

# **RICHMOND POLICE COMMISSION**

**Wednesday, August 2, 2006 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Community Services Building**

**330 - 25<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Conference Room 1**

## **MINUTES**

### **I CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Albert R. Martinez, Chair  
Susan H. Geick  
Dolores Hembree  
Glenn Stephenson  
Cora J. Ward  
Naomi Williams

**Absent:** Don Zingale  
Cochise Potts

**Vacancies:** One

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

### **II APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 3, 2006**

Upon motion by **Commissioner Geick** and second by **Commissioner Hembree** the minutes for the regular meeting of May 3, 2006, were approved as written.

### **III REPORT BY CHIEF OF POLICE (or his representative)**

**Chief Magnus** distributed the department's new district contact lists. He explained that they have divided the City into three districts – North, Central and South. Within each district are three geographic beats that officers are assigned to. Each neighborhood will receive a contact list for their specific district as well as an overall district contact list which lists all the command officers associated with Patrol.

**Commissioner Williams** said she appreciated the list because it gives the communities a sense of ownership. **Chief Magnus** said their goal is to be more responsive to the quality of life and ongoing issues.

The Chief said they had their first COMPSTAT meeting where the lieutenants and captains came and presented what their officers were working on and the progress they're making and he was very impressed. He believes this will help them provide better service. He welcomed any feedback from the Commission.

**Commissioner Geick** said that since they have the Safe Pedestrian Grant, she offered to work on getting copies of traffic regulations to the schools in English and Spanish. The Chief said that is a good example of getting citizens and officers responsible for a particular neighborhood working together.

**Chief Magnus** distributed a copy of the first RPD Newsletter. If you'd like to be added to the e-mail list, send your e-mail address to [smarch@richmondpd.net](mailto:smarch@richmondpd.net). Copies will also be available at the library. The Chief told the Commission to let him know if they had any specific topic that they would like to see in the newsletter.

**Chair Martinez** said he was very impressed with the newsletter. He said it was very informative and well put together; it compels people to get involved.

**Chief Magnus** thanked the Commission for all the helpful feedback and input relating to the Aggressive Animal Policy. He said nobody else has a policy specifically geared around this area. This may be a model policy that other agencies will be interested in.

**Commissioner Geick** requested that the Commission get details of the changes in the Policy Manual from the last one to the new draft. They also want to continue receiving subsequent changes. **Chief Magnus** said they will send any updates.

**Chair Martinez** congratulated the Police Department on the Aggressive Animal Policy and for working mutually with the Police Commission in accomplishing this task.

**Commissioner Williams** suggested contacting the media about the Aggressive Animal Policy. **Chief Magnus** agreed.

**CIAO Casimere** congratulated the Chief on getting COMPSTAT up and running. He asked if commissioners would be able to attend in the future. **Chief Magnus** said they had their first meeting a few weeks ago and it would be best to wait until the complete software package is in place, possibly mid fall. He encouraged the Commission to participate then.

**Chair Martinez** said they had been having crime problems at the McVittie Annex Post Office. Deputy Chief Ed Medina gave a presentation to employees to ensure their safety and well-being in their work environment. The employees appreciated it.

**CIAO Casimere** said good things are developing between the Chief, Police Commission, Police Department and the community. He said the City is moving forward and it is a pleasure to be here at this time.

**IV REPORT BY POLICE OFFICER ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE**

No report

**V REPORT BY GUARDIANS OF JUSTICE REPRESENTATIVE**

No report

**VI REPORT BY LATINO POLICE OFFICER ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE**

No report

**VII BRIEFING ON HOW 5150 ISSUES ARE HANDLED – SGT. HARRIS**

**Sgt. Harris** explained how the department handles incidents that involve 5150 issues. A question and answer period followed.

**Chair Martinez** asked if the situation should escalate, who makes the decision to call the ambulance. **Sgt. Harris** said it depends on the situation. If the person is believed to be out of control, the supervisor will make the call.

**Commissioner Geick** inquired about the use of the wrap. **Sgt. Harris** said each supervisor's car is equipped with a wrap. If necessary, they will use it if the person is being physically aggressive or abusive.

**Commissioner Ward** asked what is done if the person has a seizure while in a wrap. **Sgt. Harris** said an officer will be watching that person at all times. If someone appears to be having a seizure, they immediately call for a code 3 ambulance.

**Commissioner Geick** said Berkeley has a program that sends a psychologist or social worker out on calls that involve 5150 cases. She asked if that type of program would be helpful in Richmond. **Sgt. Harris** said he welcomed every resource that would allow them to resolve the situation and keep someone from being harmed.

**Phil Mehas** asked if there was more than one officer in a patrol car when someone is being transported in a wrap. **Sgt. Harris** said generally not. The officers can view them because the person in the wrap is sitting up. **Mr. Mehas** asked if officers had training in identifying seizures. **Sgt. Harris** said officers have basic first aid training; they are not trained as EMT's. **Mr. Mehas** asked if they were proactive in finding out more about

Berkeley's program. **Sgt. Harris** said he would welcome the program but would have to defer to the Chief as to how proactive the department is in pursuing it.

### **VIII REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF SECTION 453 OF RPD MANUAL – AGGRESSIVE/DANGEROUS OR VICIOUS ANIMALS**

**Chair Martinez** said the policy is wonderfully written and very thorough. He complimented **Commissioner Hembree** and the others on the panel for a job well done.

**Commissioner Hembree** said they checked with other police departments such as Portland, Detroit, Miami, as well as some cities in the bay area, and nobody had such a policy. They were all interested in seeing Richmond's policy when it was completed. Lt. Joe DeCosta from CCC Animal Services was on the panel and contributed a lot of information. It took more than one meeting and more than one draft. She said other departments will be looking at this and it will say a lot for the City of Richmond.

**Commissioner Williams** said the need for revision of this policy was brought to the Chief's attention when he first came to the city. She said she was proud of Chief Magnus for getting this policy revised and having the officers trained so quickly. She said it would be good to notify the media as soon as possible.

**Chair Martinez** requested a motion to adopt Section 453 of the Richmond Police Department Policy Manual – Aggressive/Dangerous or Vicious Animals. Upon motion by **Commissioner Williams** and second by **Commissioner Geick**, the policy was accepted by acclamation.

**CIAO Casimere** asked the direction of the Commission on placing the policy on the NACOLE (National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement) website. **Commissioner Hembree** made the motion and it was seconded by **Commissioner Geick**. All were in favor.

**Chair Martinez** said that he and one of the managers from the postal facility conducted the training regarding vicious animals at Advanced Officers' Training. The officers were very receptive to the training and he told them the chief should be commended for taking on information from outside groups to enhance and better equip his command staff and his department. He said that if for no other reason, the changing from the weaker to the more potent pepper spray that was suggested by Lt. DeCosta, was a great step up for the police department. He applauded all the efforts of the Police Commission also.

### **IX COMMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE**

**Phil Mehas** said the fourth video in a series of four will be shown next Tuesday evening at 7:00. The video is on Dissent and talks about First Amendment activities.

He also commented that reports given by the Chief of Police in the past six months have been a breath of fresh air compared to reports given by past chiefs.

## **X REPORT BY CONFIDENTIAL IAO**

**CIAO Casimere** said the Commission was formed to work with the Police Chief and the department to come up with new policies such as the Aggressive Animal Policy. The Commission deals with complaints and looks for ways to improve relations with the community, but policy is also a very important part.

**Mr. Casimere** asked if the Commission was interested in participating in BAPON (Bay Area Police Oversight Network). He said it was a good way to network with other bay area cities that have oversight agencies. The Commission agreed to participate. He also encouraged the commissioners to look at the NACOLE (National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement) website.

**CIAO Casimere** reported that the Police Commission Manual will be updated soon and all commissioners will be getting a revised copy.

**Phil Mehas** said taking part in BAPON would be a valuable support for the Commission. He also asked for a copy of the revised Police Commission Manual. CIAO Casimere asked Carlos Privat from the City Attorney's Office and he said there would be no problem.

**CIAO Casimere** introduced Carlos Privat as the attorney assigned to the Police Commission.

## **XI REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

### **A. West County Alcohol Policy Working Group**

**Commissioner Williams** said at their last meeting they had Sgt. Whitney speak about the changes within the county. They are still trying to get the green curbs placed in front of liquor stores to limit parking time.

**Commissioner Geick** said she attended responsible beverage service training as a member of the WCAPWG and as a graduate of the trainer's training program. The training was sponsored by the Alcohol and Other Drugs section of the Contra Costa Department of Health and was taught by George Vasquez, a member of the Vallejo Fight Back Organization and California Council on Alcohol Policy.

### **B. Church Outreach Committee**

**Chair Martinez** said they will appoint a new chair for this outreach at the next meeting.

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

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

There was one complaint received in the past month.

**XIII REPORTS BY COMMISSIONERS/FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMISSION**

**Commissioner Geick** did a 12 hour ride-along with El Cerrito PD.

**Chair Martinez** said Crime Prevention invited the Police Commission to speak at their next meeting.

- He encouraged Commissioner Stephenson to work with Vice-Chair Ward on outreach to Neighborhood Councils.
- He thanked the Commissioners that attended Cinco de Mayo. It went very well.

**Commissioner Williams** reported that Juneteenth went beautifully without one incident with 3,000 people attending. Vice Chair Ward and CIAO Casimere also attended.

- She attended National Night Out along with Commissioners Geick, Hembree and Stephenson.

**Commissioner Hembree** did a ride-along on July 3<sup>rd</sup> with Off. Deorian.

**XIV ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by **Commissioner Ward** and second by **Commissioner Williams**, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

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**Don Casimere**  
**Confidential Investigative & Appeals Officer**