

# **RICHMOND POLICE COMMISSION**

**Wednesday, September 6, 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  
Cochise Potts  
Glenn Stephenson  
Cora J. Ward  
Naomi Williams  
Don Zingale

**Absent:** None

**Vacancies:** One

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

### **II APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 2, 2006**

Upon motion by **Commissioner Hembree** and second by **Commissioner Geick** the minutes for the regular meeting of August 2, 2006, were approved and corrected.

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

**Chief Magnus** stated they have a new commitment from the school district to assign two school resource officers to each high school and the city is maintaining their commitment to have an officer at the middle school as well as Gompers. Capt. Brown is the director of school safety. He is being assisted by Sgt. Christa Cappiali. They have also been working with the superintendent of the district, Bruce Harter, on developing a truancy program.

The Chief reported that they are continuing their focus on noise enforcement. He distributed a flyer that they will be passing out in the neighborhoods so that they can have a better understanding of the noise ordinances in Richmond and to let the people that are violating the laws know that there are penalties for this.

**Chief Magnus** said the incident that happened at Hilltop Theater several weeks ago is getting their full attention and they have plans for the future to deal with that type of situation. Capt. Williams has been in contact with theater management to talk about specific security protocols and additional staffing. They are also looking at their own protocols for dealing with hate crimes.

**Chief Magnus** said they are getting good feedback from the community regarding contacting their new beat officers. The officers are very responsive to the calls and e-mails that they've received; good progress is being made.

The Chief informed the Commission that he and City Manager Bill Lindsay attended a one day summit in Washington, DC dealing with violent crime. They discovered that many communities are going through very much what Richmond is going through in terms of seeing an upswing in violent crime. These cities are also frustrated, recognizing that there are a lot of factors that contribute to violent crimes. One of the common denominators that they all share is the involvement of younger and younger people in committing these crimes and being victims of these crimes. Chief Magnus said they are doing things here that seem to be paying dividends in other places. He said they need to stay the course on community policing efforts, beat ownership and focusing on crime hot spots. They will also be working closely with the Office of Violence Prevention.

**Chief Magnus** said he will be meeting with lieutenants and above tomorrow regarding staff development and performance expectations.

**Commissioner Stephenson** asked if the department would be reviewing their pursuit intervention policy. The Chief said they have a number of procedures that merit review and updating; he is willing to review the driving policy.

**Commissioner Potts** asked how far along the Office of Violence Prevention was in getting set up. Chief Magnus said he can't speak of the specifics as to where they are in the process but he knows that progress is being made. They met with the department heads today and discussed what each of the departments can bring to the table in terms of working with them as they get the office set up.

**Commissioner Williams** asked if graffiti on the side of a church would be considered a hate crime. The Chief said it depends on the nature of the graffiti and whether it was targeted at one specific religious group or group of individuals. Chief Magnus said the City's Public Works Department has a very good graffiti removal program.

**Chair Martinez** introduced the Commission's two newest commissioners, Don Zingale and Cochise Potts.

**Chief Magnus** welcomed the commissioners and said he would be glad to help them learn more about how the police department functions.

**Commissioner Geick** asked Chief Magnus when they will be giving the new commissioners the Police Department orientation. She said there are five commissioners who have not yet had the orientation and several have been here for a long time. Chief Magnus said he appreciated her bringing it to his attention and he'll make sure it happens as quickly as possible; he apologized for the delay.

**Chair Martinez** added that he would like to have **Commissioners Geick** and **Williams** review the outline of the training before it's put into place.

**Phil Mehas** asked Chief Magnus how he would determine if it's a school problem or a police problem. He also asked, in terms of officers questioning students, at what point are the parents called to be a part of that discussion. **Chief Magnus** said that officers are aware that they need to follow the law as to how people are questioned at school as well as outside of school. They would prefer to have parental involvement. He said that the goal of having a police officer in the school is to improve and facilitate the flow of communication between young people and the police so that they can handle incidents, preferably, as non-criminal matters whenever possible.

**Chair Martinez** asked if the Richmond Unified School District's security and law enforcement now falls under the Richmond PD. Chief Magnus said the security personnel fall under the direction of the Police Department in terms of day to day accountability. Capt. Brown and Sgt. Cappiali supervise that group of personnel. They have a contract with the district who gives them the authority to provide that supervision. They are still, however, school district employees so they technically come under the authority of the district.

**Chair Martinez** asked if the information handed out about noise enforcement would be included in the RPD Newsletter. The Chief said that would be a good idea.

**Andres Soto** asked if the noise enforcement flyer would be translated into Spanish. Chief Magnus said yes.

#### **IV REPORT BY POLICE OFFICER ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE**

**Det. Kevin Martin** said that the association still supports the chief and all of his endeavors. They are looking forward to the school year and opening up lines of communication with the officers assigned to the high schools. The officers' association also hopes to have dialogue with the school superintendent regarding the truancy program.

#### **V REPORT BY GUARDIANS OF JUSTICE REPRESENTATIVE**

**Off. Darrell Jones** reported that they have monthly meetings with the Chief and they appreciate his attentiveness. They had a barbecue last week for their members and the

department at the marina and it was well attended. They are trying to get together with some other businesses to possibly increase their scholarship program for the high schools. He encouraged the Commission to look at their website, [guardiansofjustice.org](http://guardiansofjustice.org).

**Commissioner Potts** asked when the new PAL building will be completed. Chief Magnus said that it may be complete by the beginning of the new year.

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

No report

## **VII BRIEFING ON POLICE CADET TRAINING AND REQUIREMENTS – SGT. MONAHAN**

**Sgt. Monahan** gave a detailed report on the department's Police Cadet Program. The program was designed to allow interested young men and women to experience police work. They work under Code Enforcement and their main responsibilities include vehicle abatement and parking enforcement. Sgt. Monahan said the program is very successful.

**Commissioner Hembree** asked if the cadets were allowed to go outside the city limits with the police car while they are in uniform. Sgt. Monahan said they need supervisor approval to go outside city limits. **Commissioner Hembree** said that the Code Enforcement Division was doing a very good job.

**Commissioner Zingale** asked the number of hours per week a cadet can work and whether they had to commit to a certain number of months or years. Sgt. Monahan said they can work from 14 to 19 hours depending on their college schedule. They ask the cadets to commit for as long as they can. **Commissioner Zingale** suggested that they devise a paid internship that would interest students who may be criminal justice majors.

**Commissioner Geick** asked when tow away zone signs for street sweeping will be placed on both sides of the street in her neighborhood. Sgt. Monahan asked her to e-mail the information to him.

**Chair Martinez** asked if cadets are allowed to work all shifts. Sgt. Monahan said they need to be scheduled to work when the supervisor is there. Occasionally, they may work a little longer after the supervisor has already left but they are then under the charge of a patrol officer. **Chair Martinez** commended Sgt. Monahan on the wonderful job he is doing in Code Enforcement.

**Commissioner Stephenson** commented that the cadets working at the Marina on July 3<sup>rd</sup> were excellent.

### VIII COMMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE

**Andres Soto** thanked the Chief for examining the incident that took place at Hilltop as a hate crime. He invited the Police Commission, and anyone else who is willing, to engage in community dialogue about the changing demographics of the community so that they can try to prevent these types of problems from occurring again. Mr. Soto said he was also there to welcome Cochise Potts to the Police Commission.

**Bob Sutcliffe** said that he was there tonight to support Commissioner Potts. He said that he was put through a process that was clearly unfair. He commented on the ride-along policy and reminded the Commission that they could ride-along any time, unannounced and that they don't have to sign the citizens' ride-along form. Mr. Sutcliffe said that he was concerned that some of the commissioners have not yet had an orientation by the Police Department. He also suggested that the Commission form a committee to review the new Police Operations Manual to look at the old manual and find out what changes were made. He said it is the responsibility of the Commission to look at any revisions before they are implemented.

**Corky Booze** acknowledged the people who were involved with the dog policy. They included Lt. Shawn Pickett, Lt. Arnold Threets, Commissioner Geick, Attorney Trish Aljoe, Sgt. Jimmy Jenkins, Sgt. Ken Greco and himself. Mr. Booze said that he has been working with Chief Magnus in making some changes at 4<sup>th</sup> Street Park. He also stated that he was there in support of Commissioner Potts and he challenged the Commission to find out how the entire situation came about. Mr. Booze said that the Office of Violence Prevention was a big farce. He said it was supposed to be a six month program and the office has not been set up yet.

**Phil Mehas** asked the status of the updating of the Police Commission Manual. He also wanted to know why Cochise Potts was listed as absent at the last meeting when he was actually in the audience and why he wasn't sitting at the table with the other commissioners. **Chair Martinez** said it was of his own choosing. **Carlos Privat** from the City Attorney's office said that he was listed as absent because he did not take a seat at the dais.

### IX REPORT BY CONFIDENTIAL IAO

**CIAO Casimere** said that Phil Mehas forwarded an e-mail to the Police Commission office regarding a homeless man who was allegedly assaulted by police. Mr. Casimere said no complaint has been received regarding this issue but he wanted to provide a copy to the commissioners for information only. Mr. Casimere told the commissioners that the Police Commission will be giving a presentation to the Richmond Heights Neighborhood Association on Monday, September 11, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. He also reported that he will be attending the NACOLE (National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement) conference, at no expense to the City of Richmond, from 9/24 through 9/28/06, in Boise, Idaho. Funding was made available to allow two commissioners to

attend also. **Chair Martinez** said that he and **Commissioner Ward** will be attending the conference. **CIAO Casimere** said that he would not be present at the next commission meeting on October 4, 2006. The Commission agreed to postpone the meeting until October 11, 2006.

**Commissioner Hembree** asked if the new Animal Policy had been sent out to any other agencies. **CIAO Casimere** said that there was some difficulty in trying to get it sent to NACOLE but it will eventually happen. **Commissioner Hembree** suggested making NACOLE aware of it at the conference. **CIAO Casimere** said that he could have copies of the policy available on their information table. **Commissioner Geick** made a motion to send copies of the policy to the NACOLE Conference for distribution. It was seconded by **Chair Martinez**. All were in favor.

**Commissioner Williams** asked if the new commissioners had signed the Confidentiality Statement. **CIAO Casimere** said that both Commissioners Zingale and Potts were briefed by him. As part of that briefing they received a copy of the Confidentiality memo from the City Attorney's office. There is no section that requires a signature on that memo.

## **X REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

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

**Commissioner Williams** said she didn't attend the last meeting. **Commissioner Hembree** asked if the green zones were put in front of any of the liquor stores. **Commissioner Williams** said that the county has already done that but the city hasn't. She will ask about it at the next meeting.

**Chair Martinez** explained subcommittees to the new commissioners.

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

**Chair Martinez** said there are 300 churches in Richmond and he would like to have the Commission visit each one. **Commissioner Potts** asked how many churches the Commission gives a presentation to in any given month. **Chair Martinez** said that it's random. He has a list that he will be checking off as they go to these churches. He said any commissioner is welcome to attend when they give the presentations.

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

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

No new complaints this month.

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

**Chair Martinez** will follow up on the Police Department Orientation.

**Commissioner Williams** invited the commissioners to the West County School Board Candidates' Night on 9/18/06 from 7:15 until 9:00 p.m. at Easter Hill Church at 3911 Cutting.

**Chair Martinez** said that the Postal Service is looking to hire part-time postal carriers at \$14.00/hr. They can apply at 1025 Nevin Ave.

**XIII ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by **Commissioner Stephenson** and second by **Commissioner Hembree**, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

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