

RICHMOND POLICE COMMISSION

Wednesday, January 5, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

**Community Services Building
440 Civic Center Plaza
Multi-Purpose Room (Basement)**

MINUTES

I CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, PLEDGE

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Nemy Bautista
Scott Gillespie
Dolores Hembree
Felix Hunziker
Roberto Reyes (arrived 7:02)
Bea Roberson
Glenn Stephenson
Cora J. Ward
Naomi Williams

Absent: None

Vacancies: One

Administrative

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

Council Liaison: Jeff Ritterman, Council Liaison – Present

City Attorney's

Office Representative: Scott Dickey, Chief Deputy City Attorney – Present

II APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 3, 2010 and December 1, 2010

Upon motion by **Commissioner Bautista** and second by **Commissioner Stephenson**, the minutes for the regular meetings of November 3, 2010, and December 1, 2010, were approved as written.

III COMMENTS BY COUNCIL LIAISON JEFF RITTERMAN

Councilmember Ritterman talked about the outcome of the election. He said that one of the top priorities on the city's agenda is jobs. He reported that the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab has put in a proposal for a second campus in Richmond. The City is also trying to get green companies to try and rebrand Richmond as a city with green solutions for the future and also generate jobs. He is optimistic about the future of the City. He thanked the commissioners for their continued service.

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

Chief Magnus reported that they ended the year on a positive note with significant decreases in violent crime. Homicides are down by over 55% compared to the previous year. Assault with a deadly weapon, attempted homicides and car jackings are all down by 20-30%. Shots fired calls are down 40%. Property crimes were up last year, especially stolen cars. **D/C Brown** said they've asked the district captains to put more focus on property crimes, particularly stolen cars and residential burglaries. **Chief Magnus** spoke about a grant they received through a Cal-Grip program from the governor's office. It is a gang reduction program called Project Cease Fire. He said Richmond is one of a select group of cities that has been given the opportunity to try this program and they will make the most of it. The Chief said that since **Officer Phil Sanchez** has been assigned as the DUI officer, he has made over 100 DUI arrests in less than a six month period. The Chief said he had a very positive meeting with the new district attorney. He reported that they will be getting new Internal Affairs software called IA Pro. It will help them track complaints and also track conduct issues that could be a red flag warning.

Commissioner Bautista commended the Police Department for a good year. He asked the Chief to talk about the Mobile Field Force that was discussed at the council meeting last night. **Chief Magnus** explained that it is a police department's approach for dealing with civil unrest. It may involve supporting other jurisdiction for things such as riots or things that may happen locally. They purchased equipment that was needed so that they could be prepared for the Mehserle verdict and it required council approval.

Commissioner Roberson congratulated the Chief and the department on another good year. She stated that she has been on a few ride-alongs and was impressed with how well the DUI officer does his job.

Commissioner Hembree asked how many new officers that were hired last year are still with the department. The Chief said the retention rate is about 90%. They lose between 5 and 10% of new officers relating to performance issues, etc.

Commissioner Hunziker asked the Chief to comment on the noise ordinance. He said they received feedback from the Council of Industries that they were not comfortable with the noise ordinance and that they would oppose it if it went in front of the city council. Their concerns will be addressed and they will meet with them later this month.

Commissioner Stephenson asked, in regards to stolen cars and residential burglaries, how they will get information to the public. **D/C Brown** said the district captains will plan community meetings and distribute information through neighborhood watch programs and through the Explorers.

Philip Mehas asked if there was a policy regarding the Mobile Field Force and if the commission has reviewed that policy. He said he was glad to hear about the IA software that the department will soon be using. He requested a copy of the list of complaints that were investigated by the Police Commission last year.

Commissioner Bautista asked if all sworn personnel were equipped with tasers. **Chief Magnus** said that all patrol personnel are equipped with tasers; they've all had extensive training on the tasers.

Commissioner Gillespie asked if there was a Mobile Field Force policy. The Chief said there are Mobile Field Force training guidelines and policies. They are part of the Contra Costa County Mobile Field Force and they follow their policies as well.

Commissioner Roberson asked when the new policy manual will be available. **Chief Magnus** said they are still revising several policies.

Chair Ward asked if it was illegal for a citizen to use a taser. **Chief Magnus** said that there is a civilian version of a taser available to citizens. There are laws that deal with the legal use of tasers.

CIAO Casimere said he was pleased to hear that they will be using the IA Pro system. He asked if the Chief would share some of the information that they acquire with the commission. The Chief agreed to that. He also thanked the chief for consistently coming to Police Commission meetings and sharing information regarding police-community relations, policies, etc. **CIAO Casimere** said that he worked, in the past, with the new El Cerrito Police Chief, Sylvia Moir, in Sacramento. He encouraged RPD to work with ECPD to enhance police-community relationships. **Chief Magnus** said that they will be working together to combine their resources, training, and joint activities such as crime prevention and reduction, information sharing, etc. He is looking forward to working with her.

V PUBLIC FORUM

No speakers

VI DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING RPD POLICIES ON MARIJUANA POSSESSION (Commissioner Gillespie)

Commissioner Gillespie said that if Richmond is going to be in the dispensary business, the policy should be revised. He prepared a draft policy for review.

After discussion, a motion was made by **Commissioner Stephenson**, seconded by **Commissioner Bautista**, to have **Commissioner Gillespie** rewrite the policy in draft

format and discuss it at the next Police Commission meeting. The commission will then prepare a recommendation letter to the chief. All were in favor.

VII DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR PROMOTING POSITIVE POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY ABOUT THE POLICE COMMISSION (Commissioner Hunziker)

Commissioner Hunziker said that he will be meeting with the other people that are involved with his committee groups soon. They will give a report at the next meeting.

VIII REPORTS BY:

Commissioner Stephenson

- Attended Flag Planting Ceremony at Sunset View Cemetery on Veterans' Day
- Attended 100th Birthday of Richmond Museum
- Put together a Toy Drive for Early Childhood Development

Commissioner Bautista

- 4-hour Ride-along with Officer Dean

Commissioner Roberson

- Attended RPOA Christmas Party
- Attended RNCC Dinner
- Attended Crime Prevention Dinner
- Worked at EC/RPD/RFD Toy Program

Commissioner Williams

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- Attended RNCC Dinner
- Attended Crime Prevention Dinner
- Worked at EC/RPD/RFD Toy Program
- Worked w/GRIP to Feed Homeless for Christmas

Commissioner Hembree

- Attended RPOA Christmas Party
- Thanked **Commissioner Roberson** and RFD for all their work in putting together the toy program

Commissioner Reyes

- Attended meeting with **Commissioners Roberson** and **Hunziker**
- Facilitated Community Victory Party for Richmond Progressive Alliance

CIAO Casimere

- Submitted Daily Activity Log for November and December

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IX ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48.

Don Casimere
Confidential Investigative & Appeals Officer