

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

Minutes*
Wednesday, April 26, 2023, 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, L. Chacon, D. Gosney, K. Kilian-Lobos, L. Murray*, M. Njissang, J. Pursell, B. Therriault, T. Walker, L. Whitmore, B.K. Williams, and Chair D. Small

EXCUSED

ABSENCE: E. Chacon, R. Joseph, and J. Schlemmer

ABSENT: A. Lee

STAFF PRESENT: Deputy City Manager-Community Services Director (Staff Liaison to the Task Force) LaShonda White, Assistant Administrative Analyst Guadalupe Morales, Associate Administrative Analyst Stephanie Ny, and City Attorney Alison Flowers.

*Arrived after roll call

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 Task Force, identified the meeting procedures and the public's ability to speak during the meeting. She announced that anyone may make an oral comment even if a written one had previously been submitted; however, each speaker may raise their hand once to make one oral public comment per agenda item.

E. MINUTES APPROVAL

1. APPROVE the minutes of the March 22, 2023, Regular Meeting of the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force

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

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AYES: S. Bischoff, H. Burks, M. Cantú, L. Chacon, D. Gosney, K. Kilian-Lobos, L. Murray,
M. Njissang, J. Pursell, B. Therriault, L. Whitmore, B.K. Williams, and Chair D. Small
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: T. Walker
ABSENT: E. Chacon, R. Joseph, A. Lee, and J. Schlemmer

F. CITY STAFF REPORTS

Staff Liaison LaShonda White reported that Park Prescription Day would be held at Nicholl Park on April 29 from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.; the Literacy Fair would be held at City Hall Civic Center Plaza on that same day from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M.; the Cinco de Mayo Parade would start at Barrett and 24th Street on May 6 at 10:00 A.M. and end at St. Paul’s Church in San Pablo at 12:30 P.M., and the Cinco de Mayo Festival would be held on May 7 from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on 23rd Street between Clinton Avenue and Rheem Avenue; and the Community Forum to discuss the Community Crises Response Program would be held on April 27 virtually, to be the first of two forums to start at 6:00 P.M., with the second on May 1 in-person in the City Council Chambers.

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Don Gosney reminded everyone that the meeting was being recorded by the media and by staff and speakers should use the microphone to ensure being heard.

Ben Therriault spoke to the decorum amongst Taskforce members and speaking to Chair Small he commented that he had felt slandered and defamed by her considering the fact that he had voted in line with her 90 percent of the time, if not more. He had sent emails but had no response from her and he emphasized the lack of decorum of some members of the Taskforce. He stated the treatment he had received was unacceptable. Having weighed whether or not to leave the Taskforce, he suggested it would be a loss given the many issues discussed by the Taskforce having to do with law enforcement that he could address. He was upset with the way he had been treated and sought a public apology. He stated he had obstructed nothing, had asked questions, and was present to help things move forward and he wanted to speak with Chair Small.

Deborah Small commented that it was amazing that Mr. Therriault would take the opportunity to criticize a remark she had made at a City Council meeting and not at a Taskforce meeting about something that he had said at a City Council meeting. She had specifically taken issue with the fact that he had objections to a legal aid attorney being on the Community Police Review Commission (CPRC) and claiming that somehow that was a conflict of interest that they would not be objective and unbiased when her observation had been that he did not see any problems expressing his bias publicly and otherwise about the work of the Taskforce. She stated her comment was true, and something could not be defamatory if it was true. She added that it had become somehow a tactic of people on the right to raise issues of decorum when other people said things that they did not like irrespective of whether they had a history of showing decorum in meetings. The First Amendment allowed her the free speech right to say what she believed, she did not say anything untrue, did not use derogatory or curse language and had spoken her mind, and Mr. Therriault had the right to speak his mind. She had thought his statement to be hypocritical and still thought it was hypocritical.

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Tamisha Torres Walker stated she had found out today that the community had suffered the loss of a young person connected to the community, and the grief and mourning was real considering the work of the Taskforce and others who had tried to provide credible opportunities for high-risk young people every day. She offered the family and the community of Richmond condolences and stated that if anyone on the Taskforce could offer some support they should do so. She also thanked the Office of Neighborhood Safety for its work in the community to save lives.

Linda Whitmore spoke to decorum and suggested the personal feelings of the members of the Taskforce should stay within the Taskforce when discussing ideas and not talk about personalities, and when there were disagreements with the comments made within the Taskforce and the different ideas and programs that were being discussed those disagreements should stay in the Taskforce. She suggested it was wrong for Chair Small to make a personal attack of someone on the Taskforce that had nothing to do about what was at issue. She urged members to respect each other when doing Taskforce business and when not doing Taskforce business.

Chair Small attempted to speak again but Staff Liaison LaShonda White and City Attorney Alison Flowers explained that the item at this point on the agenda was public forum and speakers could only speak once under public comment in that there was to be no dialogue back and forth under that forum.

Ms. Flowers added that what happened at a City Council meeting was outside the scope of the Taskforce and public comment was designed to offer public comment to the scope of the Taskforce itself.

Ms. Morales clarified that the meeting procedures earlier announced had indicated that each speaker may raise their hand only once to make one comment per agenda item, including public comment.

H. PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSIONS, AND ACTION ITEMS

1. RECEIVE Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Program and Budget Reports on the Four Taskforce Intervention Areas: Unhoused Interventions, Community Crises Response Program, YouthWorks, and Office of Neighborhood Safety

Staff Liaison White explained that there had been a request at the last meeting to provide more detailed budget information on the four intervention areas and to ask staff of those intervention areas to attend a Taskforce meeting. Detailed information had been collected and provided in the Taskforce meeting packets.

Jesus Morales, Housing Manager with the City of Richmond, provided a PowerPoint presentation with respect to **Unhoused Interventions** and an update on the contracts and the use of the funds for unhoused intervention. He spoke to the contract with respect to Rebuilding Together East Bay-North, the Safe, Organized Spaces (SOS) program, and reported that Rebuilding Together had an initial contract with the City in the amount of \$983,975 that was administered by SOS through Fund RI-160, all funded from the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force account that had been approved on July 20,

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2021, later amended on November 15, 2022 to add \$166,504.72 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,150,479.72, which would expire on June 30, 2023.

Mr. Morales stated for Fiscal Year 21/22 and 22/23 for the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, there had been payments of \$503,738.20. While the Taskforce had requested a line item breakdown, he explained that information was not currently available. For the payments made this fiscal year, the labor costs for employees represented approximately 65 percent of that amount, supplies 20 percent, subcontractor costs 5 percent and indirect costs 10 percent. He could return at the next meeting to clarify the line item charges, if desired. The remaining balance was \$42,760.36 with one March invoice pending that would leave approximately \$10,000. Approximately \$600,000 had been paid in FY 21/22 for the contract.

Mr. Morales advised that there was also a contract with the Housing Consortium of the East Bay (HCEB) for \$560,000, which had been approved April 1, 2021, and a series of amendments had extended the term, although a contract amendment on August 1, 2022 added \$404,958 from the Reimagining fund account for a total not to exceed \$964,958, which was to expire on September 30, 2022. The contract had been further amended on September 20, 2022 to add \$50,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to provide Rydin Road residents a disbursement of flex funds to allow them to cover costs related to repairing their cars, registration and similar items. The contract total of \$1,014,958 was due to expire on December 31, 2022, although it had been extended to June 30, 2023 since the housing rent payments extended beyond the date of the original contract. The remaining balance from the \$404,958 was \$137,492.72, with some invoices pending.

Mr. Morales reported the City had received \$4.8 million to resolve the Castro encampment and the grant would expire on June 30, 2024. The purpose of the grant was to provide essential living amenities and assist approximately 102 residents to transition to housing using Housing First principles and to restore the site to its original condition. Relative to the grant program, an application for Round 2 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) funds had requested \$8.6 million to focus on citywide encampments and Caltrans right-of-way. Jurisdictions were to be notified of the grant awards by the State of California in May.

Mr. Morales referred to the Housing First Program and Emergency Rental Assistance Program approved on December 20, 2022 in the amount of \$425,000, with the Housing First Program to provide priority for former Rydin Road residents and \$100,000 for short-term emergency rental assistance. The Richmond Community Foundation had been selected as the Program Administrator. He also spoke to Home Keep, a statewide program offered to local jurisdictions to acquire properties to provide permanent, transitional and other housing to homeless residents, and reported that staff was evaluating motel acquisition rehab and would submit an application for the Home Keep program. Anticipating a large demand of funds for the program that was expected to be oversubscribed, staff was targeting the application for early June since the state would accept applications up to the July 2023 deadline or to the exhaustion of funds.

The City currently has a contract with the Contra Costa County Coordinated Outreach Referral and Engagement (CORE) Team to get their service for five days and to add additional personnel to the team. He stated the City Council had recently approved a contract with SOS Richmond for

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\$738,693.59 from the Reimagining Task Force funds on March 30, 2023 to provide services to the unhoused along with outreach services.

Taskforce Member Cantú asked about the Reimagining Task Force Account RI-160 given her understanding that unhoused intervention was \$1 million with SOS, and HCEB, CORE and others were not part of what had been recommended. She asked for clarification.

Mr. Morales stated that the information provided was to provide background on other things that the City was doing and did not involve Reimagining Task Force funds other than for SOS that the City Council had approved on March 30, 2023. The other programs had been funded separately from different sources.

Taskforce Member Burks referred to the original contract and asked of the services in the original proposal which had come to fruition. She referred specifically to a separate funding for SOS and asked if that was part of what the funds had been used for the last year for the management and support of secured scattered sites program locations for vehicle dwellers in the City as shown on Page 28 of 74 of the meeting packet.

Mr. Morales explained there was security for the Rydin Road encampment because there was a set encampment and security had been provided but not by SOS. It had been provided by HCEB, the administrator at Rydin Road. For the Castro encampment, separate security had been hired and provided by other than SOS.

Taskforce Member Burks clarified she did not speak to security for those sites but that the secured scattered sites program was a specific program to be implemented wherein SOS was to partner with a variety of different sites to provide vehicle dwellers a whole host of things, including individualized programs as part of the original proposed budget, which did not happen. She asked where the money had gone instead of providing that service.

Mr. Morales stated they had been working on looking at scattered sites, various sites had been identified, a list had been provided, approximately 40 sites had been reviewed and for any number of reasons none had worked out due to neighborhood opposition to a potential homeless encampment in the neighborhoods. Staff was still looking at that program and he would have to look at the budget to see if there had been any specific charges from SOS for that work. What was being provided by SOS was their services such as trash debris pickup, showers, outreach and the like.

Taskforce Member Gosney requested a copy of the PowerPoint presentation for the members of the Taskforce and any other presentations to be provided to the Taskforce. He also requested that page numbers be put on every page in the agenda packet, particularly for the printed version given a series of add-ins, each with their own page numbers. He asked about the Taskforce budget that had been referenced and noted that the Taskforce was an advisory body and could only ask the City Council to take money away from the General Fund but did not have authorization to spend money.

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Mr. Morales stated his reference to the Taskforce budget was the account he had referenced RI-160 and he had been calling it the Reimagining Task Force Fund account where the money had been coming from for the programs.

Taskforce Member Gosney verified that the spreadsheet provided, the title of which had referenced a Budget of the Task Force, had been provided by staff, and Staff Liaison White verified that was misleading in that the Taskforce was an advisory body, recommendations would be made to the City Council and the City Council would provide information to City staff to allocate various dollar amounts to various strategies, which staff had implemented.

Taskforce Member Therriault asked if CORE had been efficient in their interaction with the City.

Mr. Morales stated that CORE was primarily focused on the Castro encampment, had been very helpful in getting ahold of people because they had to be registered through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) so they could identify who they were and the services they were eligible to receive, which was part of the reporting to be provided to the state. He explained that CORE had worked with them and had been doing a great job with difficult work under difficult circumstances and had also been doing work providing services citywide. He also clarified that Rebuilding Together East Bay-North was the entity that had the contract that SOS was working under, but SOS had now created its own entity (a non-profit organization) and the City was now working directly with SOS. As to Home Keep, he understood that the state would need 30 to 90 days to receive information on whether an award would be submitted. He added that from the state's perspective, the state would notify recipients as soon as possible given the deadlines for the use of the funds, if awarded.

Taskforce Member Williams asked if the \$738,000 that the City Council had just approved was representative of an ongoing commitment, and Mr. Morales stated right now it was a one-time infusion and if able to access funds that had been applied for some of that would potentially be able to fund ongoing services with SOS. He stressed the need for a grant writer to allow SOS to seek other funding and explained that SOS had been able to fundraise \$200,000 plus that it had contributed, which represented 25 percent of the total budget, and SOS was being encouraged to access other sources of funding where possible. As far as an ongoing obligation goes, the contract was just for a year and there could be options to extend for one year subject to the availability of funding.

Taskforce Member Whitmore recommended that Daniel Barth from SOS be invited to a Taskforce meeting to identify what SOS was doing.

Taskforce Member Gosney supported a presentation from SOS and also suggested that residents of the encampments also be invited to speak to the Taskforce to allow a balanced report.

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

Sam Vaughn, Deputy Director of Community Services, **Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS)**, stated he had submitted the detailed budget for ONS and advised that ONS was fully staffed as of April 3, 2023. Training had begun as had the implementation of some of the tasks given by the Taskforce and

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the City Council. Of the original \$2.3 million approved by the City Council, \$331,572 had funded staffing and \$287,000 had funded cost pool and training, for a total of \$619,000 from Reimagining Public Safety dollars. He anticipated another \$400,000 for staffing this fiscal year and another \$142,000 for training, cost pool and uniforms.

Mr. Vaughn stated that a total of \$1.1 million had been spent this year with the remainder in the budget to be fully expended next year. All staff had been trained in the second week in April and from that everyone was excited to provide resources and services to the community. Staff had already started to engage the unhoused population, two groups were up and running for the young ladies, there had been traction in the Latin community to focus on the tension between the Brown and Black communities in the City, and one staff member had been engaging the population around 23rd and 24th Streets. He added that there were also connections with experts in each individual field they were going into that was new to them to make sure they were doing it right and were not causing harm. Life skills were going on and with the capacity and staffing they expected two to three, and potentially four life skill classes any given day. He had little information on programs given that the staff had just been secured but they were excited about what could be accomplished in the coming years.

Taskforce Member Murray asked what was being done with the unhoused community and Mr. Vaughn emphasized that ONS was not duplicating efforts with SOS staff. Everything they decided to do with the resources came with the intent of continuing to reduce gun violence and right now they were engaging and identifying themselves and had visited the Castro encampment and getting the information needed to build relationships first to then be able to engage those who were causing violence and creating an unsafe situation.

Mr. Vaughn stressed that ONS' role was to reduce gun violence and then engage individuals in an in-depth and strategic way given that there had been multiple homicides and shootings related to the unhoused population the last few years.

Taskforce Member Lee asked if ONS would be working with the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) to build a relationship to address any of the physical safety concerns at the schools, and Mr. Vaughn stated the goal was to have a contract with the District, although that did not seem feasible at the moment given that it did not appear to be a priority with the WCCUSD. He stated the scope of work involved would be to give in-kind (over the next three years) \$1.1 to \$1.2 million in services and resources and he was still in contact with the WCCUSD and still trying to make that happen. He added that ONS was getting creative and were in charter schools and working to have staff give volunteer badges to create personal connections in specific schools, with the desire to work with all high schools and middle schools in the WCCUSD.

Taskforce Member Burks asked about bilingual staff and expanding networks, and Mr. Vaughn advised that three Spanish-speaking staff had been hired and had been handpicked and brought their own network. Staff was making new connections through the outreach process but the biggest network would be to build a good relationship that folks would talk about. He noted that a life skills class had been held in an apartment last week as part of building relationships.

Taskforce Member Gosney asked about the attempts to enter into a contract with the WCCUSD and asked about the problems in this case, and Mr. Vaughn noted a Memorandum of Understanding

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(MOU) would be the more appropriate term. He explained there would be no charge for services at this time although that was the hope in the future. The WCCUSD had all the information about ONS services although he understood the WCCUSD had a lot of other things going on right now.

Since there had been no contact with the WCCUSD, the Taskforce discussed how to secure a response and members of the Taskforce recommended that the members of the WCCUSD Board be approached directly by ONS.

Taskforce Member Therriault asked how about the length of the training process or onboarding, and Mr. Vaughn stated it would be continuous training as long as staff was on board with on-the-job training for four to five hours every Friday for 52 weeks.

Taskforce Member Walker verified the type of training involved such as de-escalation and how to prevent an incident before it occurred, and Mr. Vaughn explained that training also included computer training on the data process, city policies and procedures, emotional intelligence facilitation practices, improvisation, role playing, toastmasters, debate, and others to be identified as the group engaged with each other, implicit bias because he was seeing how staff was engaging with one another given their own experiences, CPR training, and stop the bleed training, as part of the 52-week training process.

Taskforce Member Walker suggested that the members of the Taskforce and City staff should also receive that type of training given what had occurred at this meeting on how to facilitate meetings when issues came up.

No written comments were submitted, or oral comments made, by any member of the public on the Office of Neighborhood Safety report.

Tamera Walker, Employment and Training staff for **YouthWorks**, explained that YouthWorks was working with the unhoused and had offered some employment services and had only hired one person even though they had the opportunity to hire more but had issues due to their low salaries.

Bouakhay Phongboupha, Interim Program Manager for YouthWorks, provided an update on the numbers with the Reimagining Public Safety funds. As of this date, she reported there had been 730 applications, completed, 429 intake (one-on-one interviews) and had put 310 individuals into some sort of work experience. She stated that participants had come from ONS and YouthWorks had put three cohorts (and a fourth cohort would start June 4) through Kaiser where young people could explore healthcare as a field. Eight people had been placed into industrial training and out of that training four people had graduated from that program and one was now working and making \$25/hour with benefits. YouthWorks had also taken in an intern from Richmond Promise who had interned for seven months and had recently been hired through Rubicon in Berkeley as a full-time case manager. There was also a strong relationship with Richmond Promise where YouthWorks was assisting the City by filling in some needed staff and had been able to place 16 Richmond Promise students into City departments including Housing, Fire, Human Resources, the Office of the City Council, Finance and the Richmond Art Center. She stated there were now more than 108 work sites although with limited staff there was an inability to properly follow-up. Workshops were still virtual and students without Wi-Fi would be assisted in person. She referred to the WCCUSD and stated YouthWorks

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partnered with and attended all the Kennedy High School, Richmond High School and Greenwood Academy events and supported their programs.

Taskforce Member Gosney commented that YouthWorks served those well past 18 years of age. He reported that his Plumbing and Steamfitters Local #342 would be taking applications the entire month of May and that apprentices started out at over \$60,000 a year with 12.5 percent pay increases for each of the first five years along with \$96,000 a year worth of benefits. He would forward the packet to YouthWorks and he would shepherd applicants through the application process. He also noted that free training was offered as to how to take the test, it was an opportunity that should not be missed and he strongly encouraged local youth to participate in that process. He stated the application would be online for the entire month of May and testing would be conducted in July. Training was ongoing all year long and he would be happy to help anyone wanting to take the test.

Taskforce Member Williams asked about the YouthWorks staff salaries and whether they were commensurate with other similar salaries, and Ms. Walker advised that YouthWorks employees were employees of the City of Richmond and were compensated.

Taskforce Member Lee asked Taskforce Member Gosney to forward the information on recruitment to the other members of the Taskforce.

Staff Liaison White advised that the City of Richmond was going through a classification and compensation study and hoped that implementation would be sooner rather than later since it would increase the salary range for most classifications.

Tamera Walker clarified that YouthWorks had initially advertised for an Employment Specialist I but the salary in that case was not attractive enough for recruitment, although YouthWorks was now recruiting for an Employment Specialist II, which offered a higher salary range.

Taskforce Member Lee thanked YouthWorks staff and asked what it needed from the Taskforce to help move YouthWorks forward, and Ms. Walker stated the Taskforce should let people know about their services, engage young people, and provide employment along with additional needed services and how the work force system could be supported holistically for the youth and for their parents.

When asked by Taskforce Member Lee whether programs were being created on an entrepreneurial level, Ms. Phongboupha stated that YouthWorks supported existing Richmond High School and Richmond PAL entrepreneurial programs.

Taskforce Member Cantú asked if there were any plans for future expansion of the program such as launching into new venues, and Ms. Walker stated that the program had expanded under this and other funding and the young people funded under the program could participate and enter into the construction trades, Kaiser and a plethora of other training opportunities and occupational skills as well as other parts of the program.

Taskforce Member Cantú also verified that the Employment Specialist II recruitment was on-line and was continuous, and with respect to budget she noted the desire to expand beyond the 500 youth,

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which had been done. She asked if more funding was needed to be able to expand and asked about equipment such as bicycles, transportation cards and laptops.

Ms. Phongboupha stated with the support services and the 32 participants there was leverage with the WIOA grant to use that for support services and not the general RI-108 account. She added that YouthWorks was getting creative as to how to use the funds for support services because it had to spend state money on the state side as well and it was important to give everyone who walked into their door the work experience, but would be able to leverage for some of the students who wanted to go further in their pathway as well. YouthWorks had also put nine people into an IT Bidwise full apprenticeship program with Bidwise in late May.

Taskforce Member Gosney clarified his earlier comments about apprenticeship programs that by law one had to be 18 years of age or older to be on a construction site, a federal law required an I-9 to prove the legal right to work in the U.S., the building trades did not discriminate against anyone with a criminal past, and almost every major employment project had pre-employment drug screening.

Taskforce Member Walker asked about the policy at the City level around people who applied for positions who may have convictions and whether anyone had been turned away from a position because they had a conviction, and Ms. Walker stated there was no question on the application as to criminal justice and staff would go through the entire process before deciding where to place a young person, and when finding the placement ask the question based on the conviction versus the employment opportunity to make sure to place people at friendly employment opportunities. The same would apply to staff positions with YouthWorks based on the conviction versus the opportunity, which was the State of California's policy.

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

Anne Janks, **Community Crises Response Program (CCRP)**, spoke to the CCRP survey and identified the QR Code where the survey could be taken on a smart phone along with paper versions in Hindi, Mandarin, Spanish, English, and Portuguese, all of which could be provided to the Taskforce.

Although the hour was late with respect to the remainder of the agenda items, the Taskforce decided to hear the update on the CCRP even though a community meeting on the CCRP had been scheduled for April 27, 2023 because some members of the Taskforce would not be able to attend that meeting.

Staff Liaison White provided a PowerPoint presentation on the CCRP with Urban Strategies.

Ms. Janks advised that the City Council would be presented a report based on research and community engagement to identify what had been learned from the community, learned in terms of resources, alternative emergency responses and various approaches, and considerations, which would be identified from other cities to identify what had been utilized and what had worked well. What she had heard from the City and the Taskforce was that Richmond was interested not in licensed clinicians but in teams of well-trained community members and an EMT who could respond to a broad range of low level calls with the goal of having a dispatch system that was comfortable determining whether a

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call required a badge and a gun or whether community responders would be a better approach to de-escalate and take the time to help with resources.

Ms. Janks stated they had been surveying, meeting with stakeholders and community members in a broad range of situations and trying to understand people's experiences engaging with emergency services now, and in terms of crises and the community and other resources people had identified over time to help with crises and what the Taskforce wanted to see in emergency response in terms of the CCRP. She added that the CCRP had done research and talked to stakeholders to identify the assets in the community, had talked to police, fire, dispatch and many other stakeholders. CCRP had also done a literature review, had a matrix report that would be reflected in the report to the City Council, had looked at all of the Taskforce documents to this point, the research and deep thinking and older reports in terms of community needs and the like. The survey was open and she hoped everyone would take it, which would also be in the report to the City Council.

Ms. White referred to the report that would be presented to the City Council in June and as part of its contract, Urban Strategies would provide the City Council with a framework around what the program could look like and options based on feedback and work already done. The City Council had directed staff to implement a program but did not state exactly what that program would look like, which was why a contract with Urban Strategies had been approved. Urban Strategies would continue to contract with the City even after the report to help with implementation.

Taskforce Member Cantú asked about the funding and whether the report would include how to fund, and Ms. Janks stated the report would look at issues of sustainability and funding alternatives.

Ms. White added that Urban Strategies would lay out different options and depending on what the City Council decided would determine the cost to implement and would help cost it out and look at classifications that may or may not exist right now.

Taskforce Member Therriault asked and was advised that the Taskforce would not be able to see the report prior to submittal to the City Council. He asked about redundancies between Contra Costa County's A3 Anyone Anywhere Anytime Program and the CCRP and whether the report would address that issue. He noted that both were having trouble staffing positions and suggested that would become an issue. He also asked if a response was escalated whether the report would address the need for involuntary hospitalization if that need should arise, and how a call would be made to A3, which had already been paid for as opposed to a CCRP response.

Motion by Taskforce Member [Not audible on the recording], second by Taskforce Member Therriault to extend the meeting for ten minutes to 7:40 P.M., carried by the following vote:

AYES: S. Bischoff, H. Burks, M. Cantú, D. Gosney, K. Kilian-Lobos, M. Njissang, J. Pursell,
B. Therriault, L. Whitmore, T. Walker, B.K. Williams, and Chair D. Small
NOES: L. Chacon
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: E. Chacon, R. Joseph, A. Lee, L. Murray and J. Schlemmer

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Ms. Janks noted that the CCRP had been in touch with A3, which had been challenging because it was not a fully developed program in terms of what it was and was not doing.

Ms. Janks stated it was clear that there were many situations in the City of Richmond that did not fall within A3 and there were times when A3 was not available. She did not see A3 as competition and suggested there was plenty of work and A3 had indicated it had no intention to expand beyond mental health calls. A3 was also the answer as to what to do when someone did need to be involuntarily hospitalized. She suggested the CCRP would work easily with A3 and did not see it in competition in terms of employment. She noted that the City of Antioch had staffed a team and had done it fairly easily by paying for a very challenging job, which should ensure sustainability and stability of the teams without the constant need to train people because there were such high levels of turnover. One of the major advantages of the CCRP was that it would not be staffing a team for a clinician and could recruit more broadly for people interested in doing that type of work, which was hard work and which needed a good salary.

Ms. White explained, when asked about the late notice for the community forum that City staff did not publicize the forum in the timeframe it should have and she apologized for that. Even though there would be a community forum on Thursday, April 27, 2023 and one on Monday, May 1, 2023, it did not have to be the last community forum but staff wanted to get additional information in time for Urban Strategies to start to put together its report and analyze results from surveys.

Ms. Janks stated this report should not be the end of community engagement and participation but there needed to be ongoing discussions with the community to engage, educate and encourage participation.

An unidentified member of the Board encouraged everyone on the Taskforce to request that the City Council direct staff to bring back the report to the Taskforce for review prior to being submitted to the City Council.

No written comments were submitted, or oral comments made, by any member of the public on the Community Crises Response Program report.

Taskforce Member Killian-Lobos commented that she had started working with A3 as a Crises Responder last November, and A3 was staffing up and had expanded hours on April 1, 2023 and were able to respond to community crises work from 8:00 A.M. to 12:30 A.M. She explained there was a huge overtime staff and the evening was when more staff was available than during the day. As of April 1, A3 was no longer the original Mobile Crises but was known as A3 Miles Hall.

2. RECEIVE Updates from the Community Summit Planning Subgroup and DISCUSS and APPROVE Any Recommended Changes to the Community Summit

Taskforce Member Burks reported that Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School would be the site of the Community Summit, fairly central with access through public transportation. The program was slated to begin at 9:30 A.M. with an introductory discussion after which there would be four rounds of breakouts using five breakout rooms. The results of the discussions would be typed up and the information would be presented to staff to disperse to everyone. A draft flyer was being prepared.

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There would be a break for lunch and a closing of the forum so the entire program would run from 9:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. and include a resource fair with different community organizations tabling during and after lunch. One person would be the point person in each breakout room and would set up and invite experts to be part of the discussion and answer questions within that room in a process designed as a forum.

Taskforce Member Burks reported that she would be the point person for Harm Reduction and Overdose Prevention, Taskforce Member Joseph would be the point person for Traffic Safety, Taskforce Member Lee would be the point person for Youth Employment, Training & Safety, Taskforce Member Pursell would be the point person for Police Policies & Practices, and Taskforce Member Williams would be the point person for Poverty Reduction Strategies. Other Taskforce members would be asked to come to each room to help with note taking and making sure that everything proceeded smoothly. Invitations would be sent out to organizations.

The forum was being publicized through an event break, flyers in a digital form that could be filled out for information, advocating to the neighborhood councils, to KQED and promoting it through the social media networks. Another Taskforce member with contacts at KPFA and East Bay Express would put them in contact with the forum organizers.

Taskforce members were asked to help to identify those who might like to sponsor the event and who wanted to help contribute to lunch. The organizers had reached out to experts but additional suggestions were encouraged because of the collaborative effort.

The meeting adjourned at this time and the remainder of the agenda was continued to the next meeting.

3. DISCUSS a General Outreach Plan to Increase Public Awareness of and Participation in Taskforce Meetings and APPROVE Recommendations

I. ACTION ITEM RECAP

J. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 P.M. to the next meeting on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, in the Bermuda Room, Richmond Memorial Auditorium, 403 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA 94804.