

RICHMOND POLICE COMMISSION

**Wednesday, January 4, 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 Martinez

ROLL CALL

Present: Albert R. Martinez, Chair
Nemy Bautista
Juan Calderon (arrived at 7:03)
Emile de Vera
Susan H. Geick
Dolores Hembree
Naomi Williams

Absent: Cora J. Ward

Vacancies: Two

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

II APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 2, 2005

Upon motion by **Commissioner Hembree** and second by **Commissioner Williams** the minutes of the regular meeting of November 2, 2005, were approved with corrections. All were in favor with one abstention.

III REPORT BY CHIEF OF POLICE (or his representative)

Acting Chief Lori Ritter said they are looking forward to the new year with the new leadership of Chief Magnus. He is scheduled to start on January 17, 2006.

Chief Ritter reported there were two employees on injury leave, two on light duty, two on sick leave and one on maternity leave. There were seven officers and one parking enforcement representative injured in December with no time lost.

They have a new lateral officer from Modesto Police Department. They have four trainees ready for the police academy that begins in January and four trainees that will be graduating in February. They have also hired another Code Enforcement Officer who was one of their cadets and they are doing a background investigation on a second Code Enforcement Officer candidate. They are slowly starting to fill some of the vacancies they have had but are still significantly low in police officer staffing. Dave Harris, who was in charge of personnel and training, is going back out to the street as a new sergeant. Sgt. Lori Curran will be managing personnel and training.

Chair Martinez asked if the lateral transfer was a patrolman or managerial officer. Chief Ritter said it was a patrol officer.

Commissioner Bautista asked if any of the recruits were bilingual or Spanish speaking. She said she didn't have that information but will find out.

Commissioner Williams asked if Dave Harris would still be involved in the Richmond City Alcohol Policy Coalition since he's been promoted to sergeant. Chief Ritter said they are in the process of evaluating all the collateral assignments that the officers had and this assignment may be transferred to another officer. Commissioner Williams said that Dave Harris was very helpful to them while he was involved in that group.

Commissioner Geick asked how many people were currently on Code Enforcement. Sgt. Monahan said there are four Code Enforcement officers, one police cadet and one police officer who deals with autos on private property. Chief Ritter said they are currently testing additional cadets to fill nine vacancies. **Commissioner Geick** asked if individual citizens could help in any way. Sgt. Monahan said to call 621-1279 if they see anything that's out of place or wrong. Capt. Ritter said that since Sgt. Monahan has been with the Code Enforcement unit they have been very responsive and are able to take care of many of the difficult issues promptly. **Commissioner Geick** thanked Sgt. Monahan for what they've been doing on South 1st Street.

Commissioner Hembree asked about the new police K-9. Chief Ritter said Off. Avila has a new dog named Boscoe. They are currently in training and will be ready for deployment in five weeks.

Commissioner de Vera said at the last Police Commission meeting he told Chief Hudson that Sec.1020.21 states that Citizen Complaint forms should be displayed in a visible location in the public lobby. He said he has noticed the complaint forms are still not being displayed. Chief Ritter said she will have them displayed behind the glass with clear instructions for the citizens to ask the receptionist if they need a complaint form. If they have the forms in English and Spanish they can have them displayed tomorrow. If they have to create a display case, they will put in a request to public works and that may take at least 30 days.

Commissioner de Vera asked if the RPD website will be updated. Chief Ritter said yes. The contract with the webmaster had expired. They were just able to get the contract

renewed last month. The new chief has also made the website one of his priorities and wants to have an up-to-date website with more information available to the community.

Commissioner de Vera wanted to know if the Drug Enforcement Administration was working in Richmond. Chief Ritter said there are some collaborations that they don't want to publicize and she is not in the position to answer that question at this point. She said the DA may be able to provide him with a response.

Commissioner de Vera said that looking through the procedural manual, he saw nothing that addressed steroid use among cops. He asked if the department plans on addressing that issue, specifically, in the manual. Chief Ritter said they currently test all applicants for drug use which includes all illegal substances. Beyond that, they do not have any ongoing drug testing and that would be an issue that would have to be negotiated through the city and the union. She said illegal substances are not allowed to be used by officers. That would include the use of steroids because it falls in the category of an illegal substance which is illegal for the officers to engage in.

Chair Martinez asked about the status of the orientation manual for new commissioners. Chief Ritter said she doesn't know if they've been able to find the old manual. Chief Hudson had directed them to compile a new orientation manual working in conjunction with the Police Commission in order to develop it.

Commissioner Bautista said that the office hours need to be placed on the front of RPD's lobby.

Commissioner Calderon wanted to know how many homicides that occurred in 2005 have been solved. Chief Ritter said they are currently working on compiling that data and it should be available for the next meeting. **Commissioner Calderon** commented on how the City of Richmond has hit the national media. He said the new chief needs to look at the homicide statistics, how many have been solved, the number that have gone to trial, the outcome of the trial, etc. and publicize that information. Chief Ritter agreed and said that they are making that one of their goals.

Commissioner Geick asked if there were any Southeast Asian languages represented and being spoken by RPD officers. Chief Ritter said yes. **Commissioner Geick** said the Police Commission complaint form should also be available in the RPD lobby along with the police department complaint forms.

IV REPORT BY POLICE OFFICER ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

Sgt. Darren Monahan reported some board member changes. Kevin Martin is now president and Felix Tan is treasurer. All other board members remain the same. They are looking forward to working with the new police chief and another year of working with the Police Commission.

Commissioner Calderon asked if the RPOA could notify former members of the RPD of the passing of any RPD members. Sgt. Monahan said they do keep a list of former members and they will notify them regarding these types of events.

Chair Martinez thanked the officers for showing their support by attending tonight's meeting. The Commission will also support the Police Department in the coming year.

V REPORT BY GUARDIANS OF JUSTICE REPRESENTATIVE

Off. Rudy Bridgeman reported that their 2006 board members are as follows: President - Rudy Bridgeman, Vice-President - Darrell Jones, Advocate - Kendall Baggett, Secretary - Michelle Arriaga, Member-at-Large - Lynette Parker, Treasurer - Jerome Cary, and Member-at-Large - Robert Mulder.

They are having their Annual Prayer Breakfast on January 7, 2006, at Hilltop Community Church at 8:00 a.m. On January 28, 2006, they will be working with PAL and bringing 20 kids to Chabot Science Center for a tour.

VI REPORT BY LATINO POLICE OFFICER ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

Off. Rafael Samayoa reported that he is currently the president of the LPOA. They will have elections this month. They have been working on their annual crab feed that will take place in March 2006.

VII COMMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE

Bob Sutcliffe said he wanted to bring to the attention of the Commission the use of City property and/or logos on the part of public safety in a campaign. The City of San Francisco has put together a program to stop this from happening in their City and he and some other citizens are working on a similar program for Richmond. They want to make sure that public safety does not use City logos, property or uniforms in any campaign process.

Phil Mehas requested that item XII, Reports by Commissioners for the Good of the Commission, be moved in front of executive session on the Police Commission agenda. He said that the Police Commission has been trying to get training for new commissioners for several months and said it is obvious that the Police Department does not want to train them or cooperate with the Commission by having complaint forms readily available to citizens in the Police Department lobby.

There was dialogue regarding the training for new commissioners. It was agreed that Chair Martinez would call Acting Chief Ritter tomorrow and schedule an appointment to discuss the training.

VIII REPORT BY CONFIDENTIAL IAO

CIAO Casimere told the commissioners that copies of the latest version of the RPD Policy Manual were available to them in the Police Commission office. He distributed a copy of a memo from the City Attorney's office regarding confidentiality and a draft of a New Commissioner Checklist for their review. These items will be discussed at a future Police Commission meeting.

IX REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

Commissioner Williams reported that she attended the West Contra Costa Alcohol Policy Working Group last month. They had training that involved all liquor stores in Richmond and in the county; only one liquor store from Richmond attended. She would like to see the same training given to the liquor stores in Richmond, specifically.

Mr. Mehas suggested that there should be an ongoing committee for Police Commission training.

X POLICE COMMISSION BROCHURE DISCUSSION

Commissioner Geick said this should not have been placed on the agenda and wanted to remove it because all the members of the committee need to meet together at a single meeting.

CIAO Casimere said it was placed on the agenda because they thought they were moving forward with it. The matter of the structure of the committee had been resolved and the commissioners and anyone else that could be called upon to advise the committee could do that. He is concerned that there is still no updated brochure for the Commission. He said that this needs to be resolved so that the brochure can be published and put out into the community.

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

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

XII REPORTS BY COMMISSIONERS/FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Bautista

11/23/06	Attended a line-up and did a 4 hour ride-along
12/26/06	Did a 4 hour ride-along and booking process review

Commissioner Calderon mentioned the concerns of members of the business community at the November 5th Police Commission meeting regarding issues of loitering and harassment of patrons at the FoodsCo shopping center. **Chair Martinez** said that Chief Hudson did meet with the security company and Chair Martinez followed up with a letter to Chief Hudson to not only review, but to respond back to Bernice Lin which he did and she responded back to Chair Martinez. There have been clean up crews there and there have been changes in the patrolling of the area.

Chair Martinez said he and **Commissioner Ward** visited the Greater New Bethel Church of God in Christ at 101 Market. They did a presentation on the Police Commission and were welcomed by the congregation.

Commissioner Williams said that she is a member of GRIP (Greater Richmond Improvement Program). They have a calendar for the entire year; she will bring it to the next Commission meeting. They will be having a chili cook off on February 11, 2006, at Universal Baptist Church in Kensington at 5:30 p.m.

Commissioner Hembree said that San Pablo Police Chief, Doug Krathwohl, retired on January 1, 2006. The new chief is from within the department, Commander Joe Aita, and said he was impressed with Richmond's new police chief and is looking forward to working with him.

Commissioner Hembree suggested having the District Attorney come and address specific issues that the Commission might like to hear.

CIAO Casimere said that this was **Commissioner Bautista's** last meeting.

Chair Martinez thanked **Commissioner Bautista** for his sacrifice, diligence and work ethic in the Commission; he will be missed.

Commissioner Williams encouraged the commissioners to continue to do ride-alongs.

Chair Martinez encouraged the commissioners to continue to visit line-ups.

Commissioner Calderon said that it has been great working with Commissioner Bautista.

XIII ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by **Commissioner Williams** and second by **Commissioner Calderon**, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Don Casimere
Confidential Investigative & Appeals Officer