

RICHMOND POLICE COMMISSION

**Wednesday, July 6, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.
Employment & Training Building
330 – 25th Street
Conference Room 1**

MINUTES

I CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, PLEDGE

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Dolores Hembree

ROLL CALL

Present: Therese Barquet
Nemy Bautista
Scott Gillespie
Dolores Hembree
Felix Hunziker
Bea Roberson
Glenn Stephenson (arrived 7:01)
Eleanor Thompson
Cora J. Ward

Absent: None

Vacancies: None

Administrative

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

Council Liaison: Jeff Ritterman, Council Liaison – Present

City Attorney's

Office Representative: Bruce Soublet, Assistant City Attorney – Present

II APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 1, 2011

Upon motion by **Commissioner Roberson** and second by **Commissioner Bautista**, the minutes for the regular meeting of June 1, 2011, were approved as written.

III COMMENTS BY COUNCIL LIAISON JEFF RITTERMAN

Councilmember Ritterman commented on last night's council meeting. He said that the ID card ordinance was approved unanimously. He distributed flyers for a town hall meeting on 7/21/11 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. to welcome Lawrence Berkeley National Lab and to encourage them to choose Richmond as the site for their second campus. He asked the commissioners to attend and bring others for support. He said the budget was passed and there were some questions about the budget for this commission. He said it would be beneficial for the commission to think about its role and the best way to serve the city. He commented on homicides in the city and said they were significantly down from where they were two years ago.

Commissioner Thompson commented on the recent homicides of three young people in one night. **Councilmember Ritterman** said that economic development, public safety and education are intertwined and all need attention in Richmond. Operation Cease Fire may produce some results. He said that the presentation they made at the Human Rights Commission was encouraging.

Commissioner Bautista asked, in regards to the town hall meeting on 7/21, if any other organizations were in contention with Richmond. **Councilmember Ritterman** said there are six other cities in contention for this prize.

Commissioner Hunziker said that there must be someone on the council who doesn't realize what the commission does. The commission has been working on police-community relationships for the last year. **Councilmember Ritterman** said that it might be helpful for the commission to give a presentation to the council. **Commissioner Hunziker** said that since **Councilmember Ritterman** is the liaison to the council, and he is there when questions are being asked, the commission depends on him to enlighten them of the knowledge and the history of the commission. **Councilmember Ritterman** said he thinks he could do better. He suggested that one or more of the commissioners meet with him and his intern to figure out the best way to present this to the council; and in the developing of the presentation, he will also be better informed as far as the history. **Chair Hembree** said she would contact him.

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

Chief Magnus was not present. **Lt. Harris** said the primary reason he was there was to introduce himself in his new role as the Professional Standards Unit lieutenant. He would like to continue the good communication between Professional Standards and the commission. He recently met with **CIAO Casimere** regarding this issue.

Commissioner Bautista asked who decides the location of the DUI checkpoints. **Lt. Harris** said it is established by the traffic special events supervisor. **Officer Tan** said that it depends on geographical logistics and the amount of collisions that have occurred in a certain area, etc.

Chair Hembree asked what the approval process was for DUI checkpoints. She asked Lt. Harris to take this question to the chief and have him prepare something about this subject and e-mail it to the police commission office.

Commissioner Stephenson asked for an update on gang injunctions. **Lt. Harris** said he hasn't been directly involved with it so he doesn't have an answer.

Commissioner Hunziker asked if the commission could get a CD ROM of the latest policy manual. **Lt. Harris** said he will relay the request through the chief's office.

Commissioner Stephenson asked how the ID cards for all citizens will impact the department. **Lt. Harris** said he doesn't have the answer because he wasn't present at the council meeting. **Commissioner Roberson** reported that the first reading passed at last night's council meeting and that the chief is in favor of the idea because, although it's not a definitive ID, it is something to start with, whereas now, they have nothing. The city will have a third party entity issue the cards.

Chair Hembree said there was an RPOA representative present and she would like to entertain a motion to let him speak. The motion was made by **Commissioner Stephenson** with a second by **Commissioner Ward**. All were in favor.

Officer Felix Tan apologized that RPOA representatives have not been attending police commission meetings. He said he had nothing specific to report this evening. **Chair Hembree** asked if he had statistics from the recent DUI checkpoint. **Off. Tan** said there were 998 vehicle stops, 1 DUI arrest and 25-30 citations issued. **Commissioner Bautista** asked who the current RPOA president was. **Off. Tan** said Hector Esparza is president, Louie Tirona is vice president, and he is treasurer. He said they will be hiring three new officers soon. **Chair Hembree** asked how many are laterals. **Off. Tan** said all three of them are laterals. **Off. Tan** also talked about the reserve program that he is in charge of. He handed out pins with a new logo that he designed for the officers' association.

V PUBLIC FORUM

There were no public speakers.

VI 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 stated that he and **Commissioner Ward** met with Dan Riley of the RYSE Center about the public service announcement (psa) that they've been working on. They discussed content and how and where it could be used. They will

meet again soon to discuss goals. He would like to hear the commissioners' thoughts on what this psa should say about the police commission.

A. Additional outreach ideas (Commissioner Therese Barquet)

Commissioner Barquet said she is still not sure what her role is as a police commissioner. **Asst. City Attorney Bruce Soublet** explained the role of the police commission, which is to review the actions of police officers when a complaint is made of racially abusive treatment or excessive force and to promote police-community relations.

Commissioner Barquet suggested that they have youth at juvenile hall fill out questionnaires so the commission could get a feel of what they think about the police. She said she feels that they are the voices that are under-represented and wants to help improve communication between them and the police. **CIAO Casimere** said that would fit into the role of finding strategies to improve police-community relations; it is a good idea. **Commissioner Barquet** asked if some of the commissioners could volunteer to go to places that they feel comfortable and hand out the informational postcards about the commission. **Commissioner Roberson** suggested that they get together with the RPOA and educate the police officers, cadets and explorers to inform them as to what the commission does.

B. Comments regarding Police Commission name (Commissioner Nemy Bautista)

Commissioner Bautista said some of the commissioners were concerned that the name, Police Commission, may intimidate some community members and keep them from filing complaints. He said the commission is coming up with strategies to improve police-community relations and to let people know that they can come to the commission with their complaints or to express their concerns. **Commissioner Ward** said that the commission, as a whole, can educate the community. They will also go to the city council to let them know what the commission does.

VII REPORTS BY:

Chair Hembree asked **CIAO Casimere** to brief the commission on the upcoming NACOLE Conference. **CIAO Casimere** said the conference starts on September 12th. He said it is a good opportunity to network with others in civilian oversight from across the country but, due to budget constraints in the city, not all commissioners will be able to attend. After discussing the budget, he asked who would be interested in attending. **Commissioners Hunziker, Gillespie and Bautista** said they were interested.

Commissioner Gillespie

- Commented on the difference between a police officer making an arrest and a civilian making a citizen's arrest

Commissioner Stephenson

- Attended City Council budget meeting
- Attended East Richmond NC potluck meeting
- Ride-along
- Attended RPD Promotional Ceremony

Commissioner Barquet

- Attended Juneteenth
- Attended Human Rights Human Relations Commission meeting

Commissioner Hunziker

- Attended RYSE Meeting
- Attended Human Rights Human Relations Commission meeting

Commissioner Thompson

- Attended Juneteenth

Commissioner Roberson

- Attended Jail for PAL fundraiser
- Attended Juneteenth
- Attended Music on the Main
- Attended RPD Promotional Ceremony
- Attended Pow Wow at Nicholl Park

Chair Hembree

- Attended RPD Promotional Ceremony
- Attended DUI checkpoint
- Attended July 3rd fireworks

Chair Hembree said there would not be a police commission meeting in August and reminded everyone about National Night Out on 8/2/11.

VIII ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Don Casimere
Confidential Investigative & Appeals Officer