

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

MINUTES*
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 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, L. Chacon, D. Gosney, K. Kilian-Lobos, A. Lee, L. Mangels, M. Njissang, J. Schlemmer, D. Small, B. Therriault, T. Walker, L. Whitmore, B.K. Williams

ABSENT: E. Chacon, R. Joseph

J. Schlemmer joined the meeting at 5:37 P.M., A. Lee and M. Cantú joined at 5:39 P.M., B. Therriault joined at 6:04 P.M.

STAFF PRESENT: Interim Library and Community Services Director - LaShonda White, Assistant Administrative Analyst - Guadalupe Morales, Associate Administrative Analyst - Stephanie Ny, City Attorney - Alison Flowers, Housing Manager - Jesus Morales, Crime Prevention Specialist - Michelle Milam, Police Chief - Bisa French, Deputy Director of Community Services - Office of Neighborhood Safety - Sam Vaughn

C. AGENDA REVIEW AND ADOPTION

The agenda was adopted with Agenda Item H-6 moved up after H-3.

D. MEETING PROCEDURES

E. MINUTES APPROVAL

1. APPROVE the minutes of the September 28, 2022 regular meeting of the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force

A motion was made to adopt the September 28, 2022 regular meeting minutes by L. Chacon; seconded by H. Burks; approved by the following vote:

Ayes: S. Bischoff, H. Burks, M. Cantú, L. Chacon, D. Gosney, K. Kilian-Lobos, A. Lee, L. Mangels, M. Njissang, D. Small, T. Walker, L. Whitmore

Noes:

Abstentions: J. Schlemmer, B.K. Williams

Absent: E. Chacon, R. Joseph, B. Therriault

F. CITY STAFF REPORTS (Verbal)

Staff Liaison LaShonda White encouraged Task Force members to attend a Senior Transportation Informational meeting discussing the Paratransit and rideshare programs hosted by the City of Richmond the following day, October 27 at 10:00 A.M. via Zoom. She also made an announcement regarding a food distribution event hosted by the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano that would take place the following day, October 27 from 12:00 PM. to 1:00 P.M. next to City Hall. Lastly, she encouraged the Task Force members and the general public to join a General Plan Update meeting being held Saturday, October 29 from 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at the Richmond Recreation Complex.

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Crime Prevention Special Milam made an announcement about the Richmond Police Department participating in a national effort for Faith in Blue, a collaboration of Police Department connections with faith-based communities. She noted it was a three-day event this past October that included a Blessing of the Badge Ceremony by chaplains, a service day with local churches and bringing meals to the unhoused, and visits to local congregations. She also announced the date for the Richmond Fire and Police Toy Program on December 17 and encouraged everyone to volunteer or donate for the program.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Daniel Barth stated that their unhouse interventions contract is nearing its end and highlighted some of the entry level work and encampment services that they provide. He shared about the challenges outside of Rydin Road and Castro Street and the need to engage the most problematic situations with people.
2. Marisol Cantu wanted to bring to the Task Force's attention about a large fight within Contra Costa County regarding youth justice. She noted that the Office of Probation has put a resolution to close the Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility. She hopes that the youth would not be placed in the hall, which is more restrictive and that the justice institutions would have more options. She also noted that African American, Native American, and Latino are incarcerated at five, three, and 1.7 times the rate of white youth. There is an agenda item for this topic at the Board of Supervisors meeting next week.

H. PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSIONS, & ACTION ITEMS

H-1. RECEIVE an update from the City Attorney's Office on Public Records Act requests

Alison Flowers made this report. She noted that there were three different Public Records Act Requests (PRAs) in the past year and a half, one made in June 2021 that was closed out in July 2021, and two in August 2021 that were also closed out, all handled by former City Attorney Bruce Soublet and subsequently by the City Attorney's Office staff that produced eight sets of documents. In April 2022, there were three PRAs that reiterated those of August. One has closed and two are still in progress. She further elaborated on confusion regarding compliance to the PRA. Discussion ensued.

Public Comment

There were no public speakers.

H-3. DISCUSS and CONFIRM meeting dates for the months of November and December due to the major holiday season

(THIS AGENDA ITEM WAS MOVED AFTER H-1)

Chair Small presented this item and noted the regular Task Force meetings in November and December land near major holidays, on November 23 right before Thanksgiving and December 28, after Christmas and before New Year's Day. She requested that the Task Force discuss and confirm the holiday scheduling. She suggested the Task Force meeting on Wednesday, November 30, 2022. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made to cancel the regular meeting of the Task Force on November 23, 2022 and instead schedule a special meeting of the Task Force on Wednesday, November 30, 2022 by D. Gosney; seconded by L. Chacon; approved by the following vote:

Ayes: S. Bischoff, H. Burks, M. Cantú, L. Chacon, D. Gosney, K. Kilian-Lobos, A. Lee, M. Njissang, D. Small, B. Therriault, T. Walker, L. Whitmore, B.K. Williams

Noes: J. Schlemmer

Abstentions: L. Mangels

Absent: E. Chacon, R. Joseph

A second motion was made to cancel the regular meeting of the Task Force on December 28, 2022 and meet on January 25, 2022 by D. Gosney; seconded by J. Schlemmer; approved by the following vote:

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Ayes: S. Bischoff, M. Cantú, L. Chacon, D. Gosney, K. Kilian-Lobos, A. Lee, L. Mangels, M. Njissang, J. Schlemmer, D. Small, B. Therriault, T. Walker, L. Whitmore, B.K. Williams

Noes: H. Burks

Abstentions:

Absent: E. Chacon, R. Joseph

An alternate motion was made to cancel the regular meeting of the Task Force on December 28, 2022 and instead schedule two special meetings of the Task Force on Wednesday, November 9, 2022 and Wednesday, November 30, 2022 by H. Burks; seconded by L. Chacon; the previous motion to cancel the regular meeting of the Task Force on December 28, 2022 and meet on January 25, 2022 was approved by a majority of the Task Force prior to roll call vote on this alternate motion and subsequently was no longer in consideration.

Public Comment

There were no public speakers.

H-2. RECEIVE an update from Matrix Consulting regarding the comprehensive study of emergency services in Richmond

(THIS AGENDA ITEM WAS MOVED AFTER H-3)

Richard Brady, President of Matrix Consulting, presented this agenda item. He noted that they are still finalizing details for a draft report. Mr. Brady stated that he will have better results of the study for the November 30 meeting. Data is still being analyzed but noted that both the Police and Fire departments are having trouble with staffing and vacant positions. He also noted that they are looking into more holistic concepts in policing as it pertains to recruitment, training, policies, supervision, accountability, community engagement and others. He also stated that the City Manager will have a chance to review the initial report and the Police and Fire departments will review for factual purposes. Discussion ensued.

Public Comment

There were no public speakers.

H-6. RECEIVE an update on the resolution of the Rydin Road encampment, including the status of relocation of former residents

(THIS AGENDA ITEM WAS DISCUSSED AFTER H-2)

Housing Manager Jesus Morales gave an update on this item. He went over recent Council action items pertaining to the Rydin Road encampment. The Richmond City Council set the sunset date for the encampment on September 30, 2022 on August 1, 2022 and then extended the sunset date to October 21, 2022 for some residents on September 20, 2022. \$1,724 in Flex Funds were disbursed on September 23 and were received by twenty-nine residents each. All residents were moved by October 1 with all vehicles moved and residents moved to alternate housing options. Mr. Morales went over the approach to sunset encampments. Households were relocated to Richmond (three), San Pablo (three), and one household each in Crockett, Martinez, New Mexico, Utah, and a number of other cities and states. He noted they continue to finalize some former residents' transition plans. Discussion ensued.

Public Comment

1. Ramon Quintana noted that the assessment had 125 questions and the City has a copy of it. He mentioned that 80-85% of the residents were originally Richmond residents.
2. D. Gosney noted that there were nearly eighty vehicles on Rydin Road and not twenty-eight residents and that is why it has taken a long time to transition folks to other places as it has been going on for a long time.
3. L. Chacon noted that D. Gosney was knowledgeable and well-informed about the issues and

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hoped to see him as part of the solution moving forward.

4. Chair Small noted that the problem of homelessness is not just a Richmond problem but a nationwide problem, affected by poverty and drug addictions that will not be solved in the next few years. She applauded the efforts of the City Council, the Task Force, SOS, Collaborizing, ACCE, and other organizations for supporting these efforts. She noted that no one chooses to be homeless and that we should continue to be compassionate and advocate for better services.

H-4. DISCUSS and APPROVE future community forums

(THIS AGENDA ITEM WAS MOVED AFTER H-6)

Chair Small presented this agenda item. She suggests hosting a community forum on traffic safety, youth employment and training, overdose prevention and harm reduction, and policing policies and practices. She plans on bringing back a more specific recommendation around scheduling for discussion. Discussion ensued and further discussion was tabled for the next meeting.

I. ACTION ITEM RECAP

J. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:29 P.M. during agenda item H-4, a motion was made to extend the meeting by 5 minutes by A. Lee; seconded by L. Chacon; approved by the following vote:

Ayes: S. Bischoff, H. Burks, M. Cantú, L. Chacon, K. Kilian-Lobos, A. Lee, L. Mangels, M. Njissang, J. D. Small, B. Therriault, T. Walker, L. Whitmore, B.K. Williams

Noes: J. Schlemmer

Abstentions: D. Gosney

Absent: E. Chacon, R. Joseph

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 P.M.