CITIZENS POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION (CPRC)
Wednesday, December 5, 2018 – 7:00 PM
450 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA
Basement Employee Lunch Room

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, PLEDGE

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair David Brown

Present: David Brown (Chair), Yenny Garcia (Vice-chair), Oscar Garcia, Carol Hegstrom, Demnlus Johnson

Absent: Diego Garcia

Vacancies: 2 Vacancies

Administrative
Staff: Lucky Narain, Confidential Investigative and Appeals Officer (CIAO) – Present; Shané Johnson, Staff Liaison – Present;

Council Liaison: Jael Myrick, Council Liaison – Present

City Attorney’s
Office Representative: Bruce Souplet, Senior Assistant City Attorney – Present

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (November 7, 2018)
Minutes unavailable due to recorder malfunction.

III. AGENDA REVIEW – No change

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

Frank Runninghorse – Introduced himself as part of the Oscar Grant Committee and commented that the investigative report for the Perez case should be made available for the public to review, scrutinize, and learn from it.

Rick Perez – Commented on the Perez case and made statements that the CPRC bylaws are not being followed by the Assistant City Attorney.

Patricia Perez – Expressed her feelings about changing the name of the Citizens Police Review Commission and commented about SB 1421 going into effect in January 2019.

Gerald Smith – Commented on SB 1421 and summarized what the bill means to him.
V. COMMENTS BY COUNCIL LIAISON JAEI MYRICK – Councilmember Myrick met last week with the City Attorney’s Office and a subcommittee of the CPRC consisting of Commissioners C. Hegstrom and Y. Garcia to discuss changes to the CPRC ordinance that would allow for better transparency in terms of police investigations in light of Senate Bill 1421. The discussion led to an agreement that the City can do more than the bare minimum that the law is requiring; however, under recommendation of the City Manager and the City Attorney’s Office, the proposal is to move forward with the recommendation as it is currently written to ensure that the City is in compliance by January 2019, and to allow the ordinance to be revised with the CPRC’s input by February 2019.

VI. COMMENTS BY CHIEF OF POLICE (Allwyn Brown or his designate) – Chief Brown reported that year-to-date overall crime is down 2%. The shot spotter report showed a significant decrease in gunfire activity in November 2018 compared to the same time last year and in an ongoing campaign effort, more staff will be present in the streets for the upcoming New Year holiday. Chief Brown stated that RPD is working with City Manager Carlos Martinez to figure out how the response to public record requests will be handled once SB 1421 goes into effect. There are also legal questions pertaining to the retroactivity of the law. Assistant City Attorney Shannon Moore provided an overview of the law before and after SB 1421 and AB 748. RPD is working internally to put a process in place for releasing audio and video recordings. The Chief acknowledged receipt of and responded to the policy recommendations arising out of the CPRC’s review of the Perez case. Chief Brown concluded by responding to Commissioner D. Johnson’s questions regarding officer training.

Public Comments
Gerald Smith – Commented on the Perez case.

Frank Runninghorse – Commented on the Perez case and expressed his desire to hear RPD’s remarks.

Rick Perez – Expressed his feelings and offered thoughts related to officer training.

Tarnel Abbott – Spoke about her involvement in the Perez case and gave her views of public confidence in the police department.

VII. REPORTS BY RICHMOND POLICE OFFICERS’ ASSOCIATION (Ben Therriot, President) – Officer Therriot announced the upcoming toy drive on December 22nd and thanked the Rotary Club and Veriflo for their donations. He also mentioned the type of calls that RPD officers are receiving daily and offered a response to Commissioner Y. Garcia regarding the handling of mental health calls. Officer Therriot spoke on SB 1421 and mentioned that several law enforcement officer groups are putting together legislation to address the retroactivity of the bill. The position of the RPOA is in support of AB 748.
VIII. OLD BUSINESS, DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Discussion of statutory changes and CPRC confidentiality; review and discuss proposed amendment to the ordinance (Chair Brown & Mr. Soublet) – As part of the discussion, the CPRC recommended that the City Council pass the modifications to the CPRC ordinance that include the staff proposed changes that are driven by SB 1421 with the understanding that the CPRC will later be able to incorporate changes. Councilmember Myrick plans to make a motion to the Council which includes amending the ordinance by the end of February 2019.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Recommendation to City Council for Name Change (Vice-Chair Yenny Garcia) – Vice-Chair Y. Garcia shared some of the recommended name changes that she received via email. Commissioner D. Johnson motioned to change from Citizens Police Review Commission to the Community Police Review Commission. Commissioner C. Hegstrom seconded the motion. All were in favor with the exception of Commissioner O. Garcia who abstained. Assistant Attorney Bruce Soublet will work with the City Clerk’s office to have the name updated.

B. Revision of Complaint Form (Vice-Chair Yenny Garcia) – Vice-Chair Y. Garcia revised the complaint form which includes all of the existing information in a more comprehensible format.

C. Review report re RPD Executive Leadership (Chair Brown) – The Chief offered his explanation of the report that was released. He spoke about the current efforts to ensure that the police department and the current City Manager stay on the same wavelength. Chief Brown also commented on the morale of the current officers and offered information on what RPD is doing to balance morale.

Public Comments

Ben Therriault – RPOA has concerns about the report being released and noted that many officers had reservations about responding to the survey.

X. Executive Session

1. CPRC unanimously finds that cases 040317 (Adams) and 091316 (Silva) are dismissed due to being filed significantly outside of the limitation period of which reports can be filed. The CPRC has no jurisdiction.
XI. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS, CIAO AND STAFF

- Commissioner O. Garcia – Attended a ride along.
- Vice-Chair Yenny Garcia – Met with Councilmember Myrick and the City Attorney’s office to go over proposed ordinance changes. She also attended a ride-along.
- Commissioner D. Johnson – Thanked the CPRC and looks forward to helping from the City Council side.
- Commissioner C. Hegstrom – Met with Councilmember Myrick and the City Attorney’s office to go over proposed ordinance changes.
- Commissioner D. Brown – Attended a ride-along.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting date will be held on January 9, 2019 at 7:00pm due to the holiday closure.

The meeting was adjourned to the public at 9:55 p.m.

David A. Brown, Chair