

RICHMOND POLICE COMMISSION

**Wednesday, April 2, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.
Community Services Building
330 - 25th Street
Conference Room 1**

MINUTES

I CALL TO ORDER (Roll Call) (Chair Cora Ward)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Cora Ward

ROLL CALL

Present: Nemy Bautista
Robert Ham
Dolores Hembree
Cochise Potts
Roberto Reyes
Glenn Stephenson
Chris Tallerico
Cora J. Ward
Naomi Williams

Absent: None

Vacancies: None

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

Council Liaison: Harpreet Sandhu, Councilmember

City Attorney's

Office Representative: Carlos Privat, Assistant City Attorney

II PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 5, 2008

Upon motion by **Commissioner Bautista** and second by **Commissioner Tallerico** the minutes for the regular meeting of March 5, 2008, were approved as written.

IV REPORT BY CHIEF OF POLICE (Chris Magnus or his representative)

A. Cinco de Mayo Celebration

Capt. Williams said the preparation is going well. Cinco de Mayo is on a Monday this year; the parade will be on Saturday, the 3rd. The festival will be on Sunday. It is put on by the 23rd Street Merchants' Association and will be from noon to 6:00 p.m. on 23rd Street. Nothing is sponsored for Monday, the 5th. They will have a large police presence there but they do not anticipate any violence.

Commissioner Hembree asked what time the street will close down on Friday night. **Capt. Williams** said a tentative schedule is set but it may change. An announcement will be made to the public on 4/23/08.

Commissioner Williams asked if police commissioners would be allowed to monitor the festival as they have in the past. **Capt. Williams** said yes.

Commissioner Reyes pointed out that on Monday, youth from Helm's School will be coming down 23rd from San Pablo into Richmond carrying flags, etc. He asked that they be allowed to celebrate. **Capt. Williams** said they will have police presence there monitoring the area for cruising and open containers. He will have Lt. Gagan send the schedule to the Police Commission.

B. Other current topics

Janeare Ashley, Administrative Liaison to the Police Department, reported on the current measures they were taking to address the commission's concerns regarding ride-alongs. In addition to new ID cards, there will be a list of commission members, with their pictures, at the front desk so that they can be easily recognized by Police Department staff. The new line-up times are 7:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. She suggested that they come to the lobby window before line up and tell the clerk they are there for a ride-along. They will take the commissioner's name to the line-up and let the sergeant know they are waiting. If you haven't made an appointment and the officers have already been deployed, they may have to call someone to come back to the station which could be up to a one or two hour wait. If you have a problem you can contact her at 621-1582 or Records Supervisor Lisa Everett at 620-6631.

Commissioner Potts asked if commissioners could still sit in on line-ups. Ms. Ashley stated that they could unless they were discussing something sensitive in nature which is up to the discretion of the sergeant.

Commissioner Bautista asked how RPD entices witnesses to come forward when a crime has been committed and if any reward money had been given out yet. **Capt. Williams** said they have a City/Federal program called We Tips. They reward people with money if they supply information leading to arrests

and/or convictions. They are trying to reduce the criteria so that a person could get a lesser amount of money if the information leads them to a solid suspect in a crime. By lowering the standards, it gives people more incentive to come forward. They are doing a lot of community outreach in trying to get the community involved. He did not have any information on rewards given out, but he can get that information.

Commissioner Tallerico asked the turn around time on the ID cards. **Ms. Ashley** said they should be ready by Friday. It was decided that the commissioners would pick up the ID cards in the Records Division.

Councilmember Sandhu reported that, as discussed at a recent council meeting, **CIAO Casimere** will be one of three individuals taking part in the arbitration process for appeals in the City. He also reported that the funds that they received from CalGRIP are moving forward. He reminded the commissioners about the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on April 17, 2008, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Courtyard Marriott.

Commissioner Tallerico asked if the arbitration board could be made up of a board of citizen's instead of city employees. **Councilmember Sandhu** said they could look into that.

CIAO Casimere said that it is still in the early stages and he'd like to meet with the City Attorney and the Police Department so they can define the whole process then go back to the Public Safety Committee and the Council. **Councilmember Sandhu** said it will be going back to the Public Safety Committee. The next meeting will be on April 14, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. They have a delegation coming from Japan who would like to observe the meeting in progress.

Commissioner Reyes asked if RPD assumed some of the security work in the school district. The question was referred to **Capt. Williams** who said there is a contract between the school district and RPD. The Director of Public Safety is Capt. Cleveland Brown and he runs the school district's security department. They did have sworn officers for the school district, but they no longer do. They have been moved into more of a security role; they no longer have police powers. There are eight school resource officers (SROs) who work for the police department but they are assigned specifically to different schools in the City, including high schools and middle schools. The school district pays for these resource officers. It may be a two to three year contract.

Capt. Williams said he spoke with Lt. Gagan today and he wanted the commissioners to know that the officers they have ridden with in ride-alongs are excited about the commissioners riding with them. They appreciate the fact that the commissioners are coming out to actually see how police work is done.

Capt. Williams reported that they are beginning a West County Gang Task Force. The FBI will supply four agents; the Department of Justice is also working with them.

Phil Mehas said he noticed there was nothing on the agenda about the CCTV Committee Meeting. He also wanted to know if anyone had seen the policy regarding the WCCUSD and RPD and asked if the officers were civilians. **Capt. Williams** explained that the school district no longer has sworn officers but the school resource officers are Richmond Police officers that are assigned to the schools. He asked if **Capt. Williams** could provide the Commission with a copy of the policy.

Commissioner Potts asked if the commissioners could go to the schools and walk around with the school resource officers. **Capt. Williams** said he didn't know the schools' policies on having visitors on campus. He said he will find out.

Commissioner Ham asked if there was a separate procedural manual for the SROs. **Capt. Williams** said there is an SRO section in the RPD Manual and they have to attend specific training to become SROs.

CIAO Casimere suggested that the Commission add this to a future agenda.

Capt. Williams said the Chief has nearly completed the testing process for promotions for sergeant and lieutenant. He anticipates promoting two lieutenants and two sergeants by late April or early May.

Capt Williams reported that violent crime in the City is considerably down for the first quarter of this year. Violent crimes, including homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assaults, are down 20% year to date from 2007. Property crimes which include burglary, auto theft and arson are down 25%.

Commissioner Bautista asked how many days per week the CHP assists RPD. **Capt. Williams** said they work two days a week. They had them for three days but when the Oakland homicide rate went up, the governor allowed them to go back to Oakland.

V REPORT BY POLICE OFFICER ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

No report.

VI REPORT BY GUARDIANS OF JUSTICE ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

No report.

VII REPORT BY LATINO POLICE OFFICER ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

No report.

VIII STATISTICS FROM D.A.'S OFFICE

CIAO Casimere explained a request was made to the DA's office for filing statistics for all cities within Contra Costa County. He called the DA for the status of their request. The statistics were sent to the Commission and they can now be discussed. Discussion ensued. **CIAO Casimere** told the commissioners to let the Chair know what additional information they want and the DA's office could be contacted again. **Commissioner Tallerico** requested that this be continued to next month's meeting.

IX PUBLIC FORUM

Rachel Garcia, President of Parchester Neighborhood Council, said they've been having problems with citations given by Code Enforcement and people dumping trash around empty houses in the neighborhood. They came to the meeting tonight to ask for help. **Chair Ward** thanked them for coming to the meeting. **CIAO Casimere** told them the Commission doesn't have any direct responsibility over Code Enforcement issues. They can refer them to someone in the police department who can address their issues. He also suggested that they attend the Public Safety Committee meeting on 4/14/08, at 10:00 a.m.

Phil Mehas suggested that the Commission invite Capt. Brown to bring the School Resource Officer policy to the next meeting. He also wants to know what the policy says in relation to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

X REPORT BY CONFIDENTIAL IAO

CIAO Don Casimere reported that he attended a meeting at the Police Assessment Resource Center (PARC) in drafting guidelines for federal and local monitors of police. The second part of that meeting was held on 3/27 and 3/28/08, which he attended. The final document will be available soon. On 4/08/08, there will be a presentation sponsored by the Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS) in the Council Chambers from 4:30 – 6:30. It is called the Boston Ceasefire Team visit and anyone is welcome to attend. **Mr. Casimere** said he will be speaking at the Men's Breakfast at Hilltop Community Church on 4/19/08. He reported that the City is looking for volunteers to donate money towards the Little League baseball team who are in need of uniforms and equipment.

XI REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. West County Alcohol Policy Working Group (**Commissioner Naomi Williams**)

Commissioner Williams said she was elected chair of this group last month. They are trying to get more people involved in coming to their meetings. They had training with ABC and Sgt. Williams. He sent out 33 letters; 22 stores took part in the training. Their regular meetings are every third Monday of the month.

B. Church & Neighborhood Council Outreach Committee (**Chair Cora Ward**)

Chair Ward said the church outreach letter will be going out soon.

C. Reports on Community Events/Training Attended

Commissioner Tallerico

- Ride Along with Off. Kaiser
- Attended LPOA Crab Feed

Commissioner Bautista

- 3/27/08 – Attended May Valley NC
- 3/30/08 – 4 hr Ride-Along with Off. Martin

Commissioner Williams

- Ride-along
- Pullman NC has moved meetings to Bethel Temple Pentecostal Church at 3429 Cutting
- Attended RNCC Meeting
- Attended GRIP Meeting
- Attended BWOPA Meeting
- Attended Little League Parade at Nicholl Park
- Attended Explorer Crab Feed
- Attended Police Lineup
- Attended GRIP Personnel Committee
- Ride-Along with ABC twice
- Attended press conference for shooting at church on 4th St.
- Attended ABC training this a.m.
- She will be receiving the first George Carol Award on 5/1/08 at 32 Blume Dr. at Richmond Sanitation Office

Commissioner Stephenson

- Attended RNCC meeting
- Went on 2 Ride-Alongs
- Attended CCTV Committee Meeting

Commissioner Reyes

- Attended Brookside Community Health Clinic Meeting
- The prevention group from Health Services for the County trained the new staff of the ONS
- Attended City Council Meeting

Commissioner Potts

- Attended a parolee meeting at the Veteran's Home on 23rd Street
- Participated in Stem the Violence Campaign

- The Richmond NAACP will have their annual fundraiser on 4/26 at the Doubletree Hotel in Berkeley. Tickets are \$75.00.

Commissioner Hembree

- Attended CCTV Meeting
- Attended Explorer Promotions
- Attended Guardians of Justice Crab Feed

Chair Ward

- She is a State Delegate
- Attended BWOPA Meeting

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

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

One complaint received in the past month.

XIII ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by **Commissioner Stephenson** and second by **Commissioner Bautista**, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Don Casimere
Confidential Investigative & Appeals Officer