



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
for
Wednesday, January 22, 2003,
6th Floor Large Conference Room – 4:00 P.M.
and
Art Pick Council Chambers – 5:30 P.M.
3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA

Present: Commissioners Brewer, Davidson, Gardner, Hendrick, Howe, Huerta and Ward

Absent: Commissioners Garcia and Floyd

CASE REVIEW – 4:00 P.M.

Roll Call

Public Comment

There were no public comments regarding closed session items.

Closed Session – Case Reviews

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957, the Commission adjourned to Closed Session at 4:20 p.m. to discuss issues pertaining to PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERSONNEL MATTERS.

<u>CPRC CASE NO.</u>	<u>IA CASE NO.</u>	<u>CPRC CASE NO.</u>	<u>IA CASE NO.</u>
02-060	PC-02-165-270	02-075	PC-02-191-356
02-067	PC-02-182-298	02-078 *	PC-02-197-212
02-068	PC-02-220-166	02-083 *	PC-02-209-215
02-071	PC-02-188-124	02-094 *	PC-02-227-228
02-072	PC-02-218-182	02-098 *	PC-02-233-245
02-074	PC-02-189-278	02-112 *	PC-02-221-217

* Due to time constraints, these cases were held over for the next case review meeting.

The Commission recessed at 5:16 p.m. to reconvene in the Council Chambers at 5:43 p.m.

OPEN SESSION – 5:30 P.M.

The following proceedings have been digitally recorded. For copies please call the CPRC office at (909) 826-5509.

Commissioner Brewer led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Sherron took roll call.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Ward moved to approve the minutes for the December regular meeting. Commissioner Hendrick seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Howe moved to approve the minutes for the January 8 case review meeting. Commissioner Hendrick seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report & Comments

Mr. Williams advised the commissioners of the Use of Force training session to be held on February 18, 2003.

Mr. Williams updated the Commission on the Muñoz and Wetter cases. He said that the investigator has completed witness interviews in the Muñoz case with the exception of family members. He also said that it was his understanding that the criminal investigation was complete and had been forwarded to the District Attorney's office.

Mr. Williams said that the Wetter incident was still under investigation by RPD. He said that the Commission investigator was still trying to contact Mr. Wetter's mother.

Mr. Williams informed the Commission that a representative of the City of South Gate contacted him and asked that he, along with the Chair and other commissioners, attend a community conference on January 25 regarding civilian oversight in the City of South Gate.

Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Huerta commented on an invitation she received from a community group to attend one of their meetings. She said that since she'd never received an invitation from a community group before, she was looking for some direction from the Commission as to whether she would be going as a representative of the Commission or as a private person.

The Chair asked Mr. Williams to respond. Mr. Williams said that he had attended several of their meetings in the past. He said that the only commissioner who can speak for the Commission is the Chair, but that commissioners could speak as individuals and comment on how they, as individual commissioners, feel about various subjects.

Commissioner Huerta also said that commissioners were not privy to some documents (Chair's report to Council and a memo regarding ride-along waivers) that were distributed on behalf of the Commission. She asked that if documents are to be sent out on behalf of the Commission, that the commissioners be given copies prior to distribution.

Commissioner Huerta also said that she was not satisfied with the response to the memo regarding the signing of ride-along waivers. She said she would like more responses in writing to commissioner concerns. Mr. Williams said that he and Chairman Brewer had attended a meeting with Chief Leach and the city attorney in which the subject was raised and Chief Leach said that anyone going on a ride-along

had to sign a waiver. The city attorney, Greg Priamos, stated that he was the author of that RPD policy. Commissioner Huerta said that she didn't think the commissioners questions regarding ride-along waivers had been answered satisfactorily.

Commissioner Huerta then stated that the Commission is not only supposed to be advocates of the citizens of Riverside, but also the Police Department. She said she felt the focus had lately been on what is wrong rather than what is right. She suggested that an additional item be added to the agenda – a report from RPD – which would note the positive actions taking place in the Police Department.

Chairman Brewer said that the idea would be presented to RPD.

Public Comments

Mary Shelton voiced her concerns regarding what she believes to be RPOA's intent to eventually dismantle the CPRC. She also expressed concern that the commissioners were being threatened with lawsuits while trying to conduct case reviews.

Chairman Brewer commented that case reviews are being conducted as they were previously.

Discuss and Vote on Proposed Amendments to CPRC By-Laws and Policies & Procedures

Vice-Chair Gardner, committee chair, asked that any comments regarding the proposed amendments to the By-Laws and Policies & Procedures be given to him as soon as possible. He said that he hoped to have the documents ready for proposed adoption at the February regular meeting.

Report from RPD Regarding Traffic Safety Plan for Emergency Situations – Commissioner Hendrick

Commissioner Hendrick addressed the Commission on his concerns about RPD's emergency traffic plan. He cited one incident in early October in which high winds had disabled traffic signals at Trautwein and Van Buren during morning rush hour. He said that it was a very dangerous situation and that, at one point, he counted 12 vehicles in the intersection. He said he called the Watch Commander to try to find out why there were no officers there to help with traffic. He was told that RPD was working on an updated traffic plan.

He then cited another incident, which occurred about three weeks ago, involving a fatal accident on the 91 that caused traffic to be backed up for miles. He said that people passing traffic on the shoulder, trying to get off the freeway at Tyler. He said he called 911 on his cell phone to contact CHP to advise them of the problem. Commissioner Hendrick said that when he finally got through the intersection at Tyler and the freeway, he saw an RPD unit with an officer and a citizen sitting inside, watching the whole situation. He said that if RPD had coordinated with CHP, the traffic problem could have been greatly alleviated.

Commissioner Hendrick asked that the Commission support his request to have RPD give the Commission an update on the traffic plan that he had been told was being updated, but said he had doubts that there really was one.

After some discussion on how to address this issue, the Executive Director suggested that a letter, from the Commission, be sent to Chief Leach via the City Manager.

Commissioner Howe said that the City needs to address the traffic issue because it's getting worse. Chairman Brewer said that traffic is a topic that comes up at almost every Mayor's Night Out. He also

said that a letter would be written if that's what the Commission wanted done. The Executive Director also suggested that the Chair and Vice-Chair be authorized to talk to the Parking & Traffic Commission about the problem. Then there would be two commissions voicing the same concerns. Chairman Brewer said that he knows a member of the Parking & Traffic Commission and could talk to him about the situation.

Commissioner Hendrick said that he is concerned about whether or not there actually is a comprehensive traffic safety plan that has been or is being developed so that when there is a power outage or other situations that affect traffic, the problems aren't just written off as "delays."

Vice-Chair Gardner noted that whenever there is a power outage, "eight zillion" alarms are triggered and the alarms are a higher priority than the traffic problems. He noted that officers who are sent to direct traffic are being kept from doing something else. He said that it is a priority question for the city.

Commissioner Davidson said that in all traveling he does through the city, he said he can't remember getting off the freeway in an accident situation and seeing an officer at the intersection helping direct traffic. He said that he had recently seen such a situation at Madison and the 91 where people were trying to get off the freeway because of an accident. He said that RPD should anticipate these incidents or at least there should be a plan that can be implemented when these situations occur.

Commissioner Hendrick agreed. He felt that, in the situation he witnessed on the 91 and Tyler, had RPD coordinated with CHP, they could have directed traffic off the freeway in a safer manner.

Chairman Brewer said he would talk with RPD's traffic representative at Mayor's Night Out and informally check on the traffic situation. He also suggested going to the commission that handles this issue. He asked Commissioner Hendrick if he wanted it handled informally first. Commissioner Hendrick said that was fine, but said he wanted to see some follow-up so that it doesn't just go away. He said he'd also spoken with a councilmember who was also interested in this issue, but that he hadn't had any other conversations with this councilmember.

Chairman Brewer entertained a motion for adjournment, which was moved by Commissioner Howe and seconded by Commissioner Hendrick.

The Commission adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

PHOEBE SHERRON
Sr. Office Specialist