

**COMMUNITY POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION
(CPRC)**

**Wednesday, October 2, 2019 – 7:00 PM
450 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA 94804
Basement - Employee Lunch Room**

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, PLEDGE

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by **Chair David Brown**

Present: David Brown (Chair), Yenny Garcia (Vice-chair), Oscar Garcia, Carol Hegstrom, Randy Joseph, Steven Lacy

Absent: Porschea Brown-Walton, Diego Garcia

Vacancies: 1

Administrative

Staff: Shané Johnson, Staff Liaison – Present

Council Liaison: Jael Myrick, Council Liaison – Absent

City Attorney's

Office Representative: Bruce Soublet, Senior Assistant City Attorney – Present

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (September 2019)

Upon motion by C. Hegstrom and seconded by O. Garcia, the minutes for the meeting of September 4, 2019, were approved by the following vote: **Ayes:** Commissioners O. Garcia, Hegstrom, Joseph and Lacy. **Noes:** None. **Absent:** Vice Chair Y. Garcia and Commissioners Brown-Walton and D. Garcia. **Abstained:** Chair Brown.

III. AGENDA REVIEW – Mr. Aubrey will not be addressing the Commission regarding the NACOLE conference under Item VIII(C); and Item IX(B) was removed from the agenda.

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

Rick Perez – Expressed his feelings about the Richmond Police Department.

Patricia Perez – Shared comments about a book titled “Taking it to the Streets: Lessons from a Life of Urban Ministry” authored by Reverend Harry Louis Williams II.

V. COMMENTS BY COUNCIL LIAISON Jael Myrick – None

VI. COMMENTS BY CHIEF OF POLICE (Interim Chief Bisa French or designate) – Chief French gave the report on the shotspotter activations and crime statistics through September 2019. She then provided updates on two recent homicides noting that suspects are identified in one of the cases, and that RPD is working to solve the other. Chief French continued her updates to include information surrounding the recent shooting at De Anza High school. She shared RPD and WCCUSD's future safety plans

before answering questions from commissioners. The Chief reported that RPD is working with the POA to best staff the patrol units in the upcoming 2020 deployment and she announced RPD's Cops & Goblins event on 10/26/19. Lastly, she answered questions about community policing from commissioners.

VII. REPORTS BY RICHMOND POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION (Ben Therriault, President) –

Mr. Therriault said that he is happy to be working with Interim Chief French and is enthusiastic about her direction. He expressed his appreciation of the CPRC and the City Council for their support of the POA. Mr. Therriault offered comments about the proposed reorganization of the City pointing out the position of the CPRC and the importance of an investigator for the commission. Mr. Therriault shared his feelings about the absence of the Council liaison from the evening's meeting before moving on to answer questions from the commissioners regarding morale and communication between the rank and file and management.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS, DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Status of search for new investigative officer (Mr. Soublet) – Chair Brown read an email from Councilmember Myrick stating that two candidates have been identified with the goal of interviewing and making a recommendation by the October 22nd meeting. Bruce Soublet explained the civil service hiring process and confirmed that the appointed subcommittee members would be allowed to participate in the hiring process as long as their participation doesn't violate the civil service rules. Staff S. Johnson will send an email to Councilmember Myrick relaying the Commission's request to participate in the selection process for an investigator.

B. Review pending cases (Mr. Soublet) – Mr. Soublet reported that there are seven pending cases requiring review. He has been unable to reach former investigator Lucky Narain for the status of a case that was started, but not finished. Mr. Soublet presented the Commission with a letter to be sent to complainants notifying them of the Commission's receipt of their complaint. The commissioners were in favor of sending the letter.

C. Report from NACOLE (Commissioners Joseph and Lacy) – Commissioner Lacy stated that he enjoyed the networking aspect of the event, but learned that the City of Richmond's police commission is well behind the curve. He feels that the conference brought to light that the CPRC doesn't have any power.

Commissioner Joseph said that he learned a lot from police officers, investigators, community boards, and fellow commissioners from other cities. He feels that the charter requires change and the CPRC needs the ability to investigate more. Commissioner Joseph also spoke about a conversation that he had with a current applicant for the CPRC before concluding his report with the fantastic news that he was the winner of a free flight to next year's NACOLE conference.

Staff S. Johnson suggested that the Commission choose next year's attendees more timely in an effort to simplify travel arrangements.

- D. Review and approval of public statement in Perez matter (Commissioner Hegstrom)** – Commissioner Hegstrom provided background information about how the single-page report came into existence. She invited the commissioners to discuss the process for dissemination of the report to the public. Commissioners engaged in conversation about the responsibility of the investigator in creating a report before voting on the approval of the public statement in the Perez case. Commissioner Hegstrom moved to adopt the present draft as the CPRC’s public statement. Vice Chair Y. Garcia seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Chair Brown, Vice Chair Y. Garcia, and Commissioners O. Garcia, Hegstrom, Joseph and Lacy. **Noes:** None. **Absent:** Commissioners Brown-Walton and D. Garcia. **Abstained:** None

Staff S. Johnson will update the CPRC page on the City of Richmond’s website to include a copy of the public statement.

Rick Perez – Mr. Perez spoke about never receiving the appropriate letters regarding the investigation of the Pedie Perez case. He shared his feelings about police officer background checks and the need for more thorough checks.

Ben Therriault – Mr. Therriault expressed his feelings about the inadequacy of the report and emphasized the importance of a qualified investigator to prevent the same type of publications in the future.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

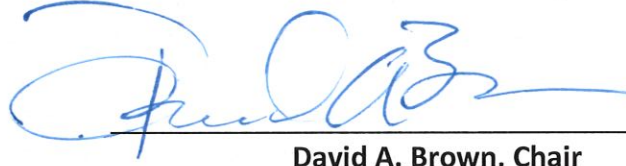
- A. Outreach - 23rd Street Halloween Parade (Vice Chair Y. Garcia)** – Vice Chair Y. Garcia invited the commissioners to come out to the Halloween parade on Thursday, October 31st between 4pm – 6pm. Commissioners Joseph and O. Garcia will attend and assist with setup/clean-up.

X. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES, COMMISSIONERS, CIAO AND STAFF

- Communication Subcommittee – Commissioner C. Hegstrom inquired about the budget and reported that the committee has ideas.
- Outreach Subcommittee – Vice Chair Y. Garcia addressed the members and encouraged them to be responsive to emails. Commissioner Lacy suggested that social media be used to get information to the community members.
- Commissioner C. Hegstrom – Presented the CPRC slide show at the Community Safety Police Academy.
- Vice Chair Y. Garcia – Attended an Urban Tilth meeting and event. Presented the CPRC slide show at the Community Safety Police Academy. Said a farewell to the CPRC in the event that she is not reappointed to the CPRC by the next meeting.
- Chair D. Brown – Worked in cooperation with RPD to manage security for the Jewish community event.
- Bruce Soublet – Reminded the commissioners to review the email from Staff S. Johnson regarding the hours worked by previous investigators.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned to the public at 8:30 p.m.



David A. Brown, Chair