

CITY OF RICHMOND
Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force

Wednesday, January 25, 2023 5:30 PM

<https://zoom.us/j/99598896210?pwd=MEdpUWRjMG02bnI5MXlnb2xrQTloQT09>

This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities*



Members:

Bischoff, Steve
Burks, Helene
Cantú, Marisol
Chacon, Eddy
Chacon, Luis
Gosney, Don
Joseph, Randy
Kilian-Lobos, Kristin
Lee, Armond
Mangels, Laura
Njissang, Marcus
Schlemmer, Joey
Small, Deborah
Therriault, Ben
Walker, Tamisha
Whitmore, Linda
Williams, B.K.
Vacant (4)

ALL TASK FORCE MEMBERS WILL PARTICIPATE VIA VIDEO OR TELECONFERENCE

This meeting is scheduled to adjourn at 7:30 P.M. The meeting may be extended by a majority vote of the Task Force members.

- A. Call to Order**
- B. Roll Call**
- C. Agenda Review and Adoption**
- D. Meeting Procedures**
- E. Minutes Approval**
 - 1. APPROVE the minutes of the November 30, 2022 regular meeting of the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force
- F. City Staff Reports (Verbal) (Public comment allowed under Public Comments)**
- G. Public Comments**
- H. Presentations, Discussions, & Action Items**

Following discussion of each item, the Task Force may vote to make recommendations to staff or to the City Council.

 - 1. DISCUSS and APPROVE future community forums on Traffic Safety; Harm Reduction and Overdose Prevention; Police Policies & Practices; Youth Employment & Training; and Poverty Reduction
 - 2. RECEIVE a presentation from Urban Strategies Council regarding development of the implementation plan for the Community Crisis Response Program
 - 3. RECEIVE a presentation from Matrix Consulting regarding the comprehensive study of emergency services in Richmond
 - 4. RECEIVE a presentation from Safe Organized Spaces Richmond regarding status of contract services for unhoused populations in Richmond and future plans
 - 5. RECEIVE a FY 2022-2023 first quarter report regarding allocations for Unhoused Interventions, YouthWorks, Office of Neighborhood Safety, and the Community Crisis Response Program
 - 6. REVIEW feedback on proposed Task Force bylaws and DISCUSS next steps
- I. Action Item Recap**
- J. Adjournment**

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Scheduled Meetings:

- Report to City Council - Tuesday, February 21, 2023
- General Meeting - Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Staff:

LaShonda White (510) 620-6828 lashonda_white@ci.richmond.ca.us

Stephanie Ny (510) 620-6563 stephanie_ny@ci.richmond.ca.us

Guadalupe Morales (510) 620-6553 guadalupe_morales@ci.richmond.ca.us



MEETING PROCEDURES & INFORMATION

ALL TASK FORCE MEMBERS WILL PARTICIPATE VIA VIDEO OR TELECONFERENCE

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) ADVISORY

Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Contra Costa County and Governor Gavin Newsom have issued multiple orders requiring sheltering in place, social distancing, and reduction of person-to-person contact. (See, for example, March 31, 2020 County Order extending the shelter-in-place order until May 3, 2020 and March 19, 2020 statewide shelter-in-place order.) Accordingly, Governor Gavin Newsom has issued executive orders that allow cities to hold public meetings via teleconferencing (Executive Order N-29-20).

Both <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/> and <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/3914/Richmond-Coronavirus-Info> provide updated coronavirus information. On April 29, 2020, the Health Officer of Contra Costa County issued a press release to inform the public that regional shelter-in-place orders will be extended through May 31, 2020, as some restrictions are eased.

DUE TO THE SHELTER IN PLACE ORDERS, and consistent with Executive Order N29-20, this meeting will utilize video/teleconferencing only.

How to participate in Public Comment and/or to speak on an agenda item in the meeting:

Written comments will only be accepted via email to recreation@ci.richmond.ca.us by no later than 3 p.m. on the day of the scheduled meeting. The comments will be read at the top of the Public Comment portion of the agenda. Emails MUST contain in the subject line:

1. Public Comments
2. Public Comments agenda item #__ [include the agenda item number].

Emails that do not contain the correct identifying information in the subject line may be overlooked and may not become part of the record. Email received after 3 p.m. will not be read into the record. Email received after 3 p.m. will, however, be posted on-line following the meeting as part of the supplemental materials attached to the meeting minutes.

By Computer, Tablet, or Mobile Device:

Step 1: Tune in to the videoconference at the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/99598896210?pwd=MEdpUWRjMG02bnI5MXlnb2xrQTloQT09>

Webinar ID: 995 9889 6210

Passcode: TASKFORCE

Step 2: To comment by video conference, click on the Participants button at the bottom of your screen and select the "Raise Your Hand" button to request to speak when Public Comment is

being announced or as speakers are called upon at the start of each agenda item. Attendees will then have two (2) minutes to click the “**Raise Your Hand**” button at that time. Speakers will be called upon in the order they select the “Raise Your Hand” feature. When called upon, you will be unmuted. Speakers are allowed up to two (2) minutes on public comment and agenda items. After the allotted time, you will then be re-muted.

By Telephone:

Step 1:

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +16699009128,,99598896210# or +12532158782,,99598896210#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 669 900 9128 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656

Webinar ID: 995 9889 6210

Passcode: TASKFORCE

International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/j/99598896210>

Step 2: To comment by phone, you will be prompted to “Raise Your Hand” by pressing “*(star)9” to request to speak when Public Comment is being announced or as speakers are called upon at the start of each agenda item. Attendees will then have two (2) minutes to click the “**Raise Your Hand**” button at that time. Speakers will be called upon in the order they select the “Raise Your Hand” feature. When called upon, you will be unmuted. Speakers are allowed up to two (2) minute on public comment and agenda items. After the allotted time, you will then be re-muted.
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362663-Joining-a-meeting-by-phone>

Accessibility for Individuals with Disabilities

Upon request, the City will provide for written agenda materials in appropriate alternative formats, or disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services and sign language interpreters, to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in and provide comments at/related to public meetings. Please submit a request, including your name, phone number and/or email address, and a description of the modification, accommodation, auxiliary aid, service or alternative format requested at least two days before the meeting. Requests should be emailed to bruce_soublet@ci.richmond.ca.us or submitted by phone at (510) 620-6507. Requests will be granted whenever possible and resolved in favor of accessibility.

Record of public comments:

Public comments will be considered a public record, put into the official meeting record. Public comments will be available after the meeting as supplemental materials and will be posted as an attachment to the meeting minutes when the minutes are posted:

<https://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/Archive.aspx?AMID=183>.

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

Minutes*
Wednesday, November 30, 2022, 5:30 P.M.

**video recording and meeting transcript available*

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Small called the meeting to order at 5:35 P.M.

B. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: S. Bischoff, H. Burks, M. Cantú, E. Chacon, L. Chacon, D. Gosney, R. Joseph, K. Kilian-Lobos, M. Njissang*, J. Schlemmer, B. Therriault*, T. Walker, B.K. Williams, and Chair D. Small

*Arrived after Roll Call

ABSENT: A. Lee, L. Mangels, and L. Whitmore

STAFF PRESENT: Deputy City Manager-Community Services LaShonda White, Assistance Administrative Analyst Guadalupe Morales, Associate Administrative Analyst Stephanie, and City Attorney Alison Flowers, Assistant Police Chief Timothy Simmons, Richmond Police Lieutenant John Lopez, YouthWorks Program Manager Bouakhay Phongboupha

C. AGENDA REVIEW AND ADOPTION

Taskforce Member Schlemmer recommended that Lieutenant Lopez's item be moved up on the agenda from Item 4 to Item 2 under Presentations, Discussions, and Action Items. The Taskforce agreed to that change.

D. MEETING PROCEDURES

Guadalupe Morales, staff to the Taskforce, identified the meeting procedures, the format of the web-based meeting and the public's ability to speak during the meeting.

E. MINUTES APPROVAL

1. APPROVE the minutes of the October 26, 2022 regular meeting of the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force

Motion by Taskforce Member Bischoff, seconded by Taskforce Member Burks to adopt the minutes of the October 26, 2022 meeting, as submitted.

Prior to a vote, Taskforce Member Schlemmer referred to Taskforce Member L. Chacon's comments on the discussion of the homeless at the last meeting when the comment had been made that some folks living in homeless encampments in Richmond were not from Richmond but had moved from recently dismantled encampments in Berkeley. He suggested that was an important comment to have

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included in the minutes, that the minutes should be revised accordingly, and that staff do a better job documenting relevant information in the minutes.

Since Taskforce Member Schlemmer had no specific revision to the minutes, Chair Small explained that the agenda, minutes and links to the video and written transcript of the actual meeting were available and if there were objections to the minutes Taskforce members should be prepared to identify the objection and identify specifically what was desired to be included based on the available record.

Taskforce Member L. Chacon clarified that his comments had been made as a member of the public and not as a member of the Taskforce.

Taskforce Member Gosney asked about the referenced transcripts of the meetings and LaShonda White, Interim Director of Library and Community Services, Taskforce Staff Liaison, identified the available link to allow individuals to watch the recording of the meeting, although she clarified that there were no transcripts of the meeting.

On the motion by Taskforce Member Bischoff, seconded by Taskforce Member Burks to adopt the minutes of the October 26, 2022 meeting, as submitted, carried by the following Roll Call vote:

AYES: S. Bischoff, H. Burks, M. Cantú, E. Chacon, L. Chacon, D. Gosney, R. Joseph, K. Kilian-Lobos, M. Njissang, T. Walker, B.K. Williams, and Chair D. Small

NOES: J. Schlemmer

ABSENT: A. Lee, L. Mangels, B. Therriault, and L. Whitmore

F. CITY STAFF REPORTS

LaShonda White, Interim Director of Library and Community Services, had no report at this time.

Ms. Morales, Taskforce staff, advised that a transcriber had been hired to produce the meeting minutes that would be more detailed in the future.

Members of the Taskforce offered transcription alternatives for staff to consider for the preparation of minutes such as transcribing the Zoom recording into Word, or considering REV.com, a transcription service.

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Randy Joseph commented that homeless youth was a big issue in that if young teenagers were on the street looking for shelter there would be no program available to help support them and there needed to be a program to house and care for youth. He urged an effort to move forward to make such services available.

Helene Burks extended an invitation to support youth and families, specifically those of King Elementary School where donations of used clothing such as jackets, scarves, warm clothing, and gloves were being sought. She could be contacted at hburks@wccusd.net and stated that donations

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could be dropped off at the front office of King Elementary School at 4022 Florida Avenue in Richmond.

H. PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSIONS, AND ACTION ITEMS

1. REVIEW, DISCUSS, and APPROVE the Taskforce Working Group Structure and Membership

Chair Small referred to the material prepared by City staff that had discussed the previous working group structure along with the proposed structure that had been discussed at the April 13, 2022 meeting. She identified the original working group structure from 2020-2021, the discussion to revamp the working groups, and the fact that the implementation subcommittee would have to be Brown Act compliant to meet on a regular basis, which had resulted in the determination to go back to the original working group structure. She suggested that the proposed working groups should be limited to the six-month timeframe that had been discussed.

Chair Small identified the proposal for the four working groups moving forward, with a *Community Investment* working group to be accountable for implementation of initiatives related to YouthWorks and the Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS). Taskforce Member Burks had agreed to serve as the point person and members who had volunteered to serve on that working group were identified as Taskforce Members L. Chacon and Njissang.

The *Police Practices and Accountability* working group accountable for implementing initiatives related to the Richmond Police Department (RPD) was identified and the volunteers to serve on that working group were reported as Taskforce Members Schlemmer, Whitmore, Therriault and Chair Small.

The *Health and Safety* working group to be accountable for managing implementation of the Community Crises Response Program (CCRP) was identified. Taskforce Member Kilian-Lobos had agreed to serve as the point person and volunteers to serve on that working group were identified as Taskforce Members Williams and Mangles.

Chair Small reported that Taskforce Member Joseph had agreed to be the point person on the *Community Based Solutions* working group to implement the Unhoused Intervention programs, and Taskforce Members E. Chacon, Walker and Lee had volunteered to serve on that working group.

Chair Small noted that since the April 13, 2022 special meeting some Taskforce members could have changed their interest and additional members may choose to join the proposed working groups. She suggested that the four groups that had been discussed were still relevant and she sought suggestions from the Taskforce.

Legal Counsel Alison Flowers advised that the working groups were advisory only to the full Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force.

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Chair Small clarified that the main goal of the working groups was to enable Taskforce Members to advise on how to move forward on specific issues, although that would not preclude doing other things such as community investment around youth, which she hoped would be explored further.

Taskforce Member Burks confirmed the current outline and her role in the Community Investment working group.

Taskforce Member Bischoff expressed an interest in being a member of the Health and Safety working group and working with the CCRP.

Taskforce Member Joseph also confirmed his interest and support in the Community Based Solutions working group, stated he would serve as the point person for that group and that he had some things he wanted to bring to the attention of that working group.

Taskforce Member Cantú expressed a desire to continue with the smart budget reallocation when pushing initiatives, policies and programs and wanted to work with other groups based on budget.

Chair Small stated that while a separate budget group had been discussed, it had not been recommended given that each working group needed to pay more attention to the budgets for the programs focused on being implemented. As discussed in April, she suggested that having a separate budget committee would not help in that regard, although she did not oppose a separate budget working group.

Taskforce Member Cantú noted a desire to cross pollinate all working groups to work together collectively, in particular with respect to budgetary aspects that needed funding from the RPD budget, which would have to be researched when other groups might be looking at different initiatives. She proposed a separate budget committee.

Taskforce Member L. Chacon supported a central committee that could consider budgetary questions and proposals.

Chair Small recommended that one person from each subgroup work with Taskforce Member Cantú on budget, consider the budgetary aspects, make sure that there was interaction between the budget work being done and the working groups, and each working group could decide who that person should be. Taskforce Members Cantú and Joseph supported that possibility.

Taskforce Member Joseph suggested it would be helpful to have the heads of each working group meet to have a budget conversation so that everyone was on the same page, and Taskforce Member Burks recommended that each group discuss that at the first meeting to solidify the recommendations.

Taskforce Member Schlemmer verified that the purpose of a budget committee would be to identify funds to cover some of the things being recommended, identify the source of the funds, and that an ultimate decision would be made by the City Council. He recommended that some city staff be on the budget committee.

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Chair Small clarified that city staff would be involved at any rate. She did not want to add to the city staff work burden to have to attend one more meeting and she clarified that the interaction and/or presence of City staff at those meetings would be up to the individual group to determine.

Legal Counsel Flowers clarified that the working group could only include members of the actual governing body and staff could join meetings but would not be actual members of the working groups.

Interim Director White also clarified that staff was happy to attend if able but having a staff person available at all times would not be feasible. She pointed out that staff worked on the agenda and reports for the full body, which was where the connection/nexus would be.

Chair Small added that anyone interested in serving on a working group who had not already expressed that interest should identify it now. On the comment that members had not previously been asked to identify their interest in volunteering on any of the working groups, she noted that she had asked for volunteers at each time the item had been discussed.

Taskforce Member Gosney volunteered to serve on the Police Practices and Accountability working group.

Taskforce Member Bischoff also asked to be on the Police Practices and Accountability working group as well as the Health and Safety working group, although Chair Small stated that it had been discussed at the beginning that for a number of reasons members could only be a member of one working group, which would not keep members from keeping apprised of the workings of the groups that they were interested in.

Legal Counsel Flowers verified that with Taskforce Member Gosney's placement on the Police Practices and Accountability working group, it was now maxed out and there was no position available on that group to allow Taskforce Member Bischoff to become a member.

On the discussion of whether it had previously been discussed that members could volunteer to serve on two committees, Chair Small stated that had never been the practice.

MOTION by Taskforce Member Burks, seconded by Taskforce Member Therriault, to approve the working group structure, as shown in the staff report dated November 30, 2022, as discussed this date with the membership and with the addition of a Budget working group, along with the fact that Taskforce Member Cantú had volunteered to be the point person on the Budget working group, and the tentative agreement that one person from each working group would comprise the membership of the Budget working group, to be determined by each working group; with the duration of the working groups to be six months after the first meeting.

Prior to a vote, Ms. White clarified the motion to approve five working groups and the additional membership choices and explained that given the structure for a Budget working group, some Taskforce members would actually be on two working groups.

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Chair Small did not want to establish that precedent and recommended that the Budget working group be held in abeyance and that the motion be modified to approve the current working group structure for the four working groups and revisit how to address the issue of the budget at a later time.

Taskforce Member Cantú asked if a budget group could be in a different structure to avoid the concern and the Chair stated she would research the rules for the working groups and return with an agenda item for the next meeting after that research.

Taskforce Member Burks agreed to the amendment to her motion.

Taskforce Member Bischoff volunteered for the Health and Safety working group and suggested that the membership of each group be deferred pending a clarification of the issues, although Chair Small stated that the Taskforce was simply approving the names of the working groups and their purpose at this time. The membership would be clarified at a later date.

Taskforce Member Schlemmer asked if everyone had been assigned a committee and the Chair explained that she would check the minutes against the current membership to determine whether everyone had been assigned and would report back at the January meeting.

Interim Director White explained that the agenda identified the action to discuss the working groups and the membership, which would be the membership as listed in the staff report including the new additions from Taskforce Members Bischoff and Gosney, to be approved as part of the motion.

Chair Small clarified that the membership could change but the membership would be approved as shown on this date.

On the motion by Taskforce Member Burks, seconded by Taskforce Member Therriault, the Taskforce identified the four working groups as Community Investment, Police Practices and Accountability, Health and Safety and Community Based Solutions, with the membership as listed in the November 30, 2022 staff report and the addition of Taskforce Members Bischoff to the Health and Safety working group and Gosney to the Police Practices and Accountability working group, to return at the January meeting to discuss a potential budget committee, with the duration of the working groups to be six months from the first meeting. The motion carried by the following Roll Call vote:

AYES: S. Bischoff, H. Burks, M. Cantú, E. Chacon, L. Chacon, D. Gosney, R. Joseph, K. Kilian-Lobos, J. Schlemmer, B. Therriault, T. Walker, B.K. Williams, and Chair D. Small

NOES: None

ABSENT: A. Lee, L. Mangels, M. Njissang, and L. Whitmore

2. RECEIVE a Presentation from Lieutenant John Lopez Regarding the Military Equipment Ordinance

Lieutenant John Lopez, RPD, provided a presentation regarding AB 481, Military Equipment Funding, Acquisition and Use, which had been passed into law by Governor Newsom on September 30, 2021, and which had since been approved by the Richmond City Council, intended to increase community

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awareness and oversight over the possession and use by local police departments of certain types of equipment that was labeled as “military” equipment. AB 481 also required an annual report to summarize equipment usage and updates, equipment inventory and community feedback.

Lieutenant Lopez reported that the City Council had reviewed the new policy, had worked with City Councilmember Jimenez and Jennifer Tu of the American Friends Service Committee to fine-tune the City’s policies and procedures, had completed a new policy and had completed an inventory of equipment. The documents were on RPD’s government website with an email link at AB481@richmondpd.net, which would go to him as coordinator for the RPD. The RPD conducted an annual report to be presented to the public and to the City Council.

Lieutenant Lopez identified the military equipment identified under AB 481, as shown in the PowerPoint presentation, many of which were not applicable to the RPD and explained that what did apply to the RPD included unmanned aerial or ground vehicles, command and control vehicles, breaching apparatus explosive in nature, assault weapons less than .50 caliber, diversionary devices and explosive breaching, munitions containing tear gas or OC, kinetic energy weapons and munitions (40 mm launcher, bean bag shotgun, foam tipped projectiles), and any other equipment as determined by a governing body to require oversight.

The purpose of the equipment the RPD did possess was to assist in a worst case scenario, although the RPD did not warrant the use of that equipment for every incident and recognized that critical incidents were unpredictable and could be very dynamic in nature. He added that a variety of military equipment options could greatly assist incident commanders, officers, and specific units in bringing those incidents to a swift resolution in a safe manner. The use of military equipment was restricted for use only in certain instances and in some cases only by certain units.

Lieutenant Lopez offered examples of the weapons seized by the RPD in 2022, identified the equipment categories possessed by the RPD, and identified the RPD’s inventory of military equipment which included a robot and unmanned aircraft; the RPD Mobile Command Center (MCC); breaching shotgun and projectiles; rifles, SMGs and bullets; noise flash diversionary devices; chemical agents and impact munitions; and kinetic energy less lethal platforms. He also described the purpose and use of each weapon, the occasions when that equipment could be used, who could use the equipment, and the RPD authority allowing that use. He stated the RPD was committed to using the most up-to-date tools and equipment to safeguard the community. He offered his email address so that anyone with questions could contact him at jlopez@richmondpd.net.

In response to questions from Taskforce Member Burks, Lieutenant Lopez explained that the MCC unit had been taken to community events as a way to show the community some of the equipment available to the RPD. With respect to patrol rifles, he explained they could only be used at specific times, as reviewed by Councilmembers and community activists. That equipment could be used when an officer reasonably anticipated an armed encounter; when an officer was faced with a situation that may require the delivery of accurate and effective fire at long range; situations where an officer reasonably expected the need to meet or exceed a suspect’s firepower; when an officer reasonably believed that there may be a need to deliver fire on a barricaded suspect or a suspect with a hostage; when an officer reasonably believed that a suspect may be wearing body armor; when authorized or requested by a supervisor; and when needed to euthanize an animal. With respect to chemical agents,

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he clarified the names of the chemical agents involved as oleoresin capsicum (OC), alpha-chloro acetophenone (CN) and ortho-chlorobenzalmalononitrile (CS).

Taskforce Member Kilian-Lobos asked about jurisdiction and whether other jurisdictions would be able to use equipment not used in Richmond, to which Lieutenant Lopez stated that the RPD policy Section 707.6 stipulated that military equipment used by other jurisdictions providing mutual aid shall conform to the City's military equipment policy. In further response as to the assurances that policy would be implemented, he stated that his role in the RPD was also as the manager of the SWAT and Tactical Response teams and any critical incident requiring mutual aid would require the approval of the incident commander, tactical commanders, the captains and the Chief, and the RPD's policies would have to be adhered to.

Taskforce Member Gosney referred to an incident where a member of the media had reportedly been injured after being shot with a rubber bullet by a member of the RPD at a protest in Oakland, and he asked whether "rubber bullets" were used by the RPD, to which Lieutenant Lopez stated that kinetic energy impact munitions were used which could look like a rubber bullet but was not a rubber bullet. He added that the resources the RPD possessed were very dangerous and specific training in their use was required.

Taskforce Member Williams referred to the reports that had to be filed and asked that the Taskforce be provided with the reports on the actual usage of the equipment, and since the equipment was military she questioned the use of the MCC unit in public spaces where there were children and other community members. As such, she asked for the justification of displaying the MCC at public settings.

Lieutenant Lopez stated that the RPD would have to produce statistics annually on the use of military equipment, which would be presented to the community and to the City Council. As to the MCC use at community events, he stated that had been done prior to COVID and prior to AB 481, and the events had all been well attended and offered a way to show the existing equipment to the public.

Assistant Police Chief Timothy Simmons added that the MCC was also part of the larger picture of the National Incident Management System, a nationally recognized system of properly preparing for public safety in large gatherings and large settings where a command post was required under the proper emergency management planning for critical incident command for all first responders, in one place. He clarified that the MCC would be operational at this time, which was the primary underlining reason for why it was deployed at large community gatherings.

Taskforce Member Schlemmer was appreciative of the clarification of the use of the MCC and stated as one who had been in charge of traffic and special events for many years the MCC had been utilized as a command post and community engagement and he had not known of any adverse interaction with anyone during any event. The MCC had served as a focal point for the community that may need help from the police such as missing children and the like. In his opinion, it was not a piece of military equipment and the MCC served as a positive aspect of the community. He emphasized that the munitions used by the RPD that were categorized as military equipment were used only under certain circumstances, certain distances and for certain parts of the body.

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Taskforce Member Therriault referred to the various types of weaponry seized by the RPD and stated it was important to be transparent about the type of weaponry involved, which was very deadly, and it was good to have equipment available to protect the public.

Taskforce Member Therriault commented that there was a lot of equipment under AB 481 that was not actually military equipment, such as the MCC, which he stated was good for the public to see. He added that the MCC was actually a converted fire truck and was important for public safety.

Taskforce Member Walker asked the difference between military surplus and military issue and Lieutenant Lopez clarified that military surplus were items that were actually in the military used by the military that were now available to law enforcement agencies (LEA) that qualified. He stated the RPD had two military surplus items acquired under the 1033 Program, although those items had never been deployed by the RPD. The RPD was now in the process of removing itself from the 1033 Program. The items involved were a handgun and a small rifle. He added that all the RPD equipment was either brand new or had never been military-issued equipment.

Taskforce Member Walker asked if the City were to ban the use of military weapons whether that would eliminate the RPD's ability to use any of the weapons, and Lieutenant Lopez concurred and stated that if the City had not approved AB 481, the equipment could not be used. He added that the equipment categorized as military equipment was very important for the safety of the community, and that armored vehicles were very important and did not have to look militaristic. He reiterated that the RPD's current equipment was needed to safeguard the community.

Taskforce Member Walker expressed her appreciation for the clarification that the MCC was a converted fire truck and was not a tank, which would have been a concern to her. She did not support any bans at this time.

Taskforce Member Schlemmer clarified that the MCC had been custom built by a company in Florida that primarily built fire trucks, so the MCC was not a decommissioned fire truck that had been retrofitted into a mobile command center. The City's MCC had been purchased with Homeland Security funding as was the City fire boat that had been purchased in recent years. He added that a lot of weaponry possessed by the RPD had been in response to some unfortunate situations that had occurred over the years, such as the North Hollywood shootout in Los Angeles in 1997 when the LA Police Department had been outgunned because of two individuals wrapped in body armor who possessed high power AK47 rifles. The RPD needed the tools to protect its officers as well as the community at large.

Taskforce members thanked Lieutenant Lopez for the informative presentation and for the response to questions.

Chair Small noted that cities throughout the country had stockpiled various equipment in order to be prepared for emergencies to deal with, among other things, the proliferation of high-powered weapons, although referring to the Uvalde, Texas school shooting incident where the public had been told equipment was available to keep the community safe, police officers in that case had specialized equipment that had not been used. She asked Lieutenant Lopez if there had been a similar situation in Richmond where equipment was available but had not actually been utilized to protect public safety.

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Lieutenant Lopez stated in the situation at Uvalde, there were many things that had gone wrong, first from the command on scene making decisions at the time.

Lieutenant Lopez referred to situations that were inherently dangerous and stated police officers knew that, signed up for the job, and when people's lives were put at risk it was the police officer's job to address that situation. Officers would therefore have to have the training and equipment needed to be able to accomplish the mission. With respect to Richmond specifically, he could think of no incident where equipment was available that had not been put to use when needed, although there was always a way to do something better.

Chair Small asked about the RPD's position on no-knock warrants, and Lieutenant Lopez referred to a recent article from the National Tactical Officers Association (NTOA) on that issue. He stated that the RPD had not pursued no-knock warrants under his command. He explained that no-knock warrants were inherently dangerous for both the public and the officers and tactics moved away from any no-knock warrants. He referred to a number of tactics that could be used instead and explained as a commander there would have to be a specific reason to justify a no-knock warrant, which was not utilized in Richmond.

Given the time, Interim Director White stated that the meeting would have to be extended for at least 15 minutes.

Motion by Taskforce Member Therriault second by Taskforce Member Schlemmer to extend the meeting for 15 minutes, carried by the following Roll Call vote:

AYES: S. Bischoff, H. Burks, M. Cantú, E. Chacon, L. Chacon, D. Gosney, R. Joseph, K. Kilian-Lobos, J. Schlemmer, B. Therriault, T. Walker, and Chair D. Small

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: B.K. Williams

ABSENT: A. Lee, L. Mangels, M. Njissang, and L. Whitmore

Taskforce Member Schlemmer referred to the upcoming 30th anniversary of the killing of Officers David Haynes and Leonard Garcia in December 1992, a situation where the suspect who had killed those two officers had been armed with a 30-caliber carbine rifle, and one of the reasons why other officers did not go in to potentially save those two officers who died at the scene was because they weren't armed with the correct tools, did not have the correct tactics, and did not have the correct supervisor on scene.

No written comments were submitted, or oral comments made, by any member of the public for either the presentation from Lieutenant John Lopez regarding the Military Equipment Ordinance, or for the discussion of the Taskforce Working Group Structure and Membership.

Chair Small noted that the Taskforce had agreed that there would be no meeting in December and the next meeting would be in January. She asked for a volunteer to provide the Taskforce Report to the City Council in January since that meeting would occur prior to the next Taskforce meeting. She clarified that the working groups could still meet in December and set up their own meeting time and at a minimum she encouraged a report in January to identify when the working groups would meet.

City of Richmond – Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force

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

Taskforce Member Therriault volunteered to present the Taskforce Report to the City Council.

Taskforce Member Cantú verified that the remainder of the agenda, as follows, would be placed on the next agenda for the January 25, 2023 meeting.

3. DISCUSS and APPROVE Future Community Forums
4. RECEIVE a Presentation from Matrix Consulting Regarding the Comprehensive Study of Emergency Services in Richmond
5. RECEIVE a FY 2022-2023 First Quarter Report Regarding Allocations for Unhoused Interventions, YouthWorks, Office of Neighborhood Safety, and the Community Crises Response Program
6. REVIEW Feedback on Proposed Taskforce Bylaws and DISCUSS Next Steps

I. ACTION ITEM RECAP

Chair Small extended Happy Holiday wishes to everyone and thanked Taskforce Members for all their hard work.

J. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 P.M.



REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNITY TASK FORCE

DATE: January 25, 2023

TO: Members of the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force

FROM: LaShonda White, Deputy City Manager – Community Services, Task Force Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Future Community Forums

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE:

The Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force will discuss and approve future community forums.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

DISCUSS and APPROVE future community forum on Traffic Safety; Harm Reduction and Overdose Prevention; Police Policies & Practices; Youth Employment & Training; Poverty Reduction.

DISCUSSION:

At the October 26, 2022 regular meeting of the Task Force, the Chair suggested community forums on Traffic Safety; Harm Reduction and Overdose Prevention; Police Policies & Practices; Youth Employment & Training; Poverty Reduction. The Chair suggests holding these forums on the third Wednesday of the month. The topics and dates are to be approved by the Task Force.



REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNITY TASK FORCE

DATE: January 25, 2023

TO: Members of the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force

FROM: LaShonda White, Deputy City Manager – Community Services, Task Force Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Community Crisis Response Program Update – Urban Strategies Council

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE:

On July 26, 2022, the City Council approved a contract with Urban Strategies Council (USC) to conduct research and analysis of various Community Crisis Response Program options and set forth recommendations. Consistent with the agreement with USC, City Staff and the consultants would like to provide an update to the Task Force on the progress of the work done.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE an update regarding the work-to-date related to the development and implementation of a Community Crisis Response Program

DISCUSSION:

Background

The Community Crisis Program (CCRP) began taking root in November 2020 amidst conversations within the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force (RPSTF). Following a host of RPSTF Round Table and Sub-committee meetings, and subsequent allocations made approved by City Council in the Fall of 2021. City Staff released and Request for Proposal (RFP) in 2022, and ultimately approved a contract with Urban Strategies Council to assist with the implementation of a CCRP.

A major component of this work is to determine how the City of Richmond can collaborate with, and not duplicate efforts being deployed by Contra Costa Health Services' (CCHS) Anyone, Anywhere, Anytime (A3) program. A3 provides timely and appropriate behavioral health crisis services to Anyone in Contra Costa County Anywhere at Anytime (A3) and is working to address the unmet behavioral health needs in Contra Costa County. CCHS is still implementing the A3 program and as services are expanded, the A3 Miles Hall Crisis Center will provide 24/7 behavioral health support.

Update on Work Completed

Currently, USC's work-to-date is aligned with the elements outlined in their contract. The initial task consisted of project initiation, scheduling regular check-in meetings, and data gathering (sharing relevant City and other relevant documents for review). The next phase consists of community engagement. City staff outlined an initial list of stakeholders that USC should engage including boards and commissions, community-based organizations, working groups, county agencies, city departments and staff, and elected officials. Additionally, City staff coordinated introductions and referrals as necessary. Key tasks initiated and/or completed by USC include but are not limited to the following:

- Reviewed literature and data review including Health in All Policies (HIAP), Richmond Fund for Children and Youth community needs assessment and strategic investment plan, and documents from the Reimagining Public Safety Taskforce.
- Met with City Council members Gayle McLaughlin and Claudia Jimenez and remain available to meet with other City Council members and the Mayor.
- Met with key Fire Department leadership including Fire Chief Angel Montoya, Battalion Chief Bontempo, Fire Marshall Eric Govan, and Assistant Fire Marshall Eric Munson, on fire prevention, education, and emergency response.
- Met with Richmond Police Department (RPD) Chief Bisa French and scheduled meetings with dispatch and other RPD staff.
- Attended meetings and shared updates with the Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council, the Interdepartmental team focused on providing support to the unsheltered community, Reimagining Public Safety Task Force, Health Care for the Homeless, Matrix Consultants, Just Cities, HIV Education and Prevention Project of Alameda County (HEPPAC), Brighter Beginnings, Family Justice Center, Richmond Library, Office of Neighborhood Safety, Health Care for the Homeless, Public Defender's office, Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Coalition, and Nepali Health Advocates.
- Scheduled meetings with Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP), Richmond Employment & Training Division, Richmond Youth Works, SOS! Richmond, NAMI Contra Costa, Ya-NEEMA Healing Circle & Supportive Services, RCF Connects, and the Safe Return Project.

Next Steps

City staff remains engaged with USC's team to arrange introductions and meetings with county representatives and staff connected with the A3 program. Furthermore, the County's Coordinated, Outreach, Referral and Engagement Team (CORE) which experienced some delays, is expected to meet with the consultants in January. Discussions to set focus groups hosting immigrant and BIPOC community leaders, as well as other stakeholder groups have begun. Utilizing the assistance of stakeholders, City staff expect to schedule a series of focus groups and disseminate a survey with communities likely to be underrepresented. Also, with continued follow-up on the areas already underway, consultants plan to develop engagement and outreach to the business community. A draft survey was recently delivered to the City for approval and coordinated dissemination.

Additional next steps for USC include, but are not limited to:

1. Ongoing interviews with key city and county staff and other external entities (e.g., Contra Costa Health Services)
2. Developing and conducting a survey and response analysis
3. Conducting focus groups

4. Hosting one to two community meetings
5. Analyze data from Matrix consulting regarding 911 calls for service

Final Deliverables

City staff and USC will provide additional information and be available to answer questions at the City Council meeting on January 24, 2023. A draft slide deck is attached and will be updated prior to the City Council meeting (Attachment 1).

Additional information about CCRP and updates to the attached slide deck can be found at <https://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/4451/Community-Crisis-Response-Program>.

City staff anticipates that USC will deliver and present a report to City Council with draft recommendations on how to develop and implement the CCRP program in Richmond in late April or May 2023.



REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNITY TASK FORCE

DATE: January 25, 2023

TO: Members of the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force

FROM: LaShonda White, Deputy City Manager – Community Services, Task Force Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Matrix Consulting Presentation

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE:

The Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force will receive an update from Matrix Consulting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE a presentation from Matrix Consulting regarding the comprehensive study of emergency services in Richmond.

DISCUSSION:

Matrix Consulting is conducting an emergency services analysis in Richmond. The purpose of the study is to evaluate police and fire workloads and service delivery to maximize efficiency in the use of personnel.

Community input is an essential part of the development of the plan. At the June 22, 2022, regular meeting of the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force, the firm provided a presentation and received input from members of the task force on their experiences with public safety and opinions on service needs. Matrix Consulting will provide a brief update on the status of the study and may return at a future Task Force meeting to present preliminary findings.



REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNITY TASK FORCE

DATE: January 25, 2023

TO: Members of the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force

FROM: LaShonda White, Deputy City Manager – Community Services, Task Force Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Unhoused Interventions Update

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE:

The Task Force will receive a presentation from Safe Organized Spaces Richmond regarding the status of contract services for unhoused populations in Richmond and future plans.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE a presentation from Safe Organized Spaces Richmond regarding status of contract services for unhoused populations in Richmond and future plans.

DISCUSSION:

The City Council approved a contract with Rebuilding Together East Bay-North (RBTEN) on July 27, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$983,975, for a term ending on June 30, 2022, for Safe Organized Spaces Richmond (SOS!) to provide outreach and support services to unsheltered people who reside in encampments and safe parking sites in the City. SOS serve all Richmond neighborhoods and SOS teams provide support surrounding Mobile Engagement (trash and outreach), Mobile Showers, Local Stewards, and RV Repair.

On August 1, 2022, a contract amendment was executed that extended the term of the contract through November 30, 2022.

On November 15, 2022, the City Council approved a second contract amendment that extended the terms of the contract through January 31, 2023, and the payment limit of the contract to \$1,150,479.72.



REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNITY TASK FORCE

DATE: January 25, 2023

TO: Members of the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force

FROM: LaShonda White, Deputy City Manager – Community Services, Task Force Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: FY 2022-23 Task Force Budget Update

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE:

City staff will present a FY 2022-23 first quarter budget update on the Reimagining Public Safety program allocations for July 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE a FY 2022-2023 first quarter report regarding allocations for Unhoused Interventions, YouthWorks, Office of Neighborhood Safety, and the Community Crisis Response Program

DISCUSSION:

As part of the FY 2022-23 annual budget process, the City Council allocated approximately \$7.1 million in funding from various sources to fund four (4) Task Force recommended proposals/programs: Unhoused Interventions, YouthWorks, Office of Neighborhood Safety, and the Community Crisis Response Program.

Below is a high-level summary of expenditures connected with the four (4) proposals/programs recommended for funding through the Task Force. The information included in the budget report is from July 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022, through MUNIS, the City's financial system.

Brief updates are included in the budget table to provide a high-level explanation of the lower-than-expected actual expenditures. City and/or program staff will be available to answer specific questions regarding programs and service delivery at the meeting.

REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNITY TASK FORCE
FY 2022-23 BUDGET (July 1, 2022 - September 30, 2022)

	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>ENCUMBRANCES</u>	<u>REMAINING</u>	<u>UPDATE</u>
YouthWORKS	\$1,980,000	\$ 738,110	\$ -	\$1,241,890	
Department: Community Services Department, Employment & Training Division					YouthWORKS is operating and providing services to hundreds of youth in a year-round program.
OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY	\$2,333,475	\$ -	\$ -	\$2,333,475	
Department: Community Services Department, ONS					ONS hired new Neighborhood Change Agents and are continuing with the recruitment process to hire additional staff and working to develop a contract with the West Contra Costa Unified School District to provide access to high schools.
UNHOUSED INTERVENTION	\$1,800,000	\$ 42,602	\$537,078	\$1,220,320	
Department: Community Development Department					Work is ongoing. An encumbrance of \$359,519 was transferred from the FY 2021-22 budget to the FY 2022-23 budget. That amount is not reflected in the \$1.8 million. This encumbrance was connected to an existing contract.
COMMUNITY CRISIS RESPONSE PROGRAM	\$1,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000,000	
Department: Community Services Department & Fire Department					The City Council approved a \$112,000 contract with Urban Strategies Council and work has commenced. The City has not received an invoice yet for services rendered.
Total - Reimagining FY2021-22	\$7,113,475	\$780,712	\$537,078	\$5,795,685	



REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNITY TASK FORCE

DATE: January 25, 2023

TO: Members of the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force

FROM: LaShonda White, Deputy City Manager – Community Services, Task Force Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Creation of Task Force Bylaws

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE:

The Task Force will discuss and provide feedback on the draft Task Force bylaws.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

REVIEW feedback on proposed Task Force bylaws and DISCUSS next steps

DISCUSSION:

The City of Richmond Boards and Commission Handbook ([Handbook](#)) was approved by City Council and contains guidelines and instructions for all City of Richmond Boards and Commission. Members will discuss the potential of creating specific bylaws for the Task Force, which will not be in conflict with information included in the Handbook, but will provide greater clarity where needed.

Chair Small developed draft bylaws for review and consideration by the full Task Force during the March 23, 2022 regular meeting. Task Force members were subsequently provided an opportunity to review and recommend revisions to the draft bylaws prior to the April 27, 2022 regular meeting. The draft bylaws, as well as the feedback received, are being presented for further discussion before revisions are incorporated and submitted to the City Attorney’s Office for final review and approval. Final bylaws will be brought back before the Task Force at a subsequent meeting for adoption.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force Bylaws
2. Feedback on Draft Bylaws

**RICHMOND REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMUNITY TASK FORCE
By-Laws**

ARTICLE I. NAME, PURPOSE, FUNCTION

- Section 1. *NAME:* The name of this committee shall be the Richmond Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force (hereinafter “Task Force”).
- Section 2. *PURPOSE:* A joint, community-led task force charged with examining the public safety needs of Richmond residents and communities. Providing recommendations for alternatives to policing and enforcement to reduce conflict, harm, and institutionalization, introduce restorative and transformative justice models, and reduce or eliminate use of fines and incarceration. Develop options to reduce police contacts, stops, arrests, tickets, fines and incarceration and replace these, to the greatest extent possible, with educational, community serving, restorative and other positive programs, policies and systems.
- Section 3. *FUNCTIONS:* The duties of the task force are as follows:
- Conduct comprehensive reviews of existing institutional and community-based public safety and health resources. Identify community safety needs that are not currently being served and provide recommendations for how to add new resources to fill these gaps;
- Conduct listening sessions to ascertain community needs as well as public meetings to discuss community concerns about public safety; gather information and educate the public about existing resources;
- Provide regular reports on action steps and deliverables to all relevant governing bodies.

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Evaluate and make recommendations for the implementation of, or improvements to current and proposed programs that impact public safety to the Richmond City Council.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1. *MEMBERSHIP.* The Task Force is comprised of 21 members who represent the Richmond community. The Mayor and City Council members each nominated three individuals to be members of the Task Force for a total of twenty-one, which were subsequently approved by the City Council. Current members shall be listed in the written minutes of each meeting.
- Section 2. *VACANCIES.* It was determined that it is within the charter-appointed duties of the Mayor to nominate candidates for appointment to the task force, as is done for the city's boards and commissions. Mayor Butt has reasserted his right to fill vacancies that may occur with approval of the City Council.
- Section 3. *CHAIR & VICE-CHAIR.* The Task Force will elect a chair and vice-chair from the 21 members. The Chair will work with City Staff to develop Task Force agendas, review minutes and facilitate meetings. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair will assume these accountabilities. The Task Force will elect a Chair and Vice Chair annually until its termination.
- Section 4. *ATTENDANCE.* Members are required to attend all Task Force regular meetings unless excused by the Chair for good reason. Three unexcused absences are grounds for removal. The list of attendees will be recorded as part of the minutes of each meeting. Any member in violation of the attendance policy shall be sent a letter informing them of their automatic removal.

ARTICLE III. MEETINGS

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- Section 1. *Quorum.* A quorum of fifty (50) percent plus one of the Task Force twenty-one (21) members must be present at any regular or specially scheduled meeting in order for the Task Force to engage in formal decision-making. A quorum is defined as more than one-half of the total membership, including vacant seats.
- Section 2. *Proceedings.* Task Force meetings shall be open to the public, in full accordance of the Brown Act. Audio recordings will be kept for all meetings and will be posted on the Task Force website in accordance with the Brown Act and will be a public document.
- Section 3. *Parliamentary Procedure.* Rosenberg's Rules of Order, as published by the League of California Cities, shall be the parliamentary rules of order for Task Force meetings.
- Section 4. *Regular Meetings.* Task Force meetings will occur once a month at a time and place to be determined by the Task Force members. The Task Force may hold meetings more frequently if necessary. Any change in the regular meeting schedule shall be announced at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance.
- Section 5. *Order of Business.* Unless changed as determined by a majority vote of the Task Force, the order of business of any Regular meeting shall be as follows:
1. Roll call
 2. Approval of the Minutes
 3. Open Public Comment (for items relevant to the Task Force, but not on the agenda).
 4. Consideration of Task Force Business/Action Items.
(Public comment specific to each business/action item shall be requested prior to any action being taken on the item.)
 5. New Business (No action if not on agenda.)
 6. Adjournment
- Section 7. *Notice.* Written notice of the time and place of every full Task Force meeting shall be given to members of the Task Force and

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the public at least 72 hours before the time of such meeting, in accordance with the Brown Act.

- Section 8. *Special Meetings.* Special Meetings may be called and scheduled by the Chair or, by seven or more members. The agenda, place and time of such meetings shall be set forth in the meeting notice, at least twenty-four (24) hours before the time of such meeting in accordance with the Brown Act.

ARTICLE IV. VOTING

- Section 1. *Voting.* While the Task Force strives to achieve consensus, the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present shall be required for the approval of any matter. Votes will be taken by roll call vote, and detailed in the minutes.
- Section 2. *Absentee Votes.* Absentee votes shall not be permitted.

ARTICLE V. SUBCOMMITTEES

- Section 1. *Subcommittee Structure.* The Task Force may create working groups and sub-committees as deemed necessary, by a majority vote of the Task Force.
- Section 2. *Committee Membership.* Membership of working groups and subcommittees shall be made up of members of the Task Force.
- Section 3. *Advisory Committees.* Task Force members may create Advisory Committees to support specific working groups or subcommittees. Advisory committee members may include city staff, organizational stakeholders and such other experts as appropriate and/or necessary. No subcommittee, working group or advisory committee may make decisions or act on behalf of the Task Force, except as authorized.

ARTICLE VI. TERMINATION

Section 1. It is anticipated that the Task Force shall complete its mission by the close of FY2024. However, this work is critically important and should be completed with due care and all needed time and attention. In light of that, if at the end of that time, the Task Force has not fully completed its work, the Task Force may by two-thirds vote of the membership add six months to its period of work with approval by City Council.

ARTICLE VII. NON-PARTISAN/NON-DISCRIMINATORY

Section 1. The Task Force shall be non-partisan, shall not support any political party or candidate for public office, and shall not take positions on matters of governmental policy or legislation, except for those relevant to its purposes. The Task Force shall not directly or indirectly participate or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office.

Section 2. The Task Force shall not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, gender identity or disability.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Task Force by a two-thirds vote of those members present, providing that a notice of the proposed amendment shall be distributed to all members at least ten days prior to the meeting.

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DON GOSNEY COMMENTS

COMMENT:

Since most of these by-laws are already included in the Brown Act, Rosenberg’s Rules of Order and the City’s Handbook of Committees and Commissions, how necessary is it for the Task Force to establish their own by-laws?

When this draft is discussed, the individual items of concern should be addressed seriatim and not as a group. Each item has its own merits (and flaws).

ARTICLE I. NAME, PURPOSE, FUNCTION

Section 1. *NAME:* The name of this committee shall be the Richmond Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force (hereinafter “Task Force”).

Section 2. *PURPOSE:* A **joint [I-2(a)]**, community-led task force charged with examining the public safety needs of Richmond residents and **communities [I-2(b)]**. Providing recommendations for alternatives to policing and enforcement to reduce conflict, harm, and institutionalization, introduce restorative and transformative justice models, and **reduce or eliminate use of fines and incarceration [I-2(c)] [I-2(e)]**. Develop options to reduce police contacts, stops, arrests, tickets, fines and incarceration and replace these, to the greatest extent possible, with educational, community serving, restorative and other positive programs, policies and systems **[I-2-(d)], [I-2(f)]**

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DON GOSNEY COMMENTS

COMMENTS:

I-2(a) “Joint”? Who is the Task Force partnered with? His reference needs clarification.

I-2(b) What “communities”? This reference needs definition and explanation.

I-2(c) The Task Force’s scope seems to have been expanded beyond what the Council approved when the Task Force was created. The Task Force needs to revisit the very specific language used when the Council created the Task Force. If the Council specifically created the scope of the Task Force, does the Task Force have the authority to expand that scope?

[The specific language of the motion to create the Task Force:

MOTION TO CREATE REIMAGINING TASK FORCE

06.30.20

TRANSCRIPT

COUNCILMEMBER JAEL MYRICK

It was to direct staff to prepare a plan to transition from Richmond’s current community policing model, to a plan conducive to reduce police force and return to Council with a preferred policing model, and a plan for implementation by the end of the fiscal year.

And to create a transition accountability task force of the public, to advise staff during that process. And that that task force would have access to legally allowable

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DON GOSNEY COMMENTS

data, and to legal questions from the City Attorney's office. And that task force would have standing meetings with the City Manager.

And I was going to say the Police Chief, because originally ... or someone from the Police Department, I should say, and require that that task force ... I won't say it would be convening within two weeks, because it sounds like that's going to be a little more complicated, but they still will have to report back to the Council by September 15th, 2020, and then monthly.

COUNCILMEMBER EDUARDO MARTINEZ

Would you accept a friendly amendment of including community groups such as Safe Return Project RYSE Center?

COUNCILMEMBER JAEL MYRICK

Yeah. I was trying to avoid getting specific, but yeah, we could say it includes, but it's not limited to members of the Richmond police ... Community Police Review Commission, Office of Neighborhood Safety, Safe Return Project and the RYSE Center as well as the Police Department.

COUNCILMEMBER MELVIN WILLIS

And even the County?

COUNCILMEMBER JAEL MYRICK

Yeah, and even the County.

COUNCILMEMBER MELVIN WILLIS

And part of that motion was just allowing the task force to have access to legally available public data, and just general legal consultation. Sorry, I didn't capture that. It was a long one. You're doing good Councilmember Myrick, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JAEL MYRICK

It was a long one.

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DON GOSNEY COMMENTS

COUNCILMEMBER MELVIN WILLIS

You're doing good.

COUNCILMEMBER Jael Myrick

Yeah, so we could accommodate that, that's fine.

MAYOR TOM BUTT

Okay. Now, let's call the roll vote please.

PAM CHRISTIAN

Vice Mayor Bates?

VICE MAYOR NAT BATES

No.

PAM CHRISTIAN

Councilmember Choi?

COUNCILMEMBER BEN CHOI

Yes.

PAM CHRISTIAN

Councilmember Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER DEMNUS JOHNSON

Yes.

PAM CHRISTIAN

Councilmember Martinez?

COUNCILMEMBER EDUARDO MARTINEZ

Yes.

PAM CHRISTIAN

Councilmember Myrick?

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DON GOSNEY COMMENTS

COUNCILMEMBER JAELE MYRICK

Yes.

PAM CHRISTIAN

Councilmember Willis?

COUNCILMEMBER MELVIN WILLIS

Yes.

PAM CHRISTIAN

And Mayor Butt?

MAYOR TOM BUTT

I'm going to vote, no. And I think the other thing is that I'm going to take up Vice Mayor Bates' advice that I don't think we need two bodies doing this. So, I'm going to disband the ad hoc committee, and let the task force redesign the police department.

PAM CHRISTIAN

And the motion passes with Vice Mayor Bates, and Mayor Butt voting no.

I-2(d) This task force is purely advisory and has no authority to take action on behalf of the City. The Task Force can make recommendations but the language here needs to be specific so there is no confusion or ambiguity as to the authority that the Task Force has.

I-2(e) Isn't it the State that determines what is against the law and what the punishment for breaking those laws will be? Is it the intent of this Task Force to direct the Richmond Police Department about which laws they should not enforce or which persons they should give a pass to? Since sworn police

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DON GOSNEY COMMENTS

officers take an oath to uphold the laws of California, does the Task Force have the authority to reprioritize which laws should be enforced? Does the Task Force have the authority to direct the judicial system which cases should be heard and the punishments meted out by the courts?

I-2(f) This reads like a list but its written as if the items are sentences. His section should be redrafted so it's either a list of items or the sentences are complete sentences and make sense.

Section 3. *FUNCTIONS:* The duties of the task force are as follows:

Conduct comprehensive reviews of existing institutional and community-based public safety and health resources. Identify community safety needs that are not currently being served and provide recommendations for how to add new resources to fill these gaps; **[I-3(a)]**

COMMENT:

I-3(a) Is it the responsibility of the Task Force to find new resources to fund the solutions to the “community needs” or should it be the responsibility of the elected City Council?

Conduct listening sessions to ascertain community needs as well as public meetings to discuss community concerns about public safety; gather information and educate the public about existing resources; **[I-3(b)]**

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DON GOSNEY COMMENTS

COMMENT:

I-3(b) Include language that would require the Task Force to actually listen to members of the community at these “listening sessions”.

Provide regular reports on action steps and deliverables to all relevant governing bodies. [I-3(c)]

COMMENT:

I-3(c) Specify what governing bodies other than the City Council that this Task Force reports to.

Evaluate and make recommendations for the implementation of [I-3(d)] public safety to the Richmond City Council.

COMMENT:

I-3(d) Remove comma.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. *MEMBERSHIP.* The Task Force is comprised of 21 members who represent the Richmond community. The Mayor [II-1(a)] and City Council members each nominated three individuals to be members of the Task Force for a total of twenty-one, which were subsequently approved by the City

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Council. [II-1(b)] Current members shall be listed in the written minutes of each meeting. [II-1(c)]

COMMENTS:

II-1(a) The Mayor is a member of the City Council so this reference should not make a distinction between the two elected offices.

II-1(b) Amend the second sentence to as follows so it reflects the policy of the Council: “Members of the Task Force are nominated by individual members of the City Council, appointed by the Mayor with the appointments approved by a majority of the Council.”

II-1(c) Maintain a current list of the Task Force members on the Task Force web site as well.

Section 2. *VACANCIES.* It was determined that it is within the charter-appointed duties [II-2(a)] of the Mayor to nominate candidates [II-2(b)] [II-2(c)] for appointment to the task force, as is done for the city’s [II-2(d)] boards and commissions. Mayor Butt has reasserted his right to fill vacancies that may occur with approval of the City Council.

COMMENTS:

II-2(a) This language suggests there was a question on who had the authority to appoint members to the Task Force, there

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was an investigation with a follow-up ruling—which was not the case. Remove this text.

II-2(b) The Mayor appoints people to the Task Force and these appointments must be approved by the Council.

II-2(c) These are not candidates—they are applicants.

II-2(d) In cases like this where the reference is to the City of Richmond as opposed to a generic city, “City” is capitalized.

Section 3. *CHAIR & VICE-CHAIR.* The Task Force will elect a chair and vice-chair from the 21 members. The Chair will work with City Staff to develop Task Force agendas, review minutes and facilitate meetings. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair will assume these accountabilities. The Task Force will elect a Chair and Vice Chair annually until its termination. **[II-3(a)]**

COMMENT:

II-3(a) When will the elections be held?

Section 4. *ATTENDANCE.* Members are required to attend all Task Force regular meetings unless excused by the Chair for good reason. **[II-4(a)]** Three unexcused absences **[II-4(b)]** are grounds for removal. The list of attendees will be recorded as part of the minutes of each meeting. Any member in violation of the attendance policy shall be sent a letter informing them of their automatic removal. **[II-4(c)] [II-4(d)]**

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COMMENTS:

II-4(a) What constitutes an excused/unexcused absence?

II-4(b) Three absences over what period?

II-4(c) A letter should be sent out well in advance of any removal as well as notifying the Task Force member of the removal. The Task Force should find way of keeping people on the Task Force instead of giving the appearance of finding ways to remove them from this Task Force.

II-4(d) Why are Task Force members NOT required to attend special called meetings of the Task Force? Are these special called meets of less importance?

ARTICLE III. MEETINGS

Section 1. *Quorum.* A quorum of fifty (50) percent plus one of the Task Force Force's [III-1(a)] twenty-one (21) members must be present at any regular or specially scheduled meeting in order for the Task Force to engage in formal decision-making. A quorum is defined as more than one-half of the total membership, including vacant seats.

COMMENT:

III-1(a) Pluralize the word "Force".

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Section 2. *Proceedings.* Task Force meetings shall be open to the public, in full accordance ~~of~~ with [III-2(a)] the Brown Act. **Audio and Video** [III-2(b)] recordings will be kept for all meetings and will be posted on the Task Force website in accordance with the Brown Act [III-2(c)] and will be a public document.

COMMENTS:

III-2(a) Replace “of” with “with:”.

III-2(b) Replace “Audio” with “Audio and video”.

III-2(c) Should the reference to The Brown Act be removed? Since the Brown Act was passed in 1953 it does not always keep up with the advancements of technology. Video recordings are the norm today but were not existent in 1953.

Section 3. *Parliamentary Procedure.* Rosenberg's Rules of Order, as published by the League of California Cities, shall be the parliamentary rules of order for Task Force meetings.

Section 4. *Regular Meetings.* Task Force meetings will occur once a month at a time and place to be determined by the Task Force members. **The Task Force may hold meetings more frequently if necessary. Any change in the regular meeting schedule shall be announced at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance. [III-4(a)]**

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COMMENT:

III-4(a) Who has the authority to change the date and time of the meetings?

Section 5. *Order of Business.* Unless changed as determined by a majority vote of the Task Force, the order of business of any Regular meeting shall be as follows:

1. Roll call
2. Approval of the Minutes
3. Open Public Comment (for items relevant to the Task Force, but not on the agenda).
4. Consideration of Task Force Business/Action Items. (Public comment specific to each business/action item shall be requested prior to any action being taken on the item.)
5. New Business (No action if not on agenda.)
6. Adjournment

Section 7. *Notice.* Written notice of the time and place of every full Task Force meeting shall be given to members of the Task Force and the public at least 72 hours before the time of such meeting, in accordance with the Brown Act. **[III-7(a)]**

COMMENT:

III-7(a) For more fluid flow, relocate the end of the paragraph to the beginning:

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“In accordance with the Brown Act, written notice of the time and place of every full Task Force meeting shall be given to members of the Task Force and the public at least 72 hours before the time of such meeting.”

Section 8. *Special Meetings*. **[III-8(a)]** Special Meetings may be called and scheduled by the Chair or, by seven or more members. The agenda, place and time of such meetings shall be set forth in the meeting notice, at least twenty-four (24) hours before the time of such meeting in accordance with the Brown Act. **[III-7(b)]**

COMMENT:

III-8(A) What would be the basis of a Special Meeting? Normally a Special meeting is called when there is an item with critical timing involved. What kind of item covered by this Task Force might fall under that category?

III-8(b) When such a small group has the authority to call a special meeting with only 24 hours notice, this is ripe for the small group to hijack the Task Force and act on items possibly without a full representation of the Task Force. This Task Force is far from unanimous on the issues and this item comes across as if it were designed to circumvent the democratic purposes. What kind of emergency would require a Special Meeting with only 24 hours notice?

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ARTICLE IV. VOTING

Section 1. *Voting.* While the Task Force strives to achieve consensus, the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present **[IV-1(a)]** shall be required for the approval of any matter. Votes will be taken by roll call vote, and detailed in the minutes.

COMMENT:

IV-1(a) Rosenberg's Rules call for a majority of possible members to approve any action—NOT just those present.

Section 2. *Absentee Votes.* Absentee votes shall not be permitted.

ARTICLE V. SUBCOMMITTEES

Section 1. *Subcommittee Structure.* The Task Force may create working groups and sub-committees as deemed necessary, by a majority vote of the Task Force. **[V-1(a)]**

COMMENT:

V-1(a) For more fluid flow, relocate the end of the paragraph to the beginning:

“By a majority vote of the Task Force the Task Force may create working groups and sub-committees as deemed necessary.”

Section 2. *Committee Membership.* Membership of working groups and subcommittees shall be made up of members of the Task Force.

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Advisory Committees. Task Force members [IV-2(a)] may create Advisory Committees to support specific working groups or subcommittees.

COMMENTS:

V-2(a) “Task Force members”? Is this ‘two or more’ Task Force members or a ‘majority’ of the Task Force members?

Section 3. Advisory committee members may include city staff, organizational stakeholders and such other experts as appropriate and/or necessary. No subcommittee, working group or advisory committee may make decisions or act on behalf of the Task Force, except as authorized. [V-3(a)]

COMMENT:

V-3(a) This sounds like individual Task Force members may be creating a Task Force within a Task Force—adding persons not appointed by the City Council.

ARTICLE VI. TERMINATION

Section 1. It is anticipated that the Task Force shall complete its mission by the close of FY2024. However, this work is critically important and should be completed with due care and all needed time and attention. In light of that, if at the end of that time, the Task Force has not fully completed its work, the Task Force may by two-thirds vote of the membership add six

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months to its period of work with approval by City Council.
[VI-1(a)]

COMMENT:

VI-1(a) **ONLY** the City Council can extend the life of the Task Force. Likewise, the Council may choose, at their convenience, to terminate the Task Force at any time deemed appropriate to their whims.

Suggest the replacement of this entire section with the following text:

“The City Council shall determine when the work of this Task Force has concluded and will have sole authority to either extend the duration of the Task Force or to terminate it’s work.”

ARTICLE VII. NON-PARTISAN/NON-DISCRIMINATORY

Section 1. The Task Force shall be non-partisan, shall not support any political party or candidate for public office, and shall not take positions on matters of governmental policy or legislation, except for those relevant to its purposes. The Task Force shall not directly or indirectly participate or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office.

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Section 2. The Task Force shall not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, gender identity or disability. **[VII-2(a)]**

COMMENT:

VII-2(a) This is meaningless as long as Task Force members feel and act contrary to these words. There have been numerous incidents of comments made that conflict with this section made towards Task Force members as well as staff. Task Force members have walked away from this Task Force because of the lack of civility and attitude towards persons who may have opposing opinions or the gender or color of their skin does not match what the preferences of other Task Force members. [See video of meeting of 02.23.22 where a Task Force member objected to the face of a White Man being seen on the screen.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Task Force by a **two-thirds** **[VIII-1(a)]** vote of those members present, providing that a notice of the proposed amendment shall be distributed to all members at least ten days prior to the meeting.

COMMENT:

VIII 1(a) Normal procedure requires only a simple majority. Rosenberg's Rules allows for a supermajority to be required under specific situations but amending the By-Laws is not one

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of them. Getting 14 Task Force members to agree on a By-Law amendment is overly burdensome. This Article should revert to the standard of a simple majority for passage and it should follow the same rules for what constitutes a majority as any other vote as covered by Rosenberg's Rules.