

RICHMOND POLICE COMMISSION

Wednesday, November 1, 2006 – 7:00 p.m.
Community Services Building
330 - 25th Street
Conference Room 1

MINUTES

I CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Albert R. Martinez

ROLL CALL

Present: Albert R. Martinez
Dolores Hembree
Cochise Potts
Glenn Stephenson
Chris Tallerico
Cora J. Ward
Naomi Williams

Absent: Don Zingale

Vacancies: One

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

II APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 11, 2006

Upon motion by **Commissioner Hembree** and second by **Commissioner Tallerico** the minutes for the regular meeting of October 11, 2006, were approved with one correction.

CIAO Casimere announced that the meeting procedures on the back of the agenda had been revised by the City Attorney's office. He asked everyone to please read that information.

III REPORT BY CHIEF OF POLICE (or his representative)

Deputy Chief Ed Medina reported that the investigation into the death of an 8-year-old boy has taken its toll on their investigative staff. He said the mother is being charged with some very serious crimes, including torture, which carries a life sentence. He commended the good work that their investigators have been doing.

He thanked the Commissioners for attending the Police Commissioner Orientation Training. He said Chief Magnus said if there was anything that was not covered they will invite them back for more training.

D/C Medina distributed copies of the Police Department's new informational pamphlet. It includes answers to general, every day questions that citizens have asked. It will be going out to the public soon. He said the Chief extends his thanks to anyone who gave any input to this document.

Commissioner Potts said that now that the STAND Against Domestic Violence group is in the police department, in the future when there are reports of abuse, would it not be appropriate for one of them to assist. **D/C Medina** said they have had STAND in their Police Department for several years now. They donate several hours of work at the police department and they interact with the officers every day and they do accept referrals.

Vice Chair Ward asked where they could send donations for the funeral of the 8-year-old boy. **D/C Medina** referred them to Lt. Mark Gagan, 620-6643.

Chair Martinez said that the Police Commissioner Orientation that the department gave was outstanding. It was well-received by all commissioners.

D/C Medina said that he oversees the Support Services Bureau which includes the Administrative, Criminal Investigative and Communications Divisions. They are actively recruiting for new dispatchers. He gave an overview of dispatcher training requirements. **D/C Medina** said that the homicide clearance rate has increased tremendously in the last several months. He applauds the good work of the Investigative Bureau and Lt. Shawn Pickett, the Division Commander. In the Administrative Division, they now have a contract with KSFO, the Raider network, to do recruiting advertisements by the voice of the Raiders during Raider games and every day broadcasting.

Commissioner Hembree asked if the activity the other night on 23rd Street was a success. **D/C Medina** said it was a prostitution sting and they made seven arrests.

Phil Mehas asked how much and why the homicide rate clearance went up. **D/C Medina** said he doesn't have exact figures. He said there are several reasons why it may have gone up, one of them being tent city and another reason is that they have a new person in charge of the Investigative Division. **Mr. Mehas** also commented on the prostitution sting and on the Police Department's information booklet. He assumes that the Police Commission will have some input on the finalization of this booklet. **D/C Medina** said the arrests that were made on 23rd Street were seven total. He doesn't know how many were male or female. They did give the Commissioners an opportunity to provide input into the information pamphlet.

IV RPD/WCCUSD TRAINING DAY

Commissioner Tallerico asked that this item be tabled until next meeting when the Chief will be present. He also made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Ward, to allow the commission to discuss sending a card or letter of condolence to the Sheriff's Department in Sacramento in honor of a sheriff's deputy killed in the line of duty. All were in favor. A discussion took place. **Commissioner Tallerico** made a motion to send a card to the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office. It was seconded by Commissioner Williams. All were in favor.

V REPORT BY POLICE OFFICER ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

No report.

VI REPORT BY GUARDIANS OF JUSTICE REPRESENTATIVE

No report.

VII REPORT BY LATINO POLICE OFFICER ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

Off. Esteban Barragan reported that their fundraiser trip to Reno went well. He thanked everyone that participated. They will be having a T-shirt sale fundraiser in the near future. **Commissioner Hembree** suggested that they hold their annual crab feed at the Moose Lodge if they need more room. He said they will consider it.

VIII COMMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE

Phil Mehas stated that for the last two years it has been a nice dialogue between himself and the Commission. He personally finds it unfortunate that the meeting rules and procedures had to change, but he understands why. He assumes that it conforms more to the Brown Act. Mr. Mehas said they will probably miss out on some helpful dialogue because it is hard to comment without asking questions. **Carlos Privat** from the City Attorney's office clarified that questions are permitted at the discretion of the chair.

IX DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Chair Martinez announced that there would be no meeting in December 2006. He also stated that he is ending his 3-year term today. He will no longer be a member of the Police Commission. He said he has enjoyed serving with each of the Commissioners and the CIAO.

Vice Chair Ward said she has enjoyed serving with Chair Martinez and the other commissioners. She nominated Naomi Williams as Chair and Dolores Hembree as Vice Chair.

Chair Martinez nominated Commissioner Ward as Vice Chair. Commissioner Ward declined the nomination.

Vice Chair Ward made a motion to close the nominations. It was seconded by **Commissioner Stephenson**. The chair and vice chair were elected by acclamation.

Commissioner Williams said that she will do her best as Chair of the Commission and if any of the commissioners need to talk with her, feel free to call her. She said she will miss Chair Martinez very much.

X REPORT BY CONFIDENTIAL IAO

CIAO Casimere told Chair Martinez that he thoroughly enjoyed working with him and wished him well in his future endeavors. He congratulated **Commissioners Williams** and **Hembree** on their appointments. He said the Commission will be well served by both of them and he looks forward to assisting them in the upcoming year.

CIAO Casimere reported he participated in the Iron Triangle March for Peace on 10/21/06. He said it was a diverse crowd and well received by the community. He also spent time at one of the tent cities that day. Today he took a 2 hour course in Ethics Training along with the other department heads. Board and commission members will receive the same training in the near future. He also had an opportunity to meet with **Commissioner Tallerico** at his request. He is open to meet with any commissioner if they have questions or comments; contact him by phone or e-mail.

XI REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. West County Alcohol Policy Working Group

Commissioner Williams attended the meeting on the third Monday of the month. They agreed to send a letter to BART opposing ads for alcohol on the trains or at the stations. Letters were also sent to each city in West Contra Costa asking them to consider a resolution to rescind the proposal for BART to advertise alcohol on trains and at stations.

B. Church Outreach Committee

No report

C. Neighborhood Council Outreach Committee

Commissioner Potts said he received a request from Parchester Neighborhood Council for the Commission to give a presentation at their meeting on December 9, 2006, from 11:00 to 1:00, at Parchester Community Center, 900 Williams Dr. Commissioners can let the Police Commission secretary know if they will attend.

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

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

No new complaints this month.

XIII REPORTS BY COMMISSIONERS/FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMISSION

A. Reports on Community Events/Training Attended

Commissioner Tallerico thanked staff members for answering questions and giving him helpful information as a new commissioner. He attended the East Richmond Neighborhood Council's Halloween party with Off. Harris and the Police Explorers; his son is an explorer.

Commissioner Potts attended a forum for foster parents in dealing with difficult children. He had an opportunity to meet one of the directors of STAND Against Domestic Violence who spoke very highly of the RPD in handling domestic violence calls. They would like to give the Police Commission a presentation on domestic violence.

Chair Martinez said the RPD orientation training went very well. The eight hour session was full of good information.

Commissioner Potts said one of the things that came up in the training was having some of the commissioners go down to the courthouse and sit in while trials are going on. **Commissioner Williams** suggested that commissioners wear their badges if they do go.

Commissioner Hembree said there may be some training for Commissioners regarding the Communications Center in the future. She also thought they should have included the K-9 program in the training and also graffiti so that they could understand how to read it.

Commissioner Stephenson attended 3 tent cities and adopted the one at 41st and Cutting. He and his wife participated in a prayer circle and the tenants appreciated having them there.

Chair Martinez also went to the tent city on 41st and Cutting at three different times. He donated several white, plastic chairs to the tent city. They had prayer sessions and bible studies also. He encouraged the Commissioners to continue being good community servants because people now accept the Commissioners as friends and someone they can rely on.

Commissioner Hembree said it's been a pleasure working with Chair Martinez and she is sorry to see him go.

Chair Martinez explained why they want to sit in on court sessions. He said that during the orientation, the Homicide Division said that a lot of the good, positive complaints that they're filing are not being filed by the courts in West County. He said it's very political. This wouldn't be happening in other cities. That's what the police department is up against and the commissioners should be advocates and find out why this is happening.

Commissioner Williams said the Commission should invite the DA's office to a meeting to explain their process. The Commission agreed to invite them to the February meeting. She stated that the next scheduled meeting will be on January 3, 2007.

XIV ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by **Commissioner Tallerico** and second by **Vice Chair Ward**, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Don Casimere
Confidential Investigative & Appeals Officer