

**COMMUNITY POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION
(CPRC)**

**Wednesday, February 5, 2020 – 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 7:03 p.m. by **Chair David Brown**

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

Absent: Porschea Brown-Walton, Oscar Garcia, Steven Lacy

Vacancies: 1

Administrative

Staff: Shané Johnson, Staff Liaison – Present

Council Liaison: Jael Myrick, Council Liaison – Present

City Attorney's

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (January 2020)

Upon motion by C. Hegstrom and seconded by D. Garcia, the minutes for the meeting of January 8, 2020, were approved by the following vote: **Ayes:** Chair Brown, Vice-chair Y. Garcia, and Commissioners D. Garcia, C. Hegstrom, and R. Joseph. **Noes:** None. **Absent:** Commissioners O. Garcia and S. Lacy. **Abstained:** None.

III. AGENDA REVIEW – No change.

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

Cordell Hindler – Commented on the current CPRC vacancy and stated that he is working with a coordinator at Contra Costa College to fill the position. Mr. Hindler also announced the Council of Industries luncheon on Monday, February 19, 2020, from 12pm – 1:30pm at Hotel Mac. Tickets cost \$45 per person.

Rick Perez – Reminded the commissioners that he still has not received the letter regarding the Pedie Perez case from appropriate City staff per the CPRC ordinance.

Patricia Perez – Reported that during the February 4th City Council meeting, she told the Mayor and Councilmembers that they do not take the CPRC seriously. She said that she and her family will continue to request, from the City, the letter regarding Pedie Perez's death.

Frank Runninghorse – Introduced himself as part of the Oscar Grant Committee and would like to encourage the CPRC to “set a fire” under whomever is responsible for producing the letter to the Perez family.

- V. COMMENTS BY COUNCIL LIAISON JAELE MYRICK** – Councilmember Myrick reported that there will be a study session on March 24th to discuss RPD recruitment and retention at the council level. He also reported that the new City Manager Laura Snideman is working with the City Council to address the issue of differentials and to determine who is truly eligible. Last year, the City of Richmond spent approximately \$400k on differentials. Councilmember Myrick also reported that the City will be moving to district elections in 2020.

In response to Vice Chair Y. Garcia’s request for the City of Richmond to provide a letter to the Perez family, Councilmember Myrick promised to follow-up.

Cordell Hindler – He offered to help research differentials and commented that the new City Manager is nice and will be good for Richmond in the long run.

Rick Perez – Spoke about the letter that he received from the CPRC and the letter he expects from City staff. He feels that reports have been manipulated and that RPD should have accountability

- VI. COMMENTS BY CHIEF OF POLICE (Interim Chief Bisa French or designate)** – Chief French addressed the Perez family’s request for a letter from City staff. She clarified that the letter is supposed to come from the City Manager per the municipal ordinance. Chief French then reviewed the Shots Fired report. The reports have been given to RPD late on both New Year’s and July 4th holidays. RPD spoke to the company responsible for the reports and the company has promised to correct the timeliness of the information. When asked by Chair D. Brown, the Chief responded that delays are occasional and not routine. Chief French continued on to report that RPD held their first Shooting Review team meeting today. Topics discussed during the meetings include patterns/trends, locations of gun fire, etc. The meetings are bi-weekly and will help with RPD’s prevention efforts.

The update on RPD’s staffing/hiring efforts included a report of two officers going out on injury leave in January for existing injuries. Three additional officers reported being injured in January, but continue to work. The Chief said that hiring has been going well with three jobs being offered to dispatchers and two jobs for police officer positions; a new recruit and a lateral.

The Chief shared community outreach efforts by RPD officers. In January, RPD held “Pizza with a Cop” at Extreme Pizza in Point Richmond and “Coffee with a Cop” at Richmond High School. Chief French attended a Coffee, Cars, and Connections event in Martinez that was specifically for the re-entry population. Lastly, RPD participated in

the Human Trafficking Day of Service. Volunteers met up at the Family Justice Center and focused their efforts distributing resources on/around 23rd Street.

Chief French reported that there was a side show on Friday, January 31, 2020, at the Target parking lot. Approximately 500 cars were in attendance and the group considered themselves a car club. RPD focused their efforts on containment and getting cars to leave the area. A few citations were issued.

Chief French responded to Commissioner Hegstrom's question regarding the preparation of RPD for the Corona Virus by telling the CPRC that the department's vehicles are equipped with masks. Also, RPD officers have recently gone through mandatory airborne virus training.

Cordell Hindler – Reported that he has seen a lot of individuals hanging in front of liquor stores on Beat 7. He feels more police presence is needed around the businesses.

Rick Perez – He feels that kids need places to vent, but he's glad that the police are showing their presence. Mr. Perez also commented that the areas of high activity on the Shots Fired report are the same neighborhoods where he feels the cops have the worst attitudes.

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

Detective Therriault encouraged everyone to attend the City Council study session on March 24th to support RPD staffing and retention. He commented on the Perez letter and doesn't understand why the family hasn't received their letter yet. Det. Therriault continued on to a discussion about the side shows that occur in Richmond. He stated that the rank and file feels that RPD needs to have a more robust response to let people know that those types of behaviors are not allowed in Richmond. Det. Therriault responded that the police chief is working on some things including policy changes when Commissioner Hegstrom asked if other resources could be brought in to help deal with the problem. Lastly, Ben Therriault commented on the City Attorney's Office not being present during the past two meetings. He suggested that the CPRC have legal representation during their meetings and that the commissioners take a look at RPD policy.

Rick Perez – He said that de-escalation is the key to resolving issues.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS, DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Review pending cases (Mr. Soublet)** – No report from City Attorney. Chair D. Brown said that he has been in communication with Bruce Soublet and that there is no money in the budget for Jerry Threet to show up without having a result of an investigation.
- B. Outreach opportunities – Cinco de Mayo, Juneteenth (Vice-chair Yenny Garcia)** – Vice Chair Y. Garcia explained the process for tabling at the Cinco de Mayo event. The commissioners generally rotate shifts and give out items to the public. The

vice chair also announced that the CPRC will give a presentation on February 19th at Weigh of Life and will host a table at the Women's International Day event on March 7th. Discussion took place about items needed to successfully table at events and items to give out to the public. Staff Shane Johnson offered her availability for meeting with commissioners to develop outreach material.

Cordell Hindler – Suggested that the CPRC include candy at their tables to attract more people. He also volunteered to tell his neighborhood council group about the CPRC and their outreach efforts.

- C. Report from Social Media Outreach subcommittee (Commissioner Joseph)** – IT Director granted approval to use social media as an outreach tool as long as the item is submitted ahead of time. Also, the information must be posted by a city staff person who will act as the administrator of the page. The IT Director did not give a clear approval about the CPRC creating its own logo. Staff will need to follow-up with the IT Director when the Commission is ready to move forward. The request for a separate, independent email for the CPRC was denied. An email address already exists and should be used on communication that is disseminated to the public.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discuss and vote on recommendation to City Council re: expanding the scope of the Commission's mandate (Commissioner Hegstrom)** – Commissioner C. Hegstrom went over the changes that she made to the ordinance proposal. Changes included complaints of sexual harassment, sexual assault, the discharge of a firearm at a person by a RPD officer, and language changing residents to members of the public. Chair Brown feels that the Commission should focus on the work that they currently have. He feels that bringing the statute into alignment with SB 1421 is a good idea.

R. Joseph motioned to accept the CPRC Amendment with a correction to add the words "excessive or" with "unreasonable" in Section 3.54.070 (b) (1). Chair Brown made a substitute motion to adopt a shorter version. The substitute motioned did not receive a second motion and, therefore, died. The original motion passed with the following vote: Ayes: Vice-chair Y. Garcia, and Commissioners D. Garcia, C. Hegstrom, and R. Joseph. Noes: Chair Brown Absent: Commissioners P. Brown-Walton, O. Garcia, and S. Lacy Abstained: None.

Rick Perez – Expressed that words should be clear and feels that the ordinance could be more clearly written.

X. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES, COMMISSIONERS, CIAO AND STAFF

- **Chair D. Brown** – He put in a lot of effort in the past few months for the Police & Fire toy drive. The rotary community donated over \$14,000 towards the purchase of bicycles and an additional \$3,300 fundraised from the fire house dinner.

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- Vice Chair Y. Garcia – Reported that she, O. Garcia, and R. Joseph presented to the Latina Center Health and Leadership program on the CPRC.
- Commissioner Joseph – Wednesday, February 19th, the BAAQMD will be meeting at the Richmond Auditorium from 6pm-8pm to discuss air quality. Free lunch, childcare services, and translation services will be available.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned to the public at 8:43 p.m.



David A. Brown, Chair