



MINUTES

COMMUNITY POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION

City of Riverside

February 26, 2001, 6 p.m.

Mayor's Ceremonial Room

Present: Commissioners Brewer, Egson, Garcia, Gardner, Goldware, Hendrick, Howe, and Redsecker

Absent: Commissioners and Huerta

Interim Chair Garcia called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Motion was made by Commissioner Goldware and seconded by Commissioner Brewer to approve the minutes for the monthly meeting of January 2001. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT / COMMENTS

Executive Director Williams announced the results of the CPRC officer elections. Commissioner Howe had the majority vote for chair and Commissioner Brewer had the majority vote for vice-chair. Both commissioners thanked everyone for their support and votes.

Mr. Williams next reported that a community outreach letter was being developed that would go to various community and neighborhood groups to introduce the Commission. Mr. Williams also asked the commissioners to advise the CPRC staff of any community meetings or events they attended in February. Commissioner Garcia noted that he has scheduled Mr. Williams to speak at the March 14th meeting of the Casa Blanca Community Action Group.

Mr. Williams also noted that the City Council would be voting on State Attorney General Lockyer's stipulation the following day, February 27th. Commissioner Gardner stated that their vote would take place in a closed session and that they would announce the results later.

Next Mr. Williams asked that the commissioners turn in their CPRC Policy and Procedure suggestions at the meeting of Thursday, March 1st.

Last, Mr. Williams announced that the annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner will take place the evening of April 27th. He asked that anyone interested in attending RSVP as soon as possible.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

TRAINING - Ron Richmond, Dr. of Public Administration

Executive Director Don Williams introduced Dr. Richmond, who gave a presentation on Ethical Framework for Decision Makers.

Dr. Richmond first defined ethics and morality, ethics being universal principles of what is right or wrong and morality being more of a cultural code on human conduct. He talked about the universal principles of ethics. He said that most people have a belief in autonomy or self-determination and expect promises to be kept when made, expect the truth to be told and privileged information kept confidential. Dr. Richmond noted that there are times when it is necessary to break these rules, such as when a person tells another he is

going to kill himself. The one principle, confidentiality, must be overruled by another, higher principle, the saving of a life. Dr. Richmond spoke about other principles such as nonmaleficence - avoiding harm, doing something because it is the right thing to do; beneficence – doing good, because there is an obligation to do good, a give and take in society; justice – treating others fairly.

Dr. Richmond noted that people make decisions which are based on a in a variety of ethical philosophies. He said that you have the extremes of harsh to lenient, but that most people tend to stay in the middle. Some decisions are made on the basis that the decision can be universally applied, while some are made based on the greatest good for the greatest number. Decisions of justice should be made as though the decision maker is blind. And the last example, the Judeo-Christian, is to treat others as you want to be treated. He said that along with these types of decision-making, there are philosophies about the end result. For some people, the end justifies the means, while for others the means justifies the end.

Dr. Richmond said that any of these methods of decision-making can cause moral conflicts. He displayed a chart by which a person can evaluate their personal ethics. He also had a moral dilemma test sheet. The perceived dilemma is noted and then one of three questions is answered regarding personal status – is there moral uncertainty, moral dilemma or moral distress. Then it must be determined what two principles or rules are in conflict and then, what the consequences of the decision(s) made.

Commissioner Egson asked if these situations fall under a person’s belief systems. Dr. Richmond said that they do because the person holds himself accountable to God in situation where there is a conflict.

Dr. Richmond next reviewed Kohlberg’s model of moral stages of which there are three levels, each level having two stages. The first level stages of moral development begin at an early age with uncritical obedience to rules (1), on to adolescence, when actions are based more on staying out of trouble (2). The next level stages are based on fulfilling role obligations from interpersonal relationships, self (3), to fulfilling fixed social duties, others (4). The final level stages go from utilitarian, the greatest good for the greatest number (5), to universal ethical principles, serving the common good and respecting the rights of individuals and self (6). Dr. Richmond noted that most managers are at Stages 4 and 5.

Dr. Richmond ended his presentation by showing a theoretical framework model where two ethical theories are presented and how decisions are reached under each theory.

Copies of Dr. Richmond’s handouts are available upon request.

At 6:59, the Executive Director and Commissioners recessed to the 7th Floor Conference Room for a closed session pursuant to Government Code §54956.9, for a case review training exercise, Case No. PC 00-284253.

The Commission adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

PHOEBE SHERRON
Administrative Clerk