will be directed to emergency and violent situations.

We are asking the Task Force and the Implementation Committee to address if the various proposed programs and recommendations will be able to address the gap in public safety response and service for the following areas that Chief French stated would be impacted:

- Our patrol staffing will be impacted – Current staffing does not allow for coverage seven days /week, as a result, overtime is required to cover additional hours. The reduction in staffing has impacted their ability to respond to crime trends and district/beat/neighborhood needs. Patrols in our business community help defray criminal activity and without this we foresee an uptick in vandalism and customers visiting stores in other cities.
- Police response to the following will be limited or eliminated due to lack of staffing:
  - ✓ Response to older/cold-cases: This is a service the RPD is unable to provide with its current resources.
  - ✓ Response to domestic violence and sexual assault cases: has not diminished but the number of detectives assigned to those cases has resulted in cases not getting the attention they are due for a rapid response.
  - ✓ Response to robbery cases: There are not enough detectives to handle in-custody robbery cases, leaving little time to investigate cases with existing leads. Robberies at businesses will increase and could determine if a business remains in Richmond. This will also impact and increase insurance coverage with many small businesses may not be able to financially support.
  - ✓ Intelligence gathering to thwart crimes (fireworks, side-show activity, etc.): Due to reduced staffing they cannot focus on gathering intelligence as they are focused on combatting retaliatory shootings, or repetitive vandalism of business entities.
  - ✓ Response to human trafficking operations: Current staffing provides for only ONE DETECTIVE focused on this who is also pulled to assist other teams with their case load.
  - ✓ Response to quality-of-life issues (prostitution, drug house abatement, open air narcotic sales, homelessness issues, citizen/business complaints, etc.): Previous teams addressing these issues – BRAVO and Street Teams – had to be eliminated when staffing was reduced. Beat Patrol has the responsibility and in the past required overtime to address issues due to lack of proper staffing. These issues impact how safe individuals feel in approaching local businesses.
  - ✓ Response to evacuations: RPD is responsible for coordinating emergency evacuation and for enforcing laws against illegal fireworks. In the case of needing to coordinate a widespread evacuation due to a wildfire, the Police Department's current staffing will likely require requesting assistance from neighboring cities- depending upon their availability.

The city has a fiscal responsibility to ensure that funding is adequate to support the needs of the community, residents and businesses in regards to public safety. Elimination of these key programs

and services will add to the deterioration of our blue-ribbon community-based nationally recognized public safety program. It also impacts recruitment and growth of economic development for the city.

Katrinka Ruk  
Executive Director  
Council of Business & Industries  
510)260-4820 cell  
<http://www.councilofindustries.com>

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