

**COMMUNITY POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION
(CPRC)**

**Wednesday, May 6, 2020 – 7:00 PM
450 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA 94804**

Zoom Meeting

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, PLEDGE

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

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

Absent: Porschea Brown-Walton

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 – Present

II. OPEN FORUM BEFORE CLSOED SESSION – No Comments

III. REPORT OF FINAL ACTIONS TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Gloria Guerra (#2018-1) There was a unanimous vote to accept the report of the investigative officer and unanimous vote that the complainant be notified that her case was not in the jurisdiction of the CPRC. *Please note correction in case number originally listed as CPRC case #18-2616 on agenda.*
- Demilio Hodge (I-80 Shooting) There was a 6-1 vote to accept the report of the investigative officer and to support a recommendation that all police officers in the incident be exonerated. Ayes: 3, Noes: 1, Abstained: 3, Absent: 1

IV. AGENDA REVIEW – Report of City Council, Chief of Police, and RPOA moved up.

V. COMMENTS BY CHIEF OF POLICE (Interim Chief Bisa French or designate) – Chief French reported on operational changes made within RPD to ensure the safety of staff and the community during COVID-19. She explained enforcement and educational efforts within the community, and reported on challenges during the pandemic including side shows, etc. At the time of the report, there were no known COVID-19 infections among RPD officers.

Chief French reported that crime has increased since February 2020. Although there has only been one homicide since October 2019, there were 5 shootings in February, one in March, and eight in April. In addition, there was an in-custody death at the beginning of the shelter-in-place order. Domestic violence cases initially decreased, but began to

rise. The Chief provided the following statistics: Violent Crime decreased by 19% in March, but increased by 17% in April. Property crime decreased by 2% and 9% in March and April, respectively. RPD served a search warrant in April and took 8 suspects into custody who are believed to be responsible for robberies including home invasions, car jackings, at least three shootings in Richmond, and other crimes.

RPD is focusing on putting together a team to combat illegal fireworks, but with limited staffing and budgetary issues, the department is facing challenges. Currently, there are 11 officers out on injury leave which is down from previous numbers. Some officers retired and others returned back to work. However, there are many vacancies that need to be filled and that the Chief continues to advocate for, but remain uncertain due to the budget deficit. The Chief is concerned about burn out among officers if positions are not filled.

Lastly, the Chief reported that RPD has a team working to review policies and procedures and make adjustments as necessary. She then addressed the CPRC about expanding the scope of the CPRC as discussed at the March 3rd City Council meeting. The Chief expressed her feelings about the support and lack thereof from the CPRC during her time as a Chief. She spoke about the feelings of many officers towards the CPRC and encouraged commissioners to come out and get to know RPD officers and how they work.

Commissioners responded to the Chief's statement by both defending the CPRC's scope expansion and by admitting that they could perform their duties better as well. Commissioners expressed their concerns including that RPD officers feel threatened by the CPRC wanting to investigate more.

- VI. COMMENTS BY COUNCIL LIAISON JAELE MYRICK** – Councilmember Myrick reported that the Council directed staff to meet and confer about the ordinance that is proposed to expand the CPRC's scope. He also reported on COVID-19 stating that the City is taking precautions and placing handwashing stations around the community and assisting homeless as best as possible. The Councilmember continued on to comment on the \$27 million budget deficit and said that it would be challenging. The mayor appointed an ad-hoc committee to work on the budget and there are options being explored. Some options layoffs and concessions that would require meet & confers, as well as a hiring freeze for positions that are budgeted but vacant and program cuts. Tapping into the City's reserves has also been a topic of budget discussions.
- VII. REPORTS BY RICHMOND POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION (Ben Therriault, President)** – Detective Therriault addressed the CPRC about their time management and respecting the time of attendees. He reported that there have been many issues about COVID-19 that has caused problems with RPD's community policing, but couldn't go into details due to time constraints. He spoke about the commissioners' participation and encouraged them to learn more about RPD.

Commissioners offered their feedback to Detective Therriault's report.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (February 2020)

Upon motion by Y. Garcia and seconded by D. Garcia, the minutes for the meeting of February 5, 2020, were approved by the following vote: **Ayes:** Chair Brown, Vice-chair Y. Garcia, and Commissioners D. Garcia, O. Garcia, C. Hegstrom, R. Joseph, and S. Lacy. **Noes:** None. **Absent:** Commissioner P. Brown-Walton. **Abstained:** None.

IX. PUBLIC FORUM

Cordell Hindler – Refer to attached comment(s).

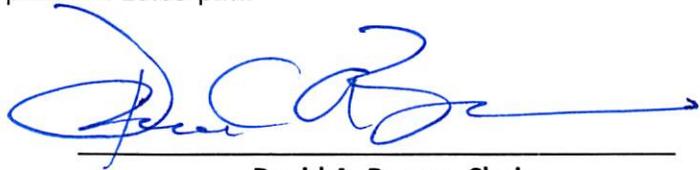
X. OLD BUSINESS, DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Review pending cases (Bruce Soublet/Jerry Threet)** – No report. The Chair suspended reporting due to time. Reports will be given as cases come in.
- B. Event Cancellations – Cinco de Mayo, Juneteenth (Chair Brown)** – The events has been cancelled due to COVID-19.

XI. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES, COMMISSIONERS, CIAO AND STAFF – None

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned to the public at 10:05 p.m.



David A. Brown, Chair