

RICHMOND POLICE COMMISSION

**Wednesday, June 6, 2012 – 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 Bea Roberson

ROLL CALL

Present: Therese Barquet (arrived 7:11)
Nemy Bautista
Scott Gillespie
Felix Hunziker (arrived 7:30)
Alejandro Navarro
Bea Roberson
Glenn Stephenson
Eleanor Thompson

Absent: None

Vacancies: One

Administrative Staff: Confidential Investigative & Appeals Officer - Vacant
Malia Glover, Executive Secretary I – Present

Council Liaison: Jeff Ritterman, Council Liaison – Absent

City Attorney's Office Representative: Bruce Soublet, Assistant City Attorney – Present

II APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 2, 2012

Upon motion by **Commissioner Bautista** and second by **Commissioner Gillespie**, the minutes for the regular meeting of May 2, 2012, were approved as written.

III REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON JEFF RITTERMAN

Not present.

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

A. Report of recent activities, events, incidents, and related matters

Deputy Chief Brown said they are working on a comprehensive lighting survey to cover every neighborhood in the city. Broken street lights contribute to crime and other problems. They are working with Code Enforcement to expedite getting lighting improved throughout the city. He said they made a training video for all officers. It involves the law firm of Mike Rains. It is an informational video for officers who are dealing with anxiety after being involved in a fatal incident. They are also developing training for officers on dealing with squatters in vacant homes. **D/C Brown** distributed CD's of the RPD Policy Manual, including 24 policies that have already been revised. They will update and revise policies as needed. He also handed out the e-mail directive regarding the RPD manual, a list of the revised policies and a copy of the current organizational chart. He asked the commissioners to review the manual and to provide, on a monthly basis, feedback to the chief for consideration.

Juan Reardon asked if the RPD manual was available to the public. He said that some members of the public may want to make suggestions to the chief. **D/C Brown** said that it can be, but the public does not get to weigh in on policy; only the Police Commission does. **Chair Roberson** added that it is not a policy to give the RPD manual out to the public. **D/C Brown** said that they have a contract with a service that provides revisions and updates to policies.

Commissioner Navarro asked for a report on the Cinco de Mayo festival. **D/C Brown** said that the parade was trouble free. The festival was well attended and was relatively problem free with two or three minor police interventions.

V REPORTS BY RICHMOND POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION, LATINO POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION, GUARDIANS OF JUSTICE

No representatives present.

VI PUBLIC FORUM

Juan Reardon said he was concerned that this body should do as much as possible to facilitate the process of community members coming forward with complaints that they have regarding the specifics of the mandate of this commission. He said the commission should not be an RPD support commission and should look at the police department with objective, unbiased eyes. **Chair Roberson** told him that the commission is preparing a public service announcement video that will be aired on KCRT explaining what the commission does. The commission has a charge to promote better relationships between the police and the community. She explained that the commissioners take turns at different outreach events and hand out postcards that explain what the commission does. They've recently started an outreach called "Coffee with a Cop." **Mr. Reardon** suggested changing the name to "Coffee with the Commission."

Commissioner Bautista said that at the Cinco de Mayo outreach, they handed out postcards and talked with people and explained what the commission does.

Commissioner Thompson said that she liked **Commissioner Barquet's** suggestion from the last meeting to have a book fair that will only involve the commission and not police officers. **Commissioner Barquet** said that the commission is welcome to be part of the book fair. It will be held on 6/23/12, at the main library from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

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 reported that they should have a more updated version of the video available by June 15th. They will view it at the meeting in July. He asked for volunteers to man the Police Commission outreach booth at the Juneteenth festival. Commissioners Hunziker and Navarro volunteered.

Chair Roberson said that since the first Wednesday in July is the July 4th holiday, they could have the meeting on another date. **Commissioner Hunziker** made a motion to hold the meeting on July 11th. It was seconded by **Commissioner Stephenson**. All were in favor.

Chair Roberson reported that she and **Commissioners Barquet** and **Stephenson** took part in the first "Coffee with a Cop" that was held on 5/20/12. She said it was successful and they want to hold the next one on the Southside soon. She asked the commissioners what they thought about **Juan Reardon's** suggestion of calling it "Coffee with the Commission." **Commissioner Hunziker** said that it is intended to build partnerships and open lines of communication between the residents and the police, not between the Police Commission; so that's why it's called "Coffee with a Cop."

Juan Reardon said the reason he suggested that is because he perceived a contradiction between two objectives of this commission. He can see why "Coffee with a Cop" would promote police-community relations, but at the same time the commission needs to be an independent, objective body that is unbiased and not a police department support group. It needs to be perceived by the community as a safe place to come with their concerns. He wanted to encourage the commission to find ways to address that.

Assistant City Attorney Bruce Soublet said that if **Mr. Reardon** has some suggestions on what they could do, other than changing the name, to give him a call. He said they may need to amend the ordinance.

VIII REPORTS BY:

- **CHAIRPERSON**
- **COMMISSIONERS**
- **STAFF**

Chair Roberson

- Attended NIAD's Hall of Heroes
- Attended Richmond Community Foundation's Summit
- Attended City Council meetings
- Attended REACT CERT Training
- Attended Rosie the Riveter Grand Opening
- Attended Senior dinner

Commissioner Hunziker

- Attended City Council meeting

Commissioner Thompson

- Attended City Council meeting
- Attended 2-day training for North Richmond

Commissioner Stephenson

- Attended Cinco de Mayo Festival
- Attended Coffee with a Cop
- Attended Rosie the Riveter Grand Opening

Commissioner Barquet

- Attended Coffee with a Cop
- Manned booth at Cinco de Mayo
- Attended Richmond Art Center Telethon

Commissioner Navarro

- Attended Cinco de Mayo
- Attended City Council meetings

Commissioner Bautista

- Attended Senior Health Fair
- Attended Cinco de Mayo Parade
- Attended Cinco de Mayo Festival

A discussion was held on the difference between complaints filed with the Professional Standards Unit at the police department and complaints filed with the police commission. **Chair Roberson** explained that residents have the choice of filing complaints of excessive force or racially abusive treatment by either going through the police department, or the police commission, or both. **Asst. City Attorney Soublet** said that the police commission can only investigate a complaint if an individual brings it directly to this body. The commission is trying to let the public know that this is an alternative or something in addition to complaining to the police.

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Commissioner Barquet said that officers are supposed to let people know how to file a complaint if they feel their rights have been violated, but wanted to know if they give the police commission as one of their options. **Mr. Soublet** said that he will talk to the deputy chief to see if that is part of their training.

IX ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Bea Roberson, Chair