

**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, SEPTEMBER 28, 2022, 5:30 P.M.**

*\*video recording and meeting transcript available*

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by Chair Small at 5:34 P.M.

**B. ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: S. Bischoff, H. Burks, M. Cantú, E. Chacon, L. Chacon, D. Gosney, R. Joseph, K. Kilian-Lobos, A. Lee, L. Mangels, M. Njissang, D. Small, B. Therriault, T. Walker, L. Whitmore

ABSENT: J. Schlemmer, A. Soto, B.K. Williams

R. Joseph joined at 5:38 P.M. E. Chacon joined at 5:40 P.M. T. Walker joined at 5:45 P.M. E. Chacon left at 6:27 P.M. L. Chacon left at 7:45 P.M.

STAFF PRESENT: LaShonda White, Guadalupe Morales, Stephanie Ny, Alison Flowers, Tamara Walker, Lina Velasco, Jesus Morales, Michelle Milam

**C. AGENDA REVIEW AND ADOPTION**

The agenda was adopted as presented.

**D. MEETING PROCEDURES**

**E. MINUTES APPROVAL**

**1. APPROVE the minutes of the June 22, 2022 regular meeting of the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force**

A motion was made to adopt the June 22, 2022 regular meeting minutes by H. Burks; seconded by L. Whitmore; approved by the following vote:

**Ayes:** H. Burks, D. Gosney, R. Joseph, K. Kilian-Lobos, A. Lee, L. Mangels, M. Njissang, D. Small, B. Therriault, L. Whitmore

**Noes:**

**Abstentions:** S. Bischoff, M. Cantú, L. Chacon

**Absent:** E. Chacon, J. Schlemmer, A. Soto, T. Walker, B.K. Williams

**2. APPROVE the minutes of the July 27, 2022 regular meeting of the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force**

A motion was made to adopt the July 27, 2022 regular meeting minutes pending a minor revision by R. Joseph; seconded by M. Cantú; approved by the following vote:

**Ayes:** S. Bischoff, H. Burks, M. Cantú, E. Chacon, D. Gosney, R. Joseph, K. Kilian-Lobos, A. Lee, L. Mangels, M. Njissang, D. Small, B. Therriault, L. Whitmore

**Noes:**

**Abstentions:** L. Chacon

**Absent:** J. Schlemmer, A. Soto, T. Walker, B.K. Williams

**F. CITY STAFF REPORTS (Verbal)**

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City Attorney Alison Flowers gave a brief update on the Public Records Request (PRA). She is working on completing those requests to have them ready for an upcoming meeting discussion.

### G. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. John Knox wished to speak on a different agenda item.
2. Jessi Taran spoke about being evicted from the Rydin Road and her experience checking out the transitional facility that is thirty-five miles away from Richmond. She noted the rules were strict and made her feel punitive. She stated Richmond needs to create a different option.
3. Daniel Barth from SOS! Richmond wanted to alert the Community about the ending of its first year contract on November 30 and wanted to encourage folks to help it extend it for another year. He hopes the Task Force can continue to support SOS! Richmond in its safety, employment, and housing efforts.

### H. PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSIONS, & ACTION ITEMS

#### 1. RECEIVE a presentation from Urban Strategies regarding the Community Crisis Response Program

David Harris ([davidh@urbanstrategies.org](mailto:davidh@urbanstrategies.org)) from Urban Strategies hosted a presentation detailing various models of response teams in cities/counties like Oakland, Alameda, Antioch, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Eugene, Oregon. He discusses statistics for some of the models including the CAHOOTS program in Eugene, Oregon and also touched on essential elements needed for community response. He elaborated on contract details that Urban Strategies has with the City of Richmond and pointed out key elements that the community would need to consider such as staffing, program structure, county integration, and other decision points. Anne Janks ([annej@urbanstrategies.org](mailto:annej@urbanstrategies.org)) was available for questions with the Task Force members. She also shared a video on the CAHOOTS program (Link: <https://bit.ly/3VLTm1p>). Discussion and feedback ensued.

#### Public Comment:

1. Jessi Taran mentioned her father was a psychologist and that vicious behavior is rooted in fear. She stated in order to deal with a vicious person, you need to make them feel safe and address their fears. She has dealt with reactive people and been able to take away weapons like this. She would like to contact David Harris to share ideas on how to address homelessness issues.
  2. O'Neill Fernandez mentioned he was an Outreach Team Leader for SOS! and highlighted a recent cleanup event in Parchester/El Sobrante that was successful. He also mentioned they were able to bring out showers for the encampments as well. He commended the efforts of SOS! in Richmond.
- #### 2. RECEIVE a presentation from the Deputy Community Services Director - Employment and Training regarding YouthWorks

Deputy Director of Community Services - Employment and Training Tamara Walker hosted a presentation on the Youth Experience Program updates. She provided updates and details on some of their year-round programs such as the Work Experience program (WEX). She highlighted on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022 outcomes that totaled in 664 youth applications submitted, 375 youth intakes complete, and 227 youth employed. Deputy Director Walker shared the program's goals for FY 2022-2023 which are to hire additional support staff, employ 500 youth, provide more transitional employment opportunities, and to create more youth development programs for younger youth (16-18 years). She also touched on the program's FY 2022-2023 budget. Discussion ensued.

#### Public Comment:

1. Jessi Taran commended the Youth Work Experience program and encouraged a similar program for adults.
- #### 3. RECEIVE an update on the status of the Rydin Road encampment

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Director of Community Development Lina Velasco and Housing Manager Jesus Morales presented for this agenda item. She provided a brief overview of the Richmond City Council's recent actions to sunset the encampment and detailed the approach to sunset an encampment such as completing a resident assessment, drafting and approving a Transition Plan with Service Providers and residents, and working with the residents to execute the plan. She provided a status update on twenty-eight participants (totaling twenty-three households) enrolled at Rydin Road with six transitions completed, fourteen transition plans approved, and three plans under development. Five participants had no transition plan and three had transitions with no plan. Director Velasco is continuing to work in completing these plans. Discussion ensued.

### Public Comment:

1. A.M. Jenkins expressed her frustration with the City of Richmond that she was not able to move to the Castro Encampment from a prior approved transition plan by her provider, Vanessa Calloway, where several of her family members are located. She noted she has no other options at this time and has two days to get her cars fixed before then and is also waiting on getting a new transition plan approved.
2. Jessi Taran stated she went to visit the transitional housing facility in Pittsburg and noted it was very strict was not allowed to have her autistic daughter visit her and it was small bed for her, her partner, and two large dogs and so she declined the room. She feels like Richmond is trying to push her out and also needs her bus fixed before she can transition out.
3. John Knox commended the work of SOS! On Rydin Road since he has been at the encampment. He noted Daniel Barth has been there to engage the residents and has helped improve his quality of life.
4. Sara Cantor wanted to lift up the stories of the residents at Rydin Road who have not been able to leave. She urged City staff to be able to help these residents due to their circumstances and to provide more options for them to ensure a good transition plan that works for them.
5. Randy Scott is an employee of SOS! for a few years and has had his hours cut back due to the budget and subsequently are not able to get their job done. He urged everyone to help him keep their jobs and keep the funding going for the program.

## I. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:24 P.M., a motion was made to extend to meeting until end of agenda item H-3 by R. Joseph; seconded by H. Burks; approved by the following vote:

**Ayes:** S. Bischoff, H. Burks, M. Cantú, L. Chacon, D. Gosney, R. Joseph, K. Kilian-Lobos, A. Lee, L. Mangels, M. Njissang, D. Small, B. Therriault, L. Whitmore

**Noes:**

**Abstentions:**

**Absent:** E. Chacon, J. Schlemmer, A. Soto, T. Walker, B.K. Williams

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 P.M.