

# RICHMOND POLICE COMMISSION

Wednesday, June 5, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.  
Employment & Training Building  
330 – 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
Conference Room 1

## MINUTES

### I CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, PLEDGE

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by **Chair Felix Hunziker**

#### ROLL CALL

**Present:** Nemy Bautista  
Therese Barquet  
Felix Hunziker  
Scott Gillespie  
Alejandro Navarro (arrived 7:18)  
Bea Roberson  
Glenn Stephenson  
Eleanor Thompson (arrived 7:10)

**Absent:** None

**Vacancies:** One

#### Administrative

**Staff:** Terry Simpson, Investigator - Present  
Malia Glover, Executive Secretary I – Present

**Council Liaison:** Jael Myrick, Council Liaison – Present

#### City Attorney's

**Office Representative:** Bruce Souble, Assistant City Attorney – Present

### II APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 1, 2013

Upon motion by **Commissioner Roberson** and second by **Commissioner Bautista**, the minutes for the regular meeting of May 1, 2013, were approved as written.

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

A. Report of recent activities, events, incidents, and related matters

**Bisa French**, who was recently promoted to captain, reported for **Chief Magnus**. She reported on some of the other recent promotions in the department. **Officers Abetkov** and **Lonso** have been promoted to sergeant and will be working in the

patrol division. **Lt. Dickerson** will be working in the Professional Standards Unit. She invited the commissioners to the swearing in ceremony on June 10, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. She said that **Sgt. Abetkov** will be taking her place as public information officer. **Capt. French** said that she will be the central district commander, **Capt. Gagan** will be taking over as southern district commander and **Capt. Williams** will be going inside to fill the seat that was vacated by **Capt. McBride**.

**Chair Hunziker** asked if **Capt. Williams** was still doing Cease Fire. **Capt. French** said that **Capt. Gagan** will be handling that now.

**Capt. French** said that the council recently approved predictive policing software. She said that she feels the software will help them to curb the property crimes that they've been experiencing. There's been an increase in property crimes across the city and across the nation. The software will allow them to predict where property crimes are most likely to occur within 500 ft. x 500 ft. **Capt. French** reported that Juneteenth will be on 6/22/13. It will start with a parade and the festival will be at Nicholl Park. There will be a DUI checkpoint on 6/15/13, from 6:00 p.m. to midnight on San Pablo Avenue near Big O Tires. National Night Out will be on 8/6/13. It will be the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The kick-off party and end party will be at the Civic Center. On 8/3/13, DA Mark Petersen is spearheading a gun buyback program. It will be a joint effort with Richmond, Concord, Antioch, Pittsburg and Martinez. Instead of cash, gift cards will be given out. It will probably be at the Civic Center from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Commissioner Roberson** asked how they liked the fact that Oakland PD has now adopted Richmond's way of policing. **Capt. French** said that Oakland PD came and looked at their model several years ago; they have finally put it into action.

**Commissioner Bautista** congratulated **Capt. French** on her promotion. He asked if RPD was up to par in their force. **Capt. French** said they are down about 5 or 6 officers at this point.

**Commissioner Gillespie** asked who decides where DUI checkpoints are held. **Capt. French** said she's not positive but she believes the lieutenant and the sergeant in the traffic division make that decision. She will find out and let him know. She said they are open to suggestions as to where to have them.

**Chair Hunziker** asked how much the gift card amount will be for the gun buyback. **Capt. French** said that hasn't been established yet. **Chair Hunziker** suggested giving vouchers or discounts on gun safes. He said that he noticed that there were no police commission complaint forms in the lobby of the police department. He said he would like to set up something in the lobby that is a little bit more obvious so that people who do have a complaint can easily see how the process works and that the police commission exists for these purposes. He asked for comments from the other commissioners. **Commissioner Roberson** said there should be complaint forms there if someone needs them but the commission is not in the business of advertising for complaints. **Commissioner Thompson** said that it was not a matter of advertising; it's a matter of putting things out so they know that they can file a complaint if they need to.

**Commissioner Bautista** asked if there were guidelines for citizens who wanted to participate in the gun buyback. **Capt. French** said there will be guidelines but they are still being worked out. The chief will update the commission at a later meeting.

**Commissioner Thompson** made a motion to work with the new captain and chief assistants in the police department so that complaint forms can be available for residents in the RPD lobby. It was seconded by **Commissioner Roberson**.

**Commissioner Gillespie** made an amendment to also have some complaint forms placed in the City Manager's office. **Commissioner Roberson** accepted the amendment. All were in favor.

#### **IV REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON JAELE MYRICK**

**Councilmember Myrick** reported on the council meeting last night. He said that they are looking into having a 45 day moratorium on any new cash for gold businesses so that they can look at what requirements they can add to make sure that the property wasn't stolen from someone else. They are also extending the ordinance for banning billboards advertising alcoholic beverages within 500 feet of schools and places used by young people to 4,000 ft. They are modeling this after a city of Oakland ordinance. On May 21<sup>st</sup>, they voted to enter into facilitated talks with Chevron about negotiating a settlement to compensate the city for damages and lawsuits associated with the 8/6/12 fire. If something positive is not reached in 30 days, they will enter into a contract with Cochette law firm and file suit against them. He and Councilmember Butt have proposed that as part of the settlement they invest money into scholarship programs for high school graduates in Richmond.

**Commissioner Roberson** said that West Contra Costa Alcohol Policy Working Group is also working on the billboard issue.

**Commissioner Navarro** asked who the scholarship would benefit. **Councilmember Myrick** said they are still working out the all the details.

**Commissioner Roberson** asked if a student's grades would determine whether or not they got a scholarship. **Councilmember Myrick** said that is still being worked out. He said that students who struggle the most are the ones that need encouragement and need to understand that there's no excuse not to continue their education.

**Commissioner Barquet** said that it's easy to get into a community college; the problem is staying in. **Councilmember Myrick** said that Contra Costa College and other local schools are excited about the program and are saying that if Richmond is able to do this program, they have many services to offer the students.

**Asst. City Attorney Bruce Soublet** said he benefited from a similar program when he grew up in Oakland. He said you had to have a certain grade point average to continue to receive the money. If a student no longer qualified, the money was reallocated for other students to benefit from the program.

**Chair Hunziker** said he wanted to make sure that there will be continuity with the investigative officer that has been hired. He said he doesn't think there is an arrangement for him to handle any new cases that come in. He doesn't want to have another backlog

created. He wants the investigator to be hired on as needed basis to ensure that there is no break. **Councilmember Myrick** agreed that they need to start thinking toward the long term and that he would check into it.

## V **PRESENTATION BY OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY (Devonne Boggan)**

**Devonne Boggan** handed out ONS pins and a copy of his PowerPoint presentation. He said that the work of reducing gun violence in the City of Richmond can't be done without the combined effort of law enforcement and collective community input. He said it won't happen if they're not engaging the ones who are responsible for pulling triggers. If they don't make decisions to stop shooting, there will continue to be a serious problem. For the success that they've had in the last 5 years in reducing firearm offenses, they have to acknowledge those young people and their better decision making. He said that ONS deals with 200+ individuals, annually, that could be involved in some firearm activity. He said that the Office of Neighborhood Safety is the first and only office of its kind in the country as a non-law enforcement agency within city government with the sole focus of assisting in interrupting or reducing firearm activity. He gave a detailed report on ONS's background, its goals, values, beliefs and budget. He said that ONS's strategies include street outreach and social service referrals and operation peacemaker fellowship opportunities, as well as others. He gave statistics on how homicides and firearm assaults went down as they implemented programs such as the Peacemaker Fellowship Launch in 2010.

**Commissioner Bautista** congratulated ONS on being visible in the City of Richmond. He asked if ONS was involved with the re-entry program. **Mr. Boggan** said it doesn't have any responsibilities related to re-entry unless the re-entry is associated with a firearm offense.

**Commissioner Barquet** said she was very impressed with the work of ONS. She knows some of the young men that they have reached out to and one of the main things that ONS has done for some of them is to make them feel like they matter. By ONS reaching out, many lives have been saved. She said she wished ONS could be known more in other communities. **Mr. Boggan** said he appreciates that. He said they are becoming much more known in other communities and have already begun to provide technical assistance to other cities.

**Commissioner Thompson** said she liked the saying they use, "focus on the hot people, not the hot spots." **Mr. Boggan** said he wanted to acknowledge **Commissioner Thompson** for an article she wrote about Eric Welch. He was a fellow and is now an ambassador. He is on his way to Washington, DC to participate as a policy fellow at the campaign for youth justice this summer. Then he will be attending college in Tallahassee. He said **Ms. Thompson** brought Eric to him five years ago. He thanked her for that.

**Commissioner Roberson** said she thinks ONS does a wonderful job. She wanted to know if the fellows were the ones who got stipends. **Mr. Boggan** said they do. **Commissioner Roberson** said they get stipends for a certain period of time and wanted to know what happens next. **Mr. Boggan** said the fellowship is 18 months; the stipends are for nine of those months. It is up to \$500 per month. The stipend is associated with their life map goals. As they accomplish things on their life maps, they are provided a stipend in an amount that's associated with those components. After 18 months they now want to live and go on to be active, productive adults.

**Commissioner Roberson** commented that what happened on October 14<sup>th</sup> was very unfortunate, but nobody shot anyone.

**Commissioner Stephenson** said that he never thought this program would be so successful but it has worked and ONS deserves the highest accolades for doing such a fantastic job.

**Mr. Boggan** said he appreciates that. He said all they've done is help to create a platform that helps these young men make better decisions.

**Commissioner Navarro** asked if they reached out to the high schools. **Devonne** said that there are young men involved that are high school age but often times are not in school. Their goal is to help them get back into school.

**Commissioner Bautista** asked what he thought of the gun buyback program. **Mr. Boggan** said he thinks it's a good idea, long term. The guns that need to be taken off the street are not the guns being used to commit firearm offenses.

**Chair Hunziker** asked what they believe is the most effective way to keep guns out of the hands of the people that ONS is working with. **Mr. Boggan** said guns are very easy to get. He said they need to look at border and interstate laws because many of them are getting guns from other states. He said the best way is getting people to make a decision to not pick a gun up.

**Chair Hunziker** said ONS deals with shooters and victims. He asked Devonne to share the five best ways to stop kids from picking up guns who aren't yet a shooter or victim. **Mr. Boggan** said it's a question of health inequities, how to improve the schools, economy and opportunities for those individuals, how to create opportunities for parents to become healthier parents, how do they create opportunities that stabilize families vs. doing things that destabilize families. **Kevin McCullough** said to build healthy relationships with them, and by talking and listening to them.

**Bruce Soublet** said that talking and listening to them is very important. He said that he has heard from kids that we, as adults, think we know what's best for them. He said the kids should be telling the adults what they think is best for them and what they actually need.

**Mr. Boggan** referred the commissioners to ONS's Values and Beliefs on page two of his handout. He said that every person coming out of middle school should have a life map.

**Commissioner Thompson** said that everyone working in ONS is doing a great job.

**Commissioner Stephenson** asked if Sam and Kevin were graduates or if they started out as troubled youths. **Kevin McCullough** said he attended college in Tallahassee, Florida. He said he's never been to jail. He was raised in Richmond. He said it's important to let the young men in the community know that it's possible to be from Richmond and to stream together some good decisions and see the outcome of your life be different. He's grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this. **Sam Vaughn** said they are trained to do what they do and the young men trust them. They are trained to love them and show them how to have a life of non-violence and have a life of success. He said he, himself, was a troubled youth and was in prison for 10 years.

**Terry Simpson** said his first exposure to ONS was tonight and he's very impressed with the presentation. He encouraged them to continue what they are doing. He thanked them for their work and the fantastic presentation.

**Chair Hunziker** thanked them for their wonderful presentation.

**VI REPORTS BY RICHMOND POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION, LATINO POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION, GUARDIANS OF JUSTICE**

No representatives present.

**VII PUBLIC FORUM**

No public speakers.

**VIII POLICE COMMISSION OUTREACH**

**IX POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

**X POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY REVIEW**

**XI REPORTS BY:**

- **CHAIRPERSON**
- **COMMISSIONERS**
- **STAFF**

**Chair Hunziker**

- Reported that they will have a space at the Juneteenth event. It will be Saturday, 6/22/13, from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Set up will be at 8:00 a.m. He asked who wanted to volunteer to staff the table. **Commissioners Barquet, Roberson, and Navarro** volunteered and **Chair Hunziker** and **Commissioner Stephenson** said they could be there to set up. **Commissioner Barquet** suggested that they give out books at the Festival saying that they encourage summer reading. She also wanted to display something that explained the meaning of Juneteenth.
- Attended city council meeting
- Went on Ride-along
- Attended the Assembly Select Committee on Gun Violence in the East Bay
- Worked at Cinco de Mayo Festival

**Commissioner Thompson**

- Attended city council meeting

**Commissioner Roberson**

- Went on a Ride-along
- Worked at Cinco de Mayo Festival
- Attended For Richmond breakfast
- Attended spaghetti dinner fund raiser for baseball teams

**Commissioner Navarro**

- Attended neighborhood council meetings
- Worked on remodeling park

**Commissioner Barquet**

- Worked Cinco de Mayo

**Commissioner Stephenson**

- Contacted RPD for gun locks for give away at Cinco de Mayo
- Worked at Cinco de Mayo table with wife
- Attended Officer of the Year Ceremony
- Attended City Council meeting

**XII CLOSED SESSION**

**XIII ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

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Felix Hunziker, Chair