

# **RICHMOND POLICE COMMISSION**

**Wednesday, March 5, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Community Services Building**  
**330 - 25<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Conference Room 1**

## **MINUTES**

### **I CALL TO ORDER (Roll Call) (Chair Cora Ward)**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Cora Ward

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Nemy Bautista  
Robert Ham  
Dolores Hembree  
Cochise Potts  
Roberto Reyes (arrived at 7:04)  
Glenn Stephenson  
Chris Talerico  
Cora J. Ward  
Naomi Williams

**Absent:** None

**Vacancies:** None

**Administrative Staff Present:** Don Casimere, Confidential Investigative & Appeals Officer  
Malia Glover, Administrative Secretary

**Council Liaison:** Harpreet Sandhu, Councilmember

**City Attorney's**

**Office Representative:** Mary Renfro, Assistant City Attorney

### **II PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **III APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 6, 2008**

Upon motion by **Commissioner Williams** and second by **Commissioner Hembree** the minutes for the regular meeting of February 6, 2008, were approved as written.

#### IV REPORT BY CHIEF OF POLICE (Chris Magnus or his representative)

A. Feasibility of Homeless Program similar to City of Antioch (**Commissioner Ham**)

The Chief said the project, called Project Reunite, has not actually started in Antioch; they are in the early stages of developing this program. The idea is to help homeless people get reunited with a family member or someone who they may have distanced themselves from over time due to a variety of circumstances such as drug abuse or mental health problems. It could be a program that might be jointly worked on with the Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS) and the Police Department. He will talk with Devone Boggan from the ONS. Any commissioners are welcome to work with them on this project.

**Commissioner Reyes** said he manages the homeless program for single adults in the county. He brought information to hand out. He said the county conducts counts every two years to see how many homeless there are in the county. He told the Chief he would like to sit down and talk with him about the program.

B. Acquisition of Police Vehicles (**Commissioner Williams**)

**Commissioner Williams** said they want a policy put into place that only allows experienced officers to drive the new vehicles that RPD acquires. If officers have one or more accidents within a week or a month, they should have to pay a penalty. **Chief Magnus** said the officers wrecking the cars need to be held accountable through their process of counseling, training and discipline. He asked Capt. Griffin to oversee a review of the matrix that they follow for accepting points when someone is involved in an accident. The number of points determines the kind of discipline that they receive. If someone is being irresponsible in the way they drive a vehicle, they need to deal with that individual, not the entire classification of individuals. They are working on changing the matrix and getting the officers more training.

C. RPD Ride-Along Program

**CIAO Casimere** said there are some commissioners that have had difficulties in getting out on the ride-alongs. Commissioners are required to do ride-alongs to familiarize themselves with what is going on in the department and on the streets. The commissioners explained some of the problems they have been having such as having to wait for over an hour in the lobby, being asked to fill out forms, etc. Mr. Casimere asked what is being done to ensure that commissioners can get out on a timely ride-along. **Chief Magnus** said if the commissioners run into a problem, he would appreciate it if they would notify Deputy Chief Medina or himself. He will also discuss the problem with the new records supervisor, Lisa Everett. He said it is his position, as chief, that commissioners should be able to ride-along whenever they want. He said a call ahead of time would be

appreciated but they will accommodate them no matter what. They sometimes have specific things going on or they may not have a regular supervisor working on some evenings. He will also send the Commission a list of the new shift hours.

**Chair Ward** said some of the commissioners had trouble getting into the building and asked if they could have keys. **Chief Magnus** said the lobby is always open and there should always be someone there who could get them where they need to go. He cannot give commissioners keys to the building because it is a secure area under DOJ requirements. He said they could update or redesign their ID cards.

**Chair Ward** welcomed **Councilmember Harpreet Sandhu** to the meeting.

D. Other current topics

**Chief Magnus** distributed copies of the final version of the taser policy and the latest version of their Code Enforcement flyer. He reported on the following:

- They had a week of sergeants' training that covered many issues.
- They've requested a meeting with New World Systems regarding problems they've been having with Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Records Management System (RMS).
- The San Francisco ACLU requested a number of records related to RPD's complaint process.
- There will be a protest on 3/15/08 at Chevron related to concerns between the City and Chevron regarding tax issues and other matters. They are working with organizers to lay out ground rules for a peaceful protest.
- West County Chiefs met with the DA to discuss a working gang task force. CalGRIP (California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention) is funding the grant application at 80% with the City of Richmond.

**Commissioner Ham** said he would like to volunteer his services in the homeless project and in the gang suppression effort, if possible.

**Commissioner Reyes** asked if ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) was involved in the West County gang task force. **Chief Magnus** said not at this point. However, they have worked with ICE in the past and probably will again in the future around specific, illegal gang activity. That is completely separate from the group that is involved in the raids.

**CIAO Casimere** said there were originally four commissioners who requested to be on the camera committee. Recently, D/C Medina called and requested two commissioners for this committee. CIAO Casimere said there are three commissioners who still wish to be on the committee. **Chief Magnus** said there would be no problem in having three commissioners participate.

**Councilmember Sandhu** told the commissioners to contact him anytime if they need assistance from him or the council. He reported that there was a press release announcing a grant for \$960,000 that the City received under the collaboration of many different organizations that will mainly go towards the Office of Neighborhood Safety and the Neighborhood House.

**Commissioner Reyes** requested that Cinco de Mayo be included on the agenda next month.

**V REPORT BY POLICE OFFICER ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE**

**Off. Esparza** said that from the POA's perspective, they like to see commissioners doing ride-alongs. He said as far as the car accidents are concerned, they have to be taken individually. Sometimes it's not the officer's fault so it can't really be held against them; the point system addresses that. The first meeting of the camera committee was today. The second meeting will be 3/19/08 at 9:30 a.m. in the first floor conference room. **Chair Ward** said **Commissioners Hembree, Stephenson and Williams** will be attending the meeting on 3/19.

**VI REPORT BY GUARDIANS OF JUSTICE ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE**

No report.

**VII REPORT BY LATINO POLICE OFFICER ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE**

**Off. Esparza** said they had nothing to report.

**VIII PUBLIC FORUM**

**Phil Mehas** reminded the commissioners that on 3/27/08, the ACLU, in cooperation with the City of Richmond, will be putting on a public forum on immigration in the community room at the library. Mr. Mehas said he thinks the record should show when a representative from the City Attorney's office is here and when they are not.

**IX REPORT BY CONFIDENTIAL IAO**

**CIAO Don Casimere** said the City Council will be inviting the commissioners to the first annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on 4/17/08 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Courtyard Marriott at Hilltop. He attended a meeting of the Police Assessment Resource Center (PARC) that dealt with drafting national guidelines for police monitors. He distributed a handout. He'll be participating in part II of that meeting on 3/27-3/28 in Los Angeles. All expenses are paid by PARC and any involvement is on his own time, not City time. Mr. Casimere said the Commission is putting together an outreach letter for all churches in the area.

**Commissioner Reyes** asked CIAO Casimere what he thought of having a record of everyone who was at the table at the Police Commission meetings. **Mr. Casimere** said the City Attorney's Office representative will be included starting today.

**Commissioner Tallerico** asked if the DA's office had responded to the Commission's request for statistics. **CIAO Casimere** said there has been no response. **Commissioner Tallerico** requested that this item be placed on the agenda next month.

## **X REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

### **A. West County Alcohol Policy Working Group (Commissioner Naomi Williams)**

**Commissioner Williams** said she attended a meeting yesterday. They are in the process of creating new bylaws. She said the State has given RPD a grant of \$100,000 this year. They will now be able to monitor restaurants as well as liquor stores.

### **B. Church & Neighborhood Council Outreach Committee (Chair Cora Ward)**

**Chair Ward** said that one of the most important parts of a commissioner's duties is to get the community involved in the things that the commission is about and what it does. She encouraged them to bring neighbors and members of the community to the Police Commission meetings.

### **C. Reports on Community Events/Training Attended**

#### **Commissioner Reyes**

- He is part of CCC Violence Prevention Team in Public Health. They will be having a meeting very soon in central Richmond.

#### **Commissioner Potts**

- Attended ONS Advisory Board Meeting
- Attended Meeting with Devone Boggan and nine other Neighborhood Council presidents to strategize against violence
- Attended fund raiser in San Francisco for new Hunter's Point/Bayview YMCA

#### **Commissioner Hembree**

- Attended Explorer promotions event on 2/15/08

#### **Commissioner Ham**

- Works with Center for Human Development Conflict Resolution Program; he handed out flyers regarding mediator training.

**Commissioner Williams**

- Attended ONS meeting with 9 Neighborhood Councils
- Attended taser training
- Attended GRIP meeting regarding homeless
- Attended Pt. Richmond Neighborhood Council meeting
- Attended Explorer promotions
- Attended BWOPA (Black Women Organized for Political Action) meeting
- Interviewed in Comcast studio about being a leader in Richmond

**Commissioner Tallerico**

- Attended a ride-along with Off. Soto
- Attended Explorer promotions
- Thanked Chief for doubling budget for Explorer Program

**XI EXECUTIVE SESSION: Public Employee Performance and Discipline/Release (Police Officers)**

- A. Discussion Regarding Complaints Received in the Past Month and Past Complaints

No complaints received in the past month.

**Commissioner Stephenson** inquired about having their badges returned to them if there is a change in the law. **Asst. City Attorney Mary Renfro** said she drafted a memo to the City Attorney but hasn't received a response. She will follow up on this item.

**XII ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by **Commissioner Reyes** and second by **Commissioner Stephenson**, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

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**Don Casimere**  
**Confidential Investigative & Appeals Officer**