

City of Richmond – Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force
Meeting held in Person: F & G Rooms, Richmond Memorial Auditorium
403 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA 94804

Minutes*
Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 5:30 P.M.

**video recording and meeting transcript available*

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Small called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

B. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: S. Bischoff, H. Burks, M. Cantú, L. Chacon, D. Gosney, R. Joseph, K. Kilian-Lobos, A. Lee, L. Murray, M. Njissang, J. Pursell, B. Therriault*, L. Whitmore, B.K. Williams, and Chair D. Small

*Arrived after Roll Call

EXCUSED

ABSENCE: E. Chacon, J. Schlemmer, and T. Walker

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Deputy City Manager-Community Services LaShonda White, Assistant Administrative Analyst Guadalupe Morales, Associate Administrative Analyst Stephanie Ny, and City Attorney Alison Flowers.

C. AGENDA REVIEW AND ADOPTION

There were no recommended changes to the agenda and the agenda was adopted as presented.

D. MEETING PROCEDURES

Guadalupe Morales, staff to the Taskforce, identified the meeting procedures and the public's ability to speak during the meeting.

E. MINUTES APPROVAL

1. APPROVE the minutes of the February 22, 2023 regular meeting of the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force

Motion by Taskforce Member Bischoff, seconded by Taskforce Member Joseph to adopt the minutes of the February 22, 2023 meeting, as submitted, carried by the following Roll Call vote:

AYES: S. Bischoff, H. Burks, M. Cantú, L. Chacon, D. Gosney, R. Joseph, K. Kilian-Lobos, A. Lee, L. Murray, M. Njissang, J. Pursell, L. Whitmore, B.K. Williams, and Chair D. Small

NOES: None

ABSENT: E. Chacon, J. Schlemmer, B. Therriault, and T. Walker

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F. CITY STAFF REPORTS

Deputy City Manager-Community Services Director LaShonda White welcomed everyone to the first in-person meeting and had no announcements at this time.

Given some difficulty accessing the meeting agenda through Gmail, Ms. White advised that extra copies of the agenda would be available at future meetings. It was also clarified that the agenda and packet were also available on the City website.

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Marisol Cantú, Richmond, spoke to the untimely death of Jose Luis Lopez and the fact that the Community Police Review Commission (CPRC) had sustained an extensive use of force on Mr. Lopez three years ago. She explained that the video footage of that incident had been secured by the *San Francisco Chronicle* through a Public Records Request in October 2021, and Mr. Lopez's family was still seeking justice in that the CPRC's action had essentially gone nowhere and it called for the City to reimagine the community response, and the need for those working on the Community Crises Response Program (CCRP) to reimagine public safety in that the death in this case could have been avoided with a different response.

Randy Joseph, an employee of the RYSE Center, announced that the RYSE Be A Kid Fundraiser would be held on April 28, 2023 to allow adults to participate in young people activities. Tickets started at \$30. He also advised that he was a member of the CPRC, which held its monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 P.M., in-person in the Basement of City Hall, with direct contact with the Police Chief, the Richmond Police Officers' Association (RPOA) and the Richmond Police Management Association (RMPA), and he encouraged those interested to attend CPRC meetings.

H. PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSIONS, AND ACTION ITEMS

1. DISCUSS and APPROVE Task Force Regular Meeting Schedule

Associate Administrative Analyst Stephanie Ny reported that there had been 17 responses to the survey; seven responses had voted to maintain the current meeting time on the fourth Wednesday of the month from 5:30 to 7:30 P.M., four responses had supported the fourth Wednesday of the month from 6:00 to 7:30 P.M., three responses had supported the fourth Thursday of the month from 6:00 to 7:30 P.M., and there was one vote for the remainder of the options. The majority had been cast to maintain the current meeting time and schedule.

On the discussion, Task Force Member Njissang suggested that the majority wanted to move the time to 6:00 P.M. regardless of the day.

Task Force Member Burks recommended leaving the meetings as is and suggested that by shortening the meeting time by 25 percent would be detrimental and the vote was not high enough to merit that change.

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Chair Small noted that her review of the data was that the majority wanted to keep the day and time as is. Since there was only one meeting a month, she did not support a half-hour reduction in the duration of the meetings. Barring any strong objections, she preferred that the meeting schedule remain as is.

No written comments were submitted, or oral comments made, by any member of the public.

Task Force Member Joseph commented for those members attending the meeting immediately after work it was difficult to arrive in time for a 5:30 P.M. meeting start. He recommended a 6:00 P.M. meeting start with a cutoff of 8:00 P.M.

Motion by Taskforce Member Bischoff, seconded by Taskforce Member Burks to leave the meeting schedule as is, meeting on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 5:30 to 7:30 P.M.

Task Force Member Joseph made a Substitute Motion for Task Force meetings to be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. The motion was seconded by Task Force Member Njissang.

Chair Small noted that was not an option previously considered and she asked whether the survey needed to be conducted again.

City Attorney Allison Flowers advised that there would have to be a vote on the Substitute Motion first.

On the Substitute Motion by Task Force Member Joseph, seconded by Task Force Member Njissang that Task Force meetings be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M., the motion FAILED to carry by the following Roll Call vote:

AYES: H. Burks, M. Cantú, R. Joseph, L. Murray, and M. Njissang

NOES: S. Bischoff, D. Gosney, K. Kilian-Lobos, J. Pursell, L. Whitmore, B.K. Williams, and Chair D. Small

ABSTAIN: L. Chacon, and A. Lee

ABSENT: E. Chacon, J. Schlemmer, B. Therriault, and T. Walker

On the Original Motion to maintain the current meeting schedule on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 5:30 to 7:30 P.M., the motion CARRIED by the following Roll Call vote:

AYES: S. Bischoff, H. Burks, M. Cantú, L. Chacon, R. Joseph, K. Kilian-Lobos, A. Lee, L. Murray, J. Pursell, L. Whitmore, B.K. Williams, and Chair D. Small

NOES: D. Gosney

ABSTAIN: M. Njissang

ABSENT: E. Chacon, J. Schlemmer, B. Therriault, and T. Walker

Chair Small wanted to make sure that the public was aware that the Task Force was meeting in-person. She recommended a more intentional outreach plan that could later be discussed by the Task Force.

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Deputy City Manager-Community Services White advised that agendas were posted at 440 Civic Center Plaza, at the Council Chambers, on-line, on the website, could be further announced through social media, and KCRT could be asked to include it on its announcements.

2. DISCUSS and APPROVE the Schedule for Upcoming Community Forums on Traffic Safety; Harm Reduction and Overdose Prevention; Police Policies & Practices; Youth Employment, Training & Safety; and Poverty Reduction Strategies

Chair Small referenced the expectation that the five forums would take place over the next five to six months. In response to questions from the Task Force, she understood that the forums would be conducted through Zoom, be in the same format that had previously been used, and that an objective for the Police Policies & Practices forum would allow a follow-up to things that had previously been started with the Richmond Police Department (RPD) along with additional things the Task Force might want to be addressed. She added that there was no agenda for any of the forums other than to create opportunities for community discussion, input, and what the public wanted to see the Task Force do. The Task Force would have to identify what it wanted to do with each of the forums and the schedule, after which members of the City Council would be asked to participate. As to whether there would be co-sponsors of the forums, the Chair stated the more involved the better.

Each member of the Task Force offered ideas on when and how to proceed, what to include, and who to involve, with comments and recommendations as follows:

- Anticipate the most participation from the public in a hybrid model in a Saturday format that did not precede a City Council meeting on the following Tuesday to encourage as much participation from the public and the Council as possible; or consider monthly sessions and meet in different communities to appeal to more people and build on prior conversations, although the level of commitment required of the public to attend multiple forums during a short period of time was recognized as a concern.
- Consider one large event to discuss all the topics at one time with breakout sessions to discuss the individual topics and then report out and share information that the Task Force could then evaluate and involve City Councilmember(s) to be involved in the breakout sessions.
- In line with poverty reduction strategies, consider a paid opportunity for focus groups and encourage sponsorships to fund that paid opportunity.
- Given its importance, pursue the Police Policies & Practices topic at a separate forum with the Police Chief to be involved.
- Concern that a Saturday forum(s) could exclude many people from participating given the spring/summer season and the family activities involved during that time, and acknowledged that available Saturdays were limited given that Cinco de Mayo would be celebrated on a Friday and Juneteenth would be on a Monday this year.

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- Encourage the involvement of young people.
- Recognize the need to pursue COVID precautions.
- Honor the input from the public and protect the time in groups to work on what had been shared while continuing to have the streams of input remain open.
- Partner with West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) and Contra Costa Community College District to bring students into the process, and afterward engage with a resource table for such pursuits as a job fair, offer Narcan kits and provide training on how to use them, or offer first aid training as examples for a community event where the public could participate and be part of the public safety plan and put the ideas into practice.
- Create a space where people could talk to the Task Force about traffic safety, every day issues about driving around the City, the problems, the specific hot spots and use that information to think about interventions to propose to the City to address it; and similarly with harm reduction and overdose prevention to allow people to know about getting access to Narcan, and a broader conversation about harm reduction around having test strips for fentanyl, about having safe consumption spaces, heroin maintenance programs, with stakeholders as a way of educating the public and expanding the potential intervention to engage in as a city; similarly around youth employment and safety, about lowering the age to include more young people, how to help young people develop their own entrepreneurial skills and advances in addition to getting a job; with poverty reduction and basic income an issue since it was clear that poverty was one of the root causes of all of the other issues the Task Force wanted to address.
- Concern that attempting to do everything in one day would leave little time for meaningful engagement and sharing of people's actual experiences and concerns.

Deputy City Manager-Community Services Director White clarified on the discussion of the staff involvement that if the forum was truly a Task Force/community forum, City staff could participate and provide support but attending five forums would be very difficult given that staff had multiple night meetings and staff was overworked. She verified that if there was a community meeting not led by the City, staff would not have to be present but could be present. If there was a co-sponsored event, there would have to be a different conversation. As to having Zoom meetings, she did not believe that City staff was required to provide those meetings but she would confirm that circumstance.

Motion by Task Force Member Burks, seconded by Task Force Member Cantú to host a Community Summit that would include the five topics scheduled for a Saturday.

Task Force Member Pursell offered a Friendly Amendment to conduct a Community Summit in-person with a separate Zoom session afterward for those unable to attend the in-person event, if needed, which would be shorter and which would be scheduled on a different day.

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Task Force Member Burks accepted the Friendly Amendment to her motion and by consensus of the Task Force recommended the date of the summit as June 3, 2023 as part of the motion.

Task Force Member Burks restated her motion to move to have a Community Summit on Reimagining Public Safety that would cover all of the topics previously selected by the Task Force, the summit to take place on Saturday, June 3, 2023 with a virtual make-up version available after that date for those who missed the initial opportunity to engage. The motion was seconded by Task Force Member Cantú.

On the discussion, the Task Force emphasized the need to pursue all five topics in the communities that suffered poverty and stressed that poverty reduction and youth employment and safety were very important, and the experiences and expertise in the five topics was expected to come from the community itself.

Motion by Task Force Member Burks, seconded by Task Force Member Cantú, to have a Community Summit on Reimagining Public Safety that would cover all of the topics previously selected by the Task Force, the summit to take place on Saturday, June 3, 2023 with a virtual make-up version available after that date for those who missed the initial opportunity to engage, carried by the following vote:

AYES: H. Burks, M. Cantú, L. Chacon, R. Joseph, K. Kilian-Lobos, A. Lee, M. Njissang,
J. Pursell, B. Therriault, L. Whitmore, B.K. Williams, and Chair D. Small
NOES: S. Bischoff, and D. Gosney
ABSTAIN: L. Murray
ABSENT: E. Chacon, J. Schlemmer, and T. Walker

Chair Small recommended the creation of a planning group for the summit and asked if there were any volunteers, although it was noted that item had not been included on the agenda and it would have to be agendized to allow a planning group to be set up.

An email from staff was recommended to solicit volunteers although the number of volunteers would have to be consistent with the Brown Act.

3. DISCUSS and APPROVE Monthly Reports to City Council for April, May and June

Chair Small advised that the item was on the City Council agenda for the third Tuesday in April and she wanted to identify what Task Force Member would present the Monthly Reports to the City Council for April, May and June.

No written comments were submitted, or oral comments made, by any member of the public.

Motion by Taskforce Member Joseph, seconded by Taskforce Member Chacon that Task Force Member Cantú would present the Monthly Report in April, Task Force Member Joseph would do it for May and Task Force Member Pursell would do it for June, carried by the following Roll Call vote:

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AYES: S. Bischoff, H. Burks, M. Cantú, L. Chacon, D. Gosney, R. Joseph, K. Kilian-Lobos, A. Lee, L. Murray, M. Njissang, J. Pursell, B. Therriault, L. Whitmore, B.K. Williams, and Chair D. Small

NOES: None

ABSENT: E. Chacon, J. Schlemmer, and T. Walker

4. RECEIVE a FY 2022-23 First and Second Quarter Report Regarding Allocations for Unhoused Interventions, YouthWorks, Office of Neighborhood Safety, and the Community Crises Response Program

Deputy City Manager-Community Services Director White stated as part of the packet there was a spreadsheet and a matrix, which included each of the Council approved intervention areas, and which identified the department that was working on those areas along with the approved budget for FY 2022-23. She advised that the City of Richmond's fiscal year started on July 1 and ended on June 30. Over \$7.1 million had been set aside from the General Fund to support the projects. The spreadsheet identified the budgeted amount and the actual dollars along with the remaining funds for YouthWorks at \$752,246; the Office of Neighborhood Safety had a remaining balance of \$2,157,477; Unhoused Intervention had a remaining balance of \$1,204,914; and for the Community Crises Response Program there was a remaining balance of \$1,000,000 for a total Reimagining FY 2021-22 remaining amount of \$5,114,637. She also updated the status of each project.

In response to comments from the Task Force, Ms. White advised that she would have to provide the details at the next meeting for what Unhoused Intervention included; reported that staff had been working with the Human Resources (HR) Department to recruit more Case Managers for YouthWorks and she would agendaize an item for the next meeting to provide more detailed information in that regard. She also confirmed that she would present project updates and a line-item budget for each project for 2022-23 on the next agenda to the extent feasible given that the budget had not been allocated to that level in the City's system.

Chair Small verified with Task Force Member Cantú her desire to have staff representatives for each project attend the next Task Force meeting to report on how the money had been spent for the 2022-23 fiscal year recognizing that the level of detail available might not be the level of detail desired.

Task Force Member Therriault asked how many of the programs had received funds from Kids First, whether those were the only funds provided to the programs, and whether that had been documented in the individual budgets.

Deputy City Manager-Community Services Director White stated that Community Crises Response was the only item that received its full budget as shown. Every other intervention area received funds from various sources with a combination of General Funds, grants, local state/federal grants or in-lieu housing fees. As to Kids First, she would have to provide that information at the next meeting.

Motion by Task Force Member Therriault, second by Task Force Member Njissang to extend the meeting for five minutes, carried by the following vote:

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AYES: S. Bischoff, H. Burks, M. Cantú, L. Chacon, D. Gosney, R. Joseph, K. Kilian-Lobos, A. Lee, L. Murray, M. Njissang, J. Pursell, B. Therriault, L. Whitmore, B.K. Williams, and Chair D. Small

NOES: None

ABSENT: E. Chacon, J. Schlemmer, and T. Walker

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Anne Janks referred to a survey out digitally about the Community Crises Response Program (CCRP) and emergency responses and crises, and paper versions in English, Spanish, Portuguese and Mandarin. She reported there had been 250 responses, with a goal of 500 responses, and one request was that the Task Force encourage that survey digitally. She would provide paper copies if desired. If there were any events or meetings coming up where it would be appropriate to put on the agenda, she would be happy to come in-person and wanted to pursue conversations with different communities in Richmond about their needs and what resources they relied on.

Chair Small reported there would be a CAHOOTS session on March 23, 2023 from 9:00 to 11:00 A.M. to talk about their day-to-day activities. It would be an on-line meeting with a link on the CAHOOTS website.

I. ACTION ITEM RECAP: None

J. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P.M. to the next meeting on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, in the F & G Rooms, Richmond Memorial Auditorium, 403 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA 94804.