

CITY OF RICHMOND
Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force

Wednesday, April 24, 2024 5:30 PM

Bermuda Room, Richmond Memorial Auditorium, 403 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA 94804

All Task Force members, staff, and visitors must enter the building from Nevin Avenue.

Maps are attached to the agenda packet.

This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities*



Members:

Burks, Helene

Gliksohn, Michael

Gosney, Don

Joseph, Randy

Kilian-Lobos, Kristin

Lee, Armond

Murray, Lea

Njissang, Marcus

Pursell, Jamin

Schlemmer, Joey

Small, Deborah

Therriault, Ben

Walker, Tamisha

Whitmore, Linda

Williams, B.K.

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 - 5:30 PM

B. Roll Call - 5:35 PM

C. Agenda Review and Adoption - 5:40 PM

D. Meeting Procedures - 5:43 PM

E. Minutes Approval - 5:45 PM

1. APPROVE the minutes of the March 27, 2024 meeting of the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force

F. City Staff Reports (Verbal) (Public comment allowed under Public Comments) - 5:50 PM

G. Public Comments - 5:55 PM

H. Presentations, Discussions, & Action Items - 6:00 PM

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

1. RECEIVE a presentation on current aquatics programs and DISCUSS proposal to create Every Kid to Swim program for Richmond - **6:00 PM**
2. DISCUSS the Social Host Ordinance and APPROVE recommendations to City Council - **6:20 PM**
3. DISCUSS non-police parking enforcement and related traffic safety concerns raised by Richmond City Councilmembers Gayle McLaughlin and Claudia Jimenez - **6:40 PM**
4. DISCUSS the early sunseting of the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force and APPROVE recommendations and report to City Council - **7:00 PM**
5. DISCUSS possible alternative names for the Community Crisis Response Program and APPROVE recommendations to City Council - **7:15 PM**
6. DISCUSS additional budgetary allocations for Task Force proposals - specifically, YouthWorks and the Community Crisis Response Program - **7:20 PM**

I. Action Item Recap - 7:25 PM

J. Adjournment - 7:30 PM

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Scheduled Meetings:

- Report to City Council - Tuesday, May 21, 2024
- General Meeting - Wednesday, May 22, 2024

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

Message from the City Clerk

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the California Legislature enacted Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361) which bypassed certain Brown Act requirements to allow teleconference/virtual meetings during the period in which the California Governor's declaration of a statewide emergency remained in effect. This emergency declaration is set to expire on February 28, 2023. Once this statewide emergency is lifted, cities can no longer rely on AB 361 to bypass the regular Brown Act teleconferencing rules. The California legislature also enacted AB 2449, which provides for very complex and restrictive alternative teleconference procedures:

1. At least a quorum of the members of the legislative body must participate in person from a singular physical location identified on the agenda, which location will be open to the public and within the boundaries of the local agency;
2. A member may only teleconference for publicly disclosed "just cause" or in "emergency circumstances" approved by the legislative body; and
3. A member may only teleconference for a limited number of meetings.

Since AB 361 will no longer allow for members of boards and commissions to remotely participate in meetings and AB 2449's requirements will rarely allow for members to participate remotely, please plan on attending all meetings in person beginning on March 1, 2023.

The City of Richmond will allow for members of the public to participate in person and remotely when attending the Richmond City Council, Richmond Housing Authority, Successor Agency to the Richmond Community Redevelopment Agency, and Planning Commission meetings. Given technology constraints and staffing issues, all other boards, commissions, and committees will not have a remote public participation option at this time. Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings in person to listen and to provide public comment. We are still sorting through significant staffing and technology issues to accommodate remote public participation for all meetings.

We will keep you updated as we progress, and we thank you for your patience.

Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force Meetings
Bermuda Room
Richmond Memorial Auditorium
403 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA 94804

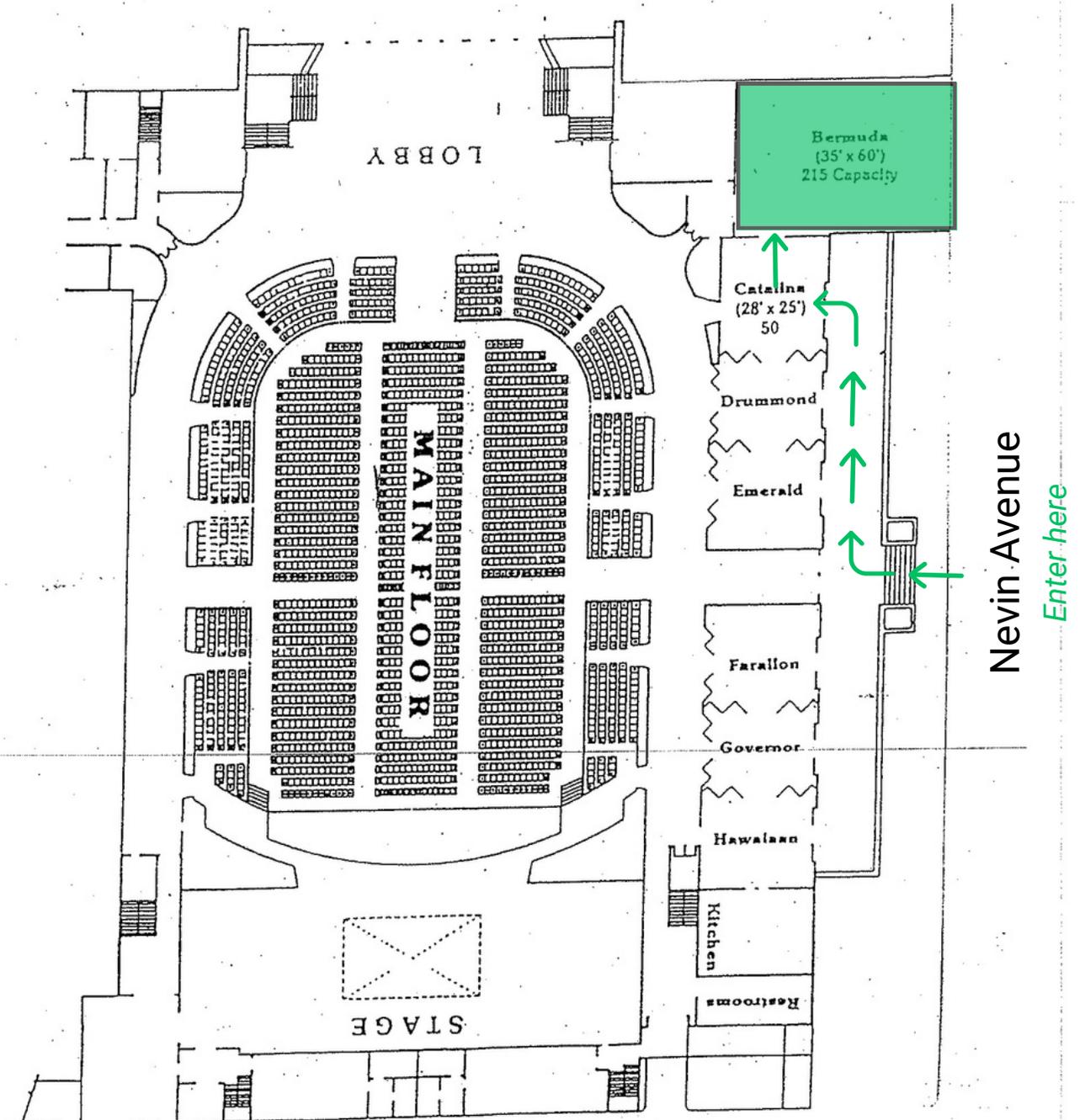


- Enter the building into the Catalina room from Nevin Avenue.
- Entry to the building through Civic Center Plaza **will not** be available for Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force meetings.
- There are major parking lots on Nevin Ave between 24th St and 25th St, as well as Nevin Ave between 26th St and 27th St.
- There is street parking available on surrounding streets.

Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force Meetings
Bermuda Room
Richmond Memorial Auditorium
403 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA 94804

Civic Center Plaza

*No entry available for Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force meetings
Use Nevin Avenue entrance through Catalina Room*





MEETING PROCEDURES & INFORMATION

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

By Email

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. Emails received after 3 p.m. will not be read into the record. Emails 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.

In Person

Anyone may make an oral comment, even if a written comment was submitted. However, each speaker may only raise their hand once to make one (1) oral public comment per agenda item.

Anyone who desires to address the Task Force on items appearing on the agenda, including Public Comments, may raise their hand upon the Chair's announcement of the public comment period. The Chair will recognize each speaker. Each speaker will be allowed up to two (2) minutes to speak.

Conduct at Meetings:

Richmond City Council meetings are limited public forums during which the City strives to provide an open, safe atmosphere and promote robust public debate. Members of the public, however, must comply with state law, as well as the City's laws and procedures and may not actually disrupt the orderly conduct of these meetings. The public, for example, may not shout or use amplifying devices, must submit comment cards and speak during their allotted time, may not create a physical disturbance, may not speak on matters unrelated to issues within the jurisdiction of the City Council or the agenda item at hand, and may not cause immediate threats to public safety.

[Click here for City Harassment Policy](#)

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 recreation@ci.richmond.ca.us or submitted by phone at (510) 620-6563. 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>.

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, March 27, 2024, 5:30 P.M.

**video recording and meeting transcript available*

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Deborah Small called the regular meeting to order at 5:41 P.M.

B. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: M. Gliksohn, D. Gosney, K. Kilian-Lobos, A. Lee, L. Murray, M. Njissang, J. Pursell, T. Walker, L. Whitmore, B.K. Williams and Chair D. Small

EXCUSED: H. Burks, J. Schlemmer and B. Therriault

ABSENT: R. Joseph

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; YouthWORKS Program Manager Bouakhay Phongboupha and City Attorney Alison Flowers

C. AGENDA REVIEW AND ADOPTION

Taskforce Member Pursell requested that Item 5 be moved to the beginning of the agenda, although after a brief discussion it was determined that Item 5 would be considered after Item 2.

D. MEETING PROCEDURES

Assistant Administrative Analyst 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 comment had previously been submitted; however, each speaker may raise their hand only once to make one oral public comment per each agenda item. She added that an announcement would identify the time to make public comment for each item.

E. MINUTES APPROVAL

1. APPROVE the Minutes of the January 24, 2024 Meeting of the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force

Motion by Taskforce Member Pursell, seconded by Taskforce Member Gliksohn to adopt the minutes of the January 24, 2024 meeting, as submitted, carried by the following Roll Call vote:

City of Richmond – Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force
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403 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA 94804

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

F. CITY STAFF REPORTS

Deputy City Manager-Community Services Director LaShonda White, Staff Liaison to the Task Force, distributed flyers for upcoming community budget meetings for the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget, for April 8 with the Neighborhood Coordinating Council; April 11 at 1:00 P.M. and April 24 at 5:30 P.M., with meetings via Zoom and in-person at 440 Civic Drive. Translations would be available. Another distributed flyer identified the kick-off event on April 7 of a new Farmers Market in the City in the Marina Bay Area on Sundays, along with the Farmers Market every Friday in front of the Library. The Annual Literacy Fair had been scheduled for April 13 at the Richmond Auditorium from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M., with free food and free books along with a number of activities, especially for children. She urged everyone to read the City Manager’s Weekly Report.

Associate Administrative Analyst Stephanie Ny reported that the Recreation Division had launched Youth Outdoors Richmond last year and there were currently openings for seven middle and high school youth, and she urged those interested to contact the registration office. She advised that North Richmond Earth Day would be celebrated on April 20 with two service projects; the Watershed Project’s Hope Gardens, and Urban Tilth would conduct Wildcat Creek Cleanup with a celebration at the park after the conclusion of the projects. On April 27, the Recreation Division would hold the annual Park Prescription Day at Nicholl Park from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. where health providers would provide resources, services and other activities. Kaiser would provide blood pressure checks and doctors would also be available.

Deputy City Manager White added that there would be an egg hunt at Booker T. Anderson, Jr. Park, one of several that had been scheduled and held in the City.

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Taskforce Member Gosney reminded everyone that the Form 700 had to be filed by April 2, 2024, with the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC). He emphasized the importance of filing on time to avoid fines.

Form 700, the Conflict-of-Interest form, was described to identify its purpose and importance and help in filling out the form was identified.

H. PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSIONS, AND ACTION ITEMS

- 1. DISCUSS the Planting of a Tree or Other Commemoration in Memory of Steve Bischoff and APPROVE Recommendations**

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Deputy City Manager White described what had occurred after the last Task Force meeting on January 24, 2024, when Taskforce Member Steve Bischoff had fallen and been injured. She thanked those who were present to help him after the fall and reported that he had passed a week after that incident.

Chair Small explained she had learned that Mr. Bischoff had been involved in a number of different City Commissions and community boards over the years and she suggested his service to the City should be commemorated. She recommended the planting of a tree in his memory, and noted her understanding there was a park near where Mr. Bischoff used to live that would be a good location for a commemorative tree.

It was noted that Mr. Bischoff had been the President of the May Valley Neighborhood Council, which used to meet across from La Moine Park, which needed trees and which would be a good location for a commemorative tree.

The Task Force discussed the options, with recommendations to work with Groundwork Richmond, Inc. related to the planting of a tree; asked about the City's naming and plaque regulations and appropriate locations for the planting of a tree; and learned the City was planning to conduct some beautification event in the area of La Moine Park and a commemoration of Mr. Bischoff might be able to be included as part of that process, although there were City regulations and processes involved.

After the discussion, several members of the Task Force supported a recommendation to plant an appropriate native plant or tree in memory of Steve Bischoff, with an accompanying plaque in his memory and to commemorate his service to the City in the park near his home.

Some concern was expressed that such a commemoration had not been offered for other members of the community who had passed and who had also served the City in numerous posts.

Deputy City Manager White clarified that the recommendation to honor Mr. Bischoff would not be a City effort but a recommendation from the Task Force, and any costs involved would have to be paid by the individual members of the Task Force.

City Attorney Allison Flowers advised that a plaque, for instance, would fall into the legal doctrine of a gift of public funds.

On the discussion of the pros and cons of recognizing Steve Bischoff for his contributions to the City, and acknowledging that his death had been traumatic and that he died providing service to the Task Force, there was a recommendation to plant a tree in memory of Steve Bischoff in an area where trees would be planted anyway, without a plaque in his honor.

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

Motion by Taskforce Member Njissang, seconded by Taskforce Member Kilian-Lobos to plant a tree for Steve Bischoff, without a plaque, carried by the following Roll Call vote:

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

2. RECEIVE an Update from Police Chief Bisa French on Policing Practices

Police Chief Bisa French stated she had been asked to provide an update on items she had previously discussed with the Task Force. With respect to hiring, she reported the Richmond Police Department (RPD) had been short staffed and last year one of the main focuses was on recruiting and retention. Last year was the first year where more people had been hired than those separating from the RPD. The RPD was still understaffed with 25 officer vacancies and 10 professional staff vacancies and was still struggling but was doing better. A number of the Communication Center vacancies had been filled and there were currently only two vacancies. She stated that training for dispatchers and police officers took a lot of time and most were still in training but by the end of the year dispatchers should be getting some relief from the mandatory overtime that affected dispatchers and police officers and which had been enforced for many years. While the situation had improved, she wanted to get to zero mandatory overtime shifts.

Chief French reported there had also been a focus on “30 X 30,” to hire more female police officers. Out of the 20 officers hired last year, eight or nine were female and the 30 X 30 initiative was to get 30 percent female staff by 2030. Currently there was only 12 percent female staff across the country, with only three percent female police chiefs.

Chief French described the recruiting efforts through the Human Resources (HR) Department for a social media hiring campaign, and to further recruitment efforts, the RPD had held a testing event at the City and had also done that with dispatch candidates.

Chief French reported that some laws had changed in terms of hiring and starting in January 2024, the RPD could now hire undocumented residents, not for police officers but for other professional staff positions. The RPD continued to work to be as transparent as possible and had been working with the Center for Policing Equity for a couple of years but the data initially provided by the RPD could not produce a report. The RPD had now provided new data and the Center for Policing Equity was finalizing a report that would be made public when available to do so. The RPD had also contracted with Police Strategies, which analyzed all use of force data and there were different dashboards on the RPD’s transparency page of the RPD website that revealed all the information involved, which would help focus training with respect to use of force.

Chief French added that all Flock (license plate readers) data was being posted and had helped address crime issues. She referred to one of the more recent cases where Flock had been used to help with suspect information to find a child in a stolen vehicle and that child had been located and returned safely to the parents. All Flock data was posted on the transparency website.

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The Military Weapons Policy had also been posted and there was a detailed process of notifying the public of the use of that equipment. A report to the City Council on the Military Weapons Policy would be presented next month.

Chief French also spoke to the Community Crisis Response Program (CCRP) that would soon be up and running, and the Community Crises Response Team would be responding to calls that the RPD had been but should not be responding to.

For those concerned with the criminalization of marijuana, Chief French stated that since 2022, there had been only ten subjects arrested or cited for marijuana-related charges; two cases involved firearms, two involved other drugs, one was for a significant amount over the allowed amount of marijuana and four people had been cited for marijuana.

Chief French also reported that last year, the City had the lowest number of homicides, eight total, the lowest number on record. Unfortunately, she reported there had been a homicide this morning, the third for 2024. She added that crime was up slightly over last year. The RPD was struggling with robberies, specifically people getting robbed after leaving ATM machines or banks, and when stopped at a red light the perpetrators would break passenger side windows and steal purses from the passenger seats. The other area of concern was for stolen vehicles and the Flock cameras were helping in that effort. She reported that she had changed the pursuit policy and officers could no longer pursue a vehicle just because it was stolen given that the risk to the public was too great to risk chasing stolen vehicles. In spite of that policy, the RPD had recovered a number of stolen vehicles.

Chief French spoke to quality-of-life issues and identified a number of unhoused issues, drug houses, and abandoned vehicles, and stated the RPD had been focusing on parking enforcement, which had not been done in some time due to understaffing. There was a parking enforcement officer on 23rd Street every day issuing citations because 23rd Street merchants were concerned with the lost business. She expressed the hope to be able to expand that effort to other business areas later this year.

Chief French also hoped to bring back the eight-week Community Safety Academy this summer. She reported the Young Explorers (for those aged 15 to 20) had been brought back last year and she hoped to build explorers to cadets and then to police officers for those interested. The community enjoyed the explorers and the RPD was still recruiting for additional explorers. She was also doing Walks with the Chief to get to know and connect with business owners and would be moving that program into different communities.

Taskforce Member Gosney referred to recent newspaper articles about several East Bay communities where police departments were sharing information from plate readers with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Homeland Security, and he asked about the City's policy.

Chief French stated the RPD did not share information with anybody, and for anybody to receive information there had to be a written request. The RPD was clear from the inception where information was not shared, as stipulated in RPD's policies.

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Chief French responded to questions from the Task Force:

- Explained that the San Pablo Police Department was building a new police facility, which would include a training facility but she did not know exactly what that would entail. The facility would not be ready for over a year and there had been no conversations about the RPD using that center at this point.
- Walk with the Chief had been created as a result of a meeting with the 23rd Street Merchants Association who had asked for a meeting to discuss a number of concerns in the area and she had decided to meet the merchants at their businesses to see the complaints. She had done a walk last month and yesterday had moved that “walk” to Point Richmond. She had started Walk with the Chief with the business districts and would then move on to the community.
- Reported the Police Chief had been authorized by the City Council to have 146 sworn police officers and there were currently 25 vacancies. For the professional side, the Chief was authorized to have 65 and there were currently ten vacancies. The overall RPD budget was about \$68 million. The only significant request to the City Council this year would be to ask for another administrative position for the investigative unit. There used to be two for that unit and currently there were none. She described why an administrative person was required to help respond to cases.
- The RPD had participated in the District Attorney’s (DA’s) Task Force on Human and Sex Trafficking since its inception in conjunction with the community, 23rd Street Merchants, Family Justice Center, the RPD and the DA’s office, and had been meeting since before the pandemic with community members. Home Depot had been brought in to assist with efforts to change the design with more lighting to eliminate some of the human trafficking on 23rd, and now 24th Street. The Task Force continued to meet with all the stakeholders and had done some operations with different agencies within the county and the DA’s office, and always included service providers who provided resources and services to the victims of human trafficking or prostitution.
- The RPD had not been involved with the County A-3 process. Dispatchers sometimes referred calls there and sometimes RPD dispatchers received calls asking for A-3 to take on some calls RPD was receiving, which was the extent at this point given the upcoming CCRP system. She saw the advantage of all three working together; the RPD, A-3 and the CCRP.
- With respect to School Resource Officers, the RPD continually received calls at high schools, middle schools and elementary schools regarding different issues and calls about weapons, and still kept in contact with the school safety person, and more recently had been collaborating with Ryse Youth Center about school issues that had spilled over into the community.

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- As to the number of overdoses in the City, Chief French did not know the number of overdoses each year since those statistics were not tracked. The RPD responded most of the time to them and provided Narcan. A couple of years ago the RPD had applied for and received Narcan, and officers carried Narcan when on duty and had rescued several people. No one had been arrested at this point who had been involved with an overdose.
- With respect to traffic safety issues, Chief French stated she included traffic accident data in her monthly report to the City Council. There had been five fatalities this year alone. Traffic issues were the number one complaint across the City. As of last year, the RPD had no standalone traffic unit due to under staffing and traffic was hard to address right now. Beat officers were doing traffic enforcement in between other calls, as time permitted. Her hope was that mid-year she could bring back a small traffic team of two to three officers and a supervisor because people were dying in the City due to traffic-related incidents. There had been two deaths on the Richmond Parkway, two people had died on Carlson Boulevard, and one on Pierce Street.

Chair Small thanked Chief French for the report.

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

The Task Force moved to Item 5 at this time.

5. RECEIVE a Proposal for the Community Crisis Response Program Community Advisory Board from the Task Force’s Community Advisory Board Working Group and APPROVE Recommendation to City Council

Taskforce Member Pursell stated that in October 2023, the Task Force had been asked to come up with bylaws for the Community Advisory Board Working Group intended to help with the expansion of the Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS) for the CCRP, in order to be able to provide a method for the public to be able to interact with a standard board, to be integrated into the City to offer a method where residents could be informed and have their complaints heard. He was a member of a small committee also comprised of Taskforce Members Kilian-Lobos, Cantú, and Bischoff, and Sam Vaughn of the Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS), along with the assistance of others involved who had produced a document that had been modeled close to other commissions within the City. The committee had taken seriously the comments that the body would not be doing the work of the ONS but would support and enhance what ONS had been doing. The document had been included in the Task Force packets. He hoped to submit the document to the City Attorney’s office and the City Council for what would be an additive body to public safety in a very open format.

Taskforce Member Gosney pointed out some format issues, Chair Small commended the effort and the document, and Taskforce Member Pursell responded to questions.

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Taskforce Member Pursell recommended that the document be submitted to the City Attorney’s office for legal review and to the City Council for approval. He also recommended a name for the group. He thanked Urban Strategies, Mr. Vaughn and City staff for all their help in the process.

Deputy City Manager White clarified that City staff would write a staff report, correct the formatting, submit the document to the City Attorney’s Office for review, and return the document to the Task Force, if needed, and then on to the City Council as part of an upcoming agenda.

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

Motion by Taskforce Member Williams, seconded by Taskforce Member Kilian-Lobos to recommend the proposal for the Community Crisis Response Program Community Advisory Board from the Task Force’s Community Advisory Board Working Group, to be submitted to the City Attorney’s Office for review and on to the City Council for approval, carried by the following Roll Call vote:

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

3. RECEIVE a Detailed Financial Report Regarding Office of Neighborhood Safety Expenditures

Sam Vaughn presented the detailed financial report regarding the Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS) expenditures that had been prepared last month, and reported that \$570,000 had been spent for staffing and another \$475,000 was expected to be spent on those staff positions over the next four months for the remainder of the fiscal year. Approximately \$1.2 million out of the \$2,050,000 allowed from the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force funds had been spent and another \$500,000 was expected to be spent for staffing and other operational costs.

Mr. Vaughn stated that approximately \$350,000 was still available for new vehicles, yet to be delivered and he explained why, along with another \$150,000 for replacement vehicles. The only other resources left from Task Force Funds was for professional development for grants and contracting. The goal within the next year was to have a good understanding of where the resources could be used in the community to benefit the community and support organizations that were already doing good work. Some funding had been left for travel and training. Less money than expected had been spent on uniforms and approximately \$35,000 had been left in that account. With the exception of vehicles and the special development fund, the majority of the funding would be staffing, operations costs, office supplies and a contract for the copier.

Mr. Vaughn responded to comments from the Task Force as to the collaboration with the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD), and reported that two staff had been approved to go into schools in the district as the ONS was waiting for the legal teams to work on indemnity and who would be responsible for it.

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Mr. Vaughn clarified what was currently being done in emergency situations such as the recent El Cerrito brawl, and explained that there were relationships outside of the schools for a number of the young people involved and they would be working on that as well. He also explained that ONS did not have a gun buyback program.

Taskforce Member Walker wanted to make sure that ONS had the capacity to do the administrative work given the more that was asked of the very successful department the more capacity and support would be needed on the back end, not just the boots on the ground, to write the reports and to support the leaders like Mr. Vaughn.

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

4. RECEIVE an Update from Safe Organized Spaces Richmond

Tomi Nagai-Rothe, Director of Strategy and Operations, Safe Organized Spaces (SOS), reported on the amazing work being done by SOS. She described a street level partnership with Housing Consortium of the East Bay and Lifelong Medical Care, working to meet unhoused residents where they were geographically, and in their lives and situations. Without that, she stated it was difficult for non-profits, agencies and authorities to interact with, work with, and help the unhoused. She described how SOS helped the unhoused where they lived from tent to home, and among other things accompanied them to public services such as filing for Social Security, to the Department of Motor Vehicles, and to the mobile service sites for laundry and mobile showers, where food and clothing were available and to get connected to services.

Ms. Nagai-Rothe stated SOS also had a workforce clinic that had been open for five months and helped people get documentation for work. It also hosted a pop-up called The Warm Hand Wellness and Resource Center at the SOS yard on south 2nd Street under I-580, open from Monday to Friday, and Thursdays at the San Pablo Library, where people could come to connect with one another and with services. She stated that housing sustainability was what they all wanted, and jobs, and to help people get Medi-Cal access. There was also a 90-day Job Readiness Program, and personal health and life goal setting along with health and wellness. She described a small cohort of people with a mentor program in a 10-hour weekly work situation with the practical application of job skills, supervision and weekly check-ins along with classroom work to look at healthy choices along with writing, financial literacy, getting prepared for interviews, interview practice and the like.

Given the hour, Chair Small called for a motion to extend the meeting or failing that, to adjourn.

On the motion by Taskforce Member Gosney, seconded by Taskforce Member Kilian-Lobos, to extend the meeting to the end of the SOS presentation.

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

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

Daniel Barth, Executive Director, Safe Organized Spaces (SOS), identified the 2023 success measures and explained that SOS was getting better at data collection and analysis and the Resource Center allowed the focus to be on the individual to help them to achieve their wants and needs. While the success measures were very deliverable, the focus now was on services and what was being done now to track everyone and their evolution of needs and accomplishments, which would offer a new range of data.

Mr. Barth reported that encampments were being served weekly (24 on average) with many showers and 374 tons of trash (about 30 tons a month). He explained that SOS was not just the trash-shower-laundry people and not just about housekeeping for the City. Everyone wanted to have the support for those basic services, especially trash and relocation, and SOS was the liaison and bridge builder to help things move along, but he wanted SOS to be more than that and wanted to work with the individual. SOS had stabilized staff and would work more hours and be able to promote more.

Mr. Barth spoke to one of the concerns and critiques of SOS that it was not moving folks into other jobs. He stated the goal of the first few years was to build the culture of family, connection and safety, and it was important to support people as they stayed in a job and knew how to deliver as to how that culture would be established. The drive to do the work was what the team had, which was unparalleled. He stated there was a sense of community that folks relied on and they did not want to leave. He emphasized that everyone who had gotten housing in 2023 had kept their housing, which was huge.

Mr. Barth presented a list area by area where showers, laundry, the workforce clinic and the new wellness centers had been strategically relocated so that people had the best access to them. He stated the number one thing SOS did was to move people from Point A to Point B. As such, it was logistics, about knowing where people were, supportively tracking them as they were relocated all over West County and beyond, and keeping track of them and supporting them as they were trying to avail themselves of services, which then became much more service and wellness driven to seek wellbeing. All those services continued to expand and grow.

Mr. Barth reported that the Richmond City Council had offered SOS \$1.46 million to continue to expand and grow and while there was no specific funding for the wellness center, it was being done nonetheless and creating a community of care. He urged the members of the Task Force to explore and work with SOS individually long after the sunset of the Task Force and to be part of making it happen beyond the course of the Task Force.

Mr. Barth thanked the Task Force for the investment in SOS, which investment was not indefinite and he noted that direct individual contributions had increased and SOS would try to grow that and get the business sector involved along with grants from other sources. Towards that end, he stated the City Council had in addition to the \$1.46 million granted \$100,000 to SOS to have a development capacity it had not previously had.

Mr. Barth stated there had been a lot of outreach to get people to the wellness center. SOS needed to know how people experienced the notion of outreach and being supported when accompanied to the wellness center.

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Mr. Barth commented that encampments could not be expected to change if folks were not taken out of the encampments and had access to housing sustainability, income, self-sufficiency and health and wellness, which were huge lifts for everyone involved.

Mr. Barth noted that the Opioid Settlement funds were in the mix of resources available to pursue SOS's goals. He also identified a strong relationship with HEPPAC, the HIV Education and Prevention Project of Alameda County where two SOS staff would intern with HEPPAC and be trained to have a wellness and programs director and specialists trained by HEPPAC as a strong partner. He expressed the intent to create a low barrier, high accessibility West County Wellness Center hopefully located centrally in San Pablo so that a year from now when building a large level of collaboration more services would come to the wellness center to create a community of care. He added the CCRP was part of that.

Mr. Barth referred to the relationships created with the public agencies and stated that when the harm reduction and approved wellness outreach was in the encampments, the peer engagement with the residents and the peers constituted a community of care right there, and the services in the center were all those services ready and waiting to engage with folks at the encampment level. He noted that folks were distrustful until it was necessary and there would have to be trust building to get folks to the centers, and when enforcement came down it was sometimes at the expense of the stability and wellbeing of the folks in the center, and SOS had to be the bridge builder.

Chair Small asked about harm reduction and wanted to find out if anything had been done to get access to fentanyl testing strips, and Mr. Barth stated that with Lifelong as a street level partner, SOS had access and had been distributing fentanyl testing strips to encampments and had been able to reach all the encampments. He identified 200 plus encampment hotspots and reported that SOS would now ramp up and the Opioid Settlement Funds would give them more supplies in partnership with HEPPAC.

Chair Small asked about maintaining demographic data on those being served, which would be helpful to the City in general as to those being served and the type of services involved, the population being served, the percentage of substance abuse services and the success in being able to connect people. She also noted that all the data showed that African Americans were over represented among the homeless but no one had described a strategy specifically designed to address that and whether or not the new countywide African American Wellness Center could also be a source of resources and support for the work being done to help African American homeless. She also asked if SOS had looked at other jurisdictions that had been successful in addressing homelessness locally and questioned what was being employed at the citywide level to address homelessness locally, which could be a help to the City of Richmond.

Mr. Barth noted a lot of criticism had come from the fact that SOS was not representative demographically and racially of the population, which was the case and there were lots of reasons and he had no answers, but he was beginning to see that first-hand information was what he needed to get. He stated that 58 percent of the population was African American and he noted the most visible, the least supported and the most symptomatic disempowerment and discrimination had resulted in homelessness and now there was something to offer and he was making connections.

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As to what other cities did, Ms. Nagai-Rothe stated she tracked media reports and San Francisco had a good result with small programs and had targeted a certain number of people in the Castro, which had been very successful. That group had someone who had been unhoused who was the advocate, which was the SOS model. In the South Bay, a meta study had been done of interim housing of tiny homes and sheds and one of their findings was that people wanted private space and wanted to have their own bathroom. SOS was working with some donors and folks from Chabot College to create a permanent tiny village in a plot of land next to the SOS yard for a little work/space and some interviews had already been done. For SOS, it was centering on what people needed and what they wanted and if possible, to respond to that. She stated she had also tracked what they knew would not work.

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

The following items were rolled over to the next month's meeting.

6. **DISCUSS the Social Host Ordinance and APPROVE Recommendations to City Council**
7. **DISCUSS Non-Police Parking Enforcement and Related Traffic Safety Concerns Raised by Richmond City Councilmembers Gayle McLaughlin and Claudia Jimenez**
8. **DISCUSS the Early Sunsetting of the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force and APPROVE Recommendations and Report to City Council**

I. ACTION ITEM RECAP

J. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 P.M. to a regular meeting on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 in the Bermuda Room, Richmond Memorial Auditorium, 403 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA 94804.



REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNITY TASK FORCE

DATE: April 24, 2024

TO: Members of the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force

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

SUBJECT: Current Aquatics Programs and Every Kid to Swim Proposal

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE:

The Task Force will receive a presentation on current aquatics programs and discuss a proposal to create Every Kid to Swim program for Richmond.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE a presentation on current aquatics programs and DISCUSS proposal to create Every Kid to Swim program for Richmond.

DISCUSSION:

Paula Cooper-Tipton, Recreation Coordinator for the City of Richmond's aquatics programs, will provide a presentation to the Task Force on current aquatics programs.

Following the presentation, Task Force members will discuss a proposal from Task Force member Armond Lee to create Every Kid to Swim program for Richmond.

Background Information Provided by Task Force Member Armond Lee

Swimming is fun and a great way to get exercise! On a warm summer day, a dip in the pool is refreshing. But with swimming comes water risks. In general, children ages 1-4 die from drowning more than any other cause of death. For those aged 5-14, drowning is the second leading cause of death after motor vehicle accidents. Like all areas of American life and society, there is racial disparity amongst African Americans/Black people and Latinos. The Center for Disease Control reports Black children between the ages of 10-14 drown at 7 times the rate of whites. Sixty-four (64) percent of Black children have little to no swimming ability.

Black people from the United States have a particular relationship with water. The Atlantic Ocean was used as a vehicle to transport kidnapped Africans from Africa to the Americas. Many jumped overboard into the sea to escape the horrors of the chattel slavery. Additionally, Black people across the U.S were not allowed to swim with whites. Until the 1930s, Black people were

not allowed to swim at the Richmond Plunge. Even today, the use of both the Plunge and Richmond Swim Center is unoccupied by Black residents.

According to the USA Swimming Foundation, teaching children to swim can reduce the risk of drowning by 88%. Richmond Swims - Adult Learn to Swim is a great program teaching adults in Richmond to swim. However, there is a lack of reduced cost or free programs for children in Richmond to learn to swim. Richmond must enact such a program. This program is beneficial not only for playing a role in reducing children's risks of drowning but by also bolstering the usage of our swim centers and lifeguard program.

***As a child my mom made my sister and I take swim lessons. My mom knew how to swim and believed it was important for us to know how. However, I can count on one finger how many other Black people I personally know how to swim. I know one cousin who drowned from swimming as a kid, and one who nearly drowned as a teenager (unfortunately still passed away from other complications).

Sources:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/drowning/facts/index.html>
- <https://oac.cdlib.org/view?docId=hb2j49n7wr;NAAN=13030&doc.view=frames&chunk.id=div00029&toc.depth=1&toc.id=0&brand=calisphere>
- <https://www.parents.com/kindred/for-black-communities-learning-to-swim-can-be-anything-but-simple/>
- <https://richmondswims.org/adult-learn-to-swim/>



REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNITY TASK FORCE

DATE: April 24, 2024

TO: Members of the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force

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

SUBJECT: Social Host Ordinance

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE:

Richmond City Councilmember Melvin Willis suggested that the Task Force look into the Social Host Ordinance that was presented at the January 23, 2024 City Council meeting. The Task Force will discuss the Social Host Ordinance and make recommendations to City Council.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

DISCUSS the Social Host Ordinance and APPROVE recommendations to City Council.

DISCUSSION:

At the January 23, 2024 regular meeting of the Richmond City Council, councilmembers heard item Q.3 to receive a presentation from Nabila Sher-Oliver, Alcohol, Marijuana, and Prescription Drug (AMPD) Coalition Coordinator; and provide direction to staff regarding proposed Social Host policy, and timing for Council consideration/recommendations. The Social Host Ordinance would make it illegal for adults to provide an environment where underage drinking or drug use occurs.

During the discussion, Richmond City Councilmember Melvin Willis suggested gathering the insight of the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force on the ordinance.

The staff report and presentation from the meeting can be found [online on eSCRIBE](#).



REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNITY TASK FORCE

DATE: April 24, 2024

TO: Members of the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force

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

SUBJECT: Non-police Parking Enforcement

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE:

The Task Force will discuss non-police parking enforcement and related traffic safety concerns.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

DISCUSS non-police parking enforcement and related traffic safety concerns raised by Richmond City Councilmembers Gayle McLaughlin and Claudia Jimenez.

DISCUSSION:

Richmond City Councilmembers Gayle McLaughlin and Claudia Jimenez contacted Chair Small to request that the Task Force explore the feasibility of non-police parking enforcement and provide a recommendation to the City Council for consideration in fiscal year 2024-2025. Currently, parking enforcement is staffed through the Richmond Police Department.



REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNITY TASK FORCE

DATE: April 24, 2024

TO: Members of the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force

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

SUBJECT: Sunset of the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE:

At the October 25, 2023, regular meeting of the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force (Task Force), Task Force members voted to place an item on the agenda to discuss and vote on a recommendation to Richmond City Council to sunset the Task Force.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

DISCUSS the early sunseting of the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force and APPROVE recommendations and report to City Council.

DISCUSSION:

On June 30, 2020, Richmond City Council heard Item I-1 to direct staff to prepare a plan to transition from Richmond's current "community policing" model to a plan conducive to the reduced police force and return to City Council with the preferred policing model and a plan for implementation by the end of Fiscal Year 2020/2021. Following discussion on the item, the City Council directed staff to "create a transition accountability task force composed by members of the public, including community organizations, individuals who were impacted by law enforcement, and law enforcement."

City Council appointed twenty-one (21) members to the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force on October 6, 2020. The Task Force was initially set to sunset on June 30, 2021. On May 19, 2021, City Council extended the term of the Task Force to September 30, 2021. On September 14, 2021, City Council extended the term of the Task Force to June 30, 2024.

At the October 25, 2023, regular meeting of the Task Force, Task Force members voted to place an item on the agenda to discuss and vote on a recommendation to Richmond City Council to sunset the Task Force. Task Force members noted that the original goals of the Task Force will have been achieved upon completion of the Community Advisory Board proposal recommendation. Members also cited recent challenges to meet quorum.

Task Force member Cantú shared a presentation regarding sunseting considerations. Suggested topics and actions include a celebration, review of Task Force impact, thank you, community input, and next steps.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Presentation on Task Force Sunseting Considerations



Reimagining Public Community Safety Taskforce

Sunsetting Considerations



Topics and Actions to Consider

- Celebration
- A Review of Taskforce Impact
- Thank you
- Community Input
- Next Steps

Celebration

- Catering if there is a possible budget
- Potluck if there is member capacity
- Snacks or cake as a lighter option

A Review of Taskforce Impact

- Invite all TF members (new and resigned)
- Invite City Council + Mayor
- Invite all Program Staff and Participants to share their experiences
- TF members work with staff to create a deck, video, review in photos of impact

Thank yous

- Write thank you letters to each other (TF members + staff)
- Give speeches on how this work has impacted you and our community
- Coordinate giving small gifts to each other + staff (White elephant, Secret Santa, etc, Winter Gift Exchange)

Community Input

- Invite the community to our final meeting
- Encourage public comments on various programs
- Share stories via public comment at City Council meetings of how this work has impacted the city

Next Steps

- Join another Board, Commission, Taskforce or Committee with the City of Richmond
- Present the finalized recommendation of the sunset to City Council with a community impact presentation
- Continue to advocate for programs, policies, and proposals that reimagine public safety



REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNITY TASK FORCE

DATE: April 24, 2024

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 Renaming

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE:

The Task Force will consider alternative names for the Community Crisis Response Program.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

DISCUSS possible alternative names for the Community Crisis Response Program and APPROVE recommendations to City Council.

DISCUSSION:

Task Force members have suggested that the Community Crisis Response Program (CCRP) could benefit from having a different program name. The Task Force will discuss possible alternative names for CCRP and approve recommendations to City Council.



REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNITY TASK FORCE

DATE: April 24, 2024

TO: Members of the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force

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

SUBJECT: Additional Budgetary Allocations for Task Force Proposals

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE:

The Task Force will discuss additional budgetary allocations for YouthWORKS and the Community Crisis Response Program.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

DISCUSS additional budgetary allocations for Task Force proposals – specifically, YouthWORKS and the Community Crisis Response Program.

DISCUSSION:

Chair Small requested an agenda item to discuss additional budgetary allocations for YouthWORKS and the Community Crisis Response Program. Upon discussion, the Task Force may place an agenda item for the May Task Force meeting to recommend additional funding for the programs.