



On Point

June 2021



To ZOOM or not to ZOOM... that is the question.

Put some pants on, grab your keys, drive to the Community Center, look for a parking space and play musical chairs. **OR** – Pour yourself a drink, grab a bowl of popcorn and log into ZOOM.

I suppose it should come as no surprise that our ZOOM meetings have had some of the highest attendances I can remember. A ZOOM meeting saves travel time and your couch is probably more comfortable than the non-ergonomically designed folding chairs you may have to help us put away at the end of the night.

Still, there's something to be said about actually getting together with your fellow community members. We agree; maybe there's a compromise. At our last Board Meeting, we talked about the possibility of holding most meetings virtually and getting together for several "special occasions", maybe even hosting potlucks. At the June meeting I would like to solicit your opinions on the subject.

Saturday, July 24th 8:00 am till noon, is FREE CLEAN-UP DAY!* Sponsored by the City of Richmond, Republic Services, Sims Metal & the PRNC. This is NOT a curbside collection. Dumpsters will be located at the 500 block of Wine Street (by Washington School). All participants must wear a face mask and maintain social distance. Bring current photo ID and your utility bill to show residency in Pt. Richmond.

Accepted items include:

Box Springs, Broken Toys, Couches, Dishwashers, Glass, Clothing, Household Items, Mattresses, Metal Chairs, Ovens/Stoves, Refrigerators, Rugs/Padding, Small Appliances, Tables, Washers/Dryers, Wood, Yard Waste (please bag).

Prohibited items include:

Batteries, Bug Spray, Concrete, E-Waste, Fluorescent Lights, Oil, Oven Cleaner, Paint, Propane Tanks, Tires. (For hazardous waste materials call West County Hazardous Waste at 1-888-412-9277 at 101 Pittsburg Ave, Richmond.)

*** Curbside pickup available for seniors or disabled residents.** For assistance, call Hugo Mendoza at (510) 231-3030 or Tiphane Smith at (510) 231-3010 before Wed. July 21 at 12:00 pm. Pickup will be Friday, July 23 between 8:00 am and 2:30 pm. Pickups are limited to no more than one pickup truckload per location. ID will be checked at the time of pickup.

Peter Thelin **President: Point Richmond Neighborhood Council**

The PRNC and LUDRC are advisory only capacity and cannot approve or deny anything beyond "Recommendations for Development" to the City of Richmond. Our role is to mitigate conflict at the local level.





Wednesday, June 30, 2021, 7:30pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom (see access info in email)
PointRichmondNeighborhood@gmail.com

AGENDA

- 7:30 Call to order and approval of minutes from May 26, 2021** **1 minute**
- 7:31 Police Report. Officer Nelson** **4 minutes**
- 7:35 President's Report, Peter Thelin** **2 minutes**
- 7:37 Treasurer's Report, Margi Sullivan** **1 minute**
- 7:38 Membership Report, Buzz Baylis** **1 minute**
- 7:39 Washington Elementary use of Judge Carrol Park,** **15/5 minutes**
West Contra Costa School District and City of Richmond
- 7:59 Community Briefs, Part 1 (2 minutes each)** **12 minutes**
- Masquers Playhouse, Frances Smith, masquers.org
 - Point Richmond Table Tennis Club, Peter Thelin (510) 326-8108
 - Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council, Cordell Hindler, richmondneighbors.org
 - Richmond Tennis, Garry Hurlbut, (510)547-8111
 - USS Red Oak Victory Ship, Graham Perrett, redoakvictory.us
 - Women's Westside Improvement Club, Diane Diani pointrichmond.com/wwic
- 8:11 Land Use Design Review Committee (LUDRC),** **No projects this month**
Items to be considered at the LUDRC meeting must be submitted to Rod Satre, Committee Chair, at rdساتre@live.com (510) 232-5059, at least two weeks prior to the General Membership meeting. The LUDRC meets monthly prior to the PRNC General Membership meeting, at 6:00 pm.
- 8:11 Recap of Reimagining Public Safety, PRNC Special Meeting,** **10/5 minutes**
Dave Bleckinger
- 8:26 Community Briefs, Part 2 (2 minutes each)** **14 minutes**
- PR CERT, Charmain Tyler (510) 334-7267 charmain.tyler@gmail.com
 - Point Richmond Business Association, Cordell Hindler, pointrichmondbusiness.com
 - Point Richmond History Association, Bonnie Jo Cullison, pointrichmondhistory.org
 - Arts of Point Richmond, Rita Gardner, artsofpointrichmond.com
 - Magick Lantern, Kate Spaulding MagickLantern.org, magick-lantern@att.net, (510)232-2559
 - PRAM, Chrissie Bradley, pram.net
 - HOA's in Point Richmond
- 8:40 Discussion of In-Person vs Zoom Meetings, Peter Thelin** **10 minutes**
- 8:50 Public Forum (3 speakers, 2 minutes each)** **6 minutes**
- 8:56 In Remembrance and Celebration** **5 minutes**





Point Richmond Neighborhood Council

General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

PointRichmondNeighborhood@gmail.com

PRNC Board Members Present

Peter Thelin, President

Buzz Baylis, Membership Chair

Dave Bleckinger, Vice President

Sue Rosenof, Member at Large

Margi Sullivan, Treasurer

Garry Hurlbut, Member at Large

Charmain Tyler, Secretary, not in attendance

1. Call to order and approval of minutes from April 28, 2021

Fran said she was misquoted. The minutes say that Masquers would put up some signs. I was urging the Neighborhood Council to put some signs up. Sue will update the minutes. The motion is to approve the amended minutes, correcting Frans's intention. Vote: All in favor. No one opposed.

2. Police Report. Officer Nelson: No one attended for the police report.

3. President's Report, Peter Thelin

We have had a few different film projects, including Chris Babb, who said they are going to be filming an Indeed commercial tomorrow. It will be in front of El Sol. We have had other commercials filmed here. I recently met someone who is filming an independent film here in Point Richmond.

4. Treasurer's Report, Margi Sullivan

I am still being trained by Buzz and learning my new job as Treasurer. We have brought in about \$40 worth of dues, and a lot more from PayPal that will be about 15 new or renewals.

5. California Citizens Redistricting, Commissioner Russell Yee

I am one of the 14 California Citizen Redistricting Commissioners. Back in 2008, California citizens decided to take redistricting of election districts out of the hands of the legislature and have a citizen panel. The first panel was formed in 2010. I drew the maps for Congress, State Assembly, State Senate, State Board of Equalization. This is the second commission now seated in doing our work. Our website is ca.org and our motto is 'We draw the line.' I can't discuss any actual district lines with you at this meeting. That can only happen in a fully publicly accessible meeting, by law. The idea is that it doesn't matter if you're global it doesn't matter if you're Chevron, it doesn't matter you're just the citizen. Everyone has just the same access to the Commission when it comes to actual line drawing opinions.

Your fourteen 2020 commissioners are in place for 10 years. Most work happens in the first part of that decade. There were 20,000 applicants initially. When it gets down to the last 60, the legislature has one round that they get to weigh in on. We cut that 60 down to 36. That's the one and only time the legislature has say in the selection process. So that's quite a change from back when the legislature ran the whole show for redistricting.

By law, the commission is five members of the largest political party in the state by registration. So we have five Democrats, four Republicans, and five with no party preference. When we vote, it has to be a majority of each categories. There is a range of opinions on everything, but with a real commitment to the task at hand. We work on state districts, supervisorial districts, cities, school districts.

February through May, we start our public input meetings all over the state. We get input from public and learn about their community and special interests. We work with census data, which is late this year. This throws our timeline off. Final draft maps may come out in December, or as late as February. Normally, it would be out in August. Candidates need to know if they are in the district they want to run in. Election officials need to know to do their jobs and get ready for the next election.

As we draw our maps, there is statutory line drawing criteria that we observe. They are ranked in order. First, equal population. Districts have to be within a certain percentage population to each other. Second, the Voting Rights Act 1965 says to make sure minority populations are treated fairly. Third, communities with special interests. Some people consider themselves geographically connected to each other because of a business region or agricultural reason, a large employer, or environmental considerations, like a lake or river. This is tricky and we have to listen to the people to understand it. There is a strong psychological human bias towards simple, pretty shapes when it comes to election districts. However, simple shapes are not necessarily fair. We can't skip over one area of population to get to a different area of population. There are also nesting districts. In California there are 80 assembly districts and 40 state senate districts. As much as possible we try to nest those assembly districts into the Senate districts.

Common social goals and common economic interests should be included within a single district for fair representation. We use mapping tools and community interest tools online to help us. You can go to our website and find ways to reach us. We want to hear from you.

Sue Rosenof: Can we get a copy of this presentation?

Commissioner Yee: Yes, it is on the website. It is part of the outreach materials.

6. *Community Briefs, Part 1*

- *Masquers Playhouse, Frances Smith, masquers.org*
The theater is sanitized and ready to open. We're just waiting for the California opening. We will start a season in January, and we have five plays we want to do. We also want to do a soft opening, something fun. We don't have a date for that yet. We will also do something over the holidays.
- *Point Richmond Table Tennis Club, Peter Thelin (510) 326-8108*
There won't be any table tennis for the next three weekends because I'm going to be out of town, traveling to New Jersey with my lovely wife here.
- *Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council, Cordell Hindler, richmondneighbors.org*
We had about 45 in attendance at this month's meeting. We had Helen with GRID Alternatives talk to us about saving money on energy bills. The next meeting is June 14.
- *Richmond Tennis, Garry Hurlbut, (510)547-8111*
We got a grant from the ECA and will be resurfacing two tennis courts at MLK Park. We are doing a summer program there with kids and RTA coaches. The USTA adult tennis teams are back in full force. We will be starting matches in two weeks. My wife, Maryn, and I have formed the Hurlbut Benevolent Fund and will be having a Snow Ball event for high school kids. We will be helping with some scholarships for students going to college. We are starting by getting \$1 from all the tennis teams. If you get \$1 from everyone in Richmond, we will have \$100,000. To donate go to RTA-CA.org, click on SNOWBALL and click on DONATE.
- *USS Red Oak Victory Ship, Graham Perrett, redoakvictory.us*
We are now open on Sundays for self-guided tours, between 12 and 4:00. Admission is \$10 and we'd really love to see you there. For Mother's Day we had Bring-Your-Own-Picnic Day. 100 people turned up for the band, beautiful weather, and strolling around the ship. We are doing a repeat for Dad's Day. We will have a band and gift shop is open. Dad can go home a very happy camper.
- *Women's Westside Improvement Club, Diane Diani pointrichmond.com/wwic*
Diane wanted to be here but she broke her leg, on top of a hip replacement. She sends her best. June 1st we are having our last meeting before summer. It is our famous hat day. Wear a crazy hat, make up a story about the hat. We have new officers. We had our first Bingo game in a long time for fund

raising. We will meet in person second week in September. Enjoy the beautiful garden around the Indian statue and Rose Garden. Thanks to PRNC and Marlee Prutten for contributing & organizing.

7. Land Use Design Review Committee (LUDRC), Rod Satre

1. Project: Lot line adjustment at 725 Ocean Avenue

This project is a second run of lot line adjustments between Ocean and Western. Tom Dougherty is representing the applicant. It was moved, seconded, and approved by the LUDRC.

This was a second pass at this one. About a year ago this was approved by the City administratively, but the neighborhood did not approve. We thought this might be a legal issue. It was brought to the City Attorney's office. Tonight we heard a lot from neighbors as to why this should not be approved.

Tom Dougherty said this is fairly simple. We have 4 contiguous lots. Three are about 2500 feet square and 25 feet wide. One is large, 184 feet long. Our proposal is to borrow some land from the larger lot and give it to the smaller lots to wind up with 4 lots that meet the zoning requirements.

Neighbor Don Mill said they are doing 2 sequential line adjustments so that they don't do more than 4 lots at a time. This will avoid the Subdivision Map Act requirement. A year ago we told the planning commissioners that Mr. Dougherty would be back for a second pass at this, and this has been labeled gamesmanship by the Supreme Court of California. This is an effort to get around environmental review. The lots will sell for more if they are legal size vs. the smaller size.

Rod explained the Subdivision Map Act. You have to provide infrastructure, provide for geologic issues, drainage, sewer, utilities. It is protection for not selling land that is underwater or a swamp.

Some neighbors commented:

- Sally said that the neighbors need the environmental check for contaminants, and it also might mean changes for access to the area. We need neighborhood support here.
- Suzanne said she agrees with Sally and Don. The neighbors are opposed to this. The city should have been more supportive. We encourage neighbors to support us.
- Bonnie said that sometimes developers come to the PRNC and convince us of their ideas. The city is often in support of the developers. Richmond wants development and we need homes, but I'm not sure we need big, giant, expensive homes. We need more affordable residential homes. We have substandard lots here, and that's something that can be adjusted.
- Gray Douglas wants to protect the quality of the neighborhood and the quality of the town.
- One neighbor warns of impact on the roadways and the neighborhood. Agrees with Don.

Vote:

In favor of denying the request for lot line adjustment: The majority of attendees.

In favor of allowing lot line: one person.

Abstain: one person

Request for lot line adjustment is denied.

2. Project: 509 Washington ADU

This project was the 509 Washington ADU that is Anthony Murphy's auxiliary dwelling unit. That was moved, seconded, and approved by the LUDRC. Architect Paul explained that this is over an existing garage. The design is a little flatter, entering off of Washington. It's more architecturally pleasing and it has the same architecture as the main house. It will allow access from Washington, and we are still maintaining the views. We are maintaining all the setback requirements. He showed the design on screen. It is 580 square feet, a one bedroom, with open living room, kitchen and island, laundry, and entry porch. The main change we made from original design is not entering off Bishop.

Owner Anthony Murphy agrees with Paul. Even though the original design was approved last year, many neighbors were against the approach from Bishop. We decided to do the traditional approach

from Washington, directly into the garage. The building is more expensive to build but definitely more pleasing from an aesthetic standpoint. It adds to the neighborhood and enhances the main original craftsman home that was built in 1911.

Some neighbors commented:

- Bob said we are across the street. He took that picture from our porch. He was mindful of our view. It is not the view that the story poles showed. It is taking some of our view. It is inaccurate because it doesn't match the poles. It's not what the picture he is showing. We did meet, and he showed the plans. The picture in these plans does not represent facts. The story poles have been changed a couple of times because the design was changed. I am concerned because our view is being taken and it's not represented properly.
- I am next door to Bob and I second what he said. Anthony did consult us. But we don't support the revised plan. The story poles do not match with the drawings.
- Roberta said they are across from them and they never received anything about these revised versions. I haven't had a chance to look at these plans. This is going to be taller.

Anthony responded. Last time neighbors were complaining about the entrance to the alleyway. I listened to the neighbors and redesigned it down to one bedroom. There is a little bit of change in the heights from 26 to 28 inches. It still doesn't take away from the water view from my neighbors. You are not losing the water view. I am still doing everything by code. Most of you know that I am not installing story poles that are incorrect. I am happy to meet with any of the neighbors. I gave you what you wanted and I'm surprised that you're still upset about the fact that I've moved the entrance to Washington, which was your argument.

The plans are on the PRNC website for anyone to see.

8. Point Richmond CERT Update, Kristen Gates, President

I am a longtime Point Richmond Neighborhood member. I'm going to talk about some of the things that we've been doing with Point Richmond CERT (Community Emergency Response Team). There are three main projects that we've got going. The community base of operations, first aid go bags, and radio bags. We are a 501c3 nonprofit and we are a member of the CERT program in Richmond. We have installed a container in Judge Carrol Park, which was a grant project, funded by the City of Richmond. This is our base of operations, and support station for equipment and supplies. It is also a place for meetings and drills. We are actually using it as a radio room and for our local radio practice, which we call radio net.

We have regular online meetings as a group and online and in person trainings. We are active in the greater Richmond CERT community. It has been challenging working with the grant, and managing during the pandemic.

The container costs a lot more than expected because there was more demand during the pandemic. Because of this extra cost we have had some difficulty purchasing the supplies and gear that we intend to go into the container.

One of our projects is to create go bags for first aid supplies. The members of PR CERT will keep a go bag for first aid supplies and we will keep some in the container. We feel strongly that we should have a variety of supplies in different locations so we will be prepared for different needs in different places. The backpack we are using is called a Stomp medical bag that is used in both military and private industry. We also have a smaller red bag that could be used as donor gifts for the community and part of our training. The medical supplies are in short supply right now, and we are ordering what we can.

A new project that we started is from a grant from Contra Costa Emergency Services. It is our radio go bags. These bags are also designed to be distributed to the team and also held at the container. We

can share them with other organizations as mutual aid. Each bag has a GMRS radio, FRS radios, a Ham radio and antennas. The antenna, called mag mount, is important because it extends our reach. The GMRS and FRS are more for local use and the Ham is for use outside of our area. We can reach to most of Richmond and beyond. All this goes into the bag, which ranges from \$200 to \$300 per bag. We now have seven radio go bags, thanks to the County grant.

Our base of operations is a place where we will practice our skills, meet and recruit community members, and store extra materials. We will have a drill as part of our grant. This is scheduled for July 25 at Judge Carrol Park, between 11 and 1 p.m. We will talk about using fire extinguishers, radio nets, types of supplies that we have to share with the community. The container is kind of a never-ending project, but we can show the community some of the things that we have now. Come out and meet with us on July 25.

9. Community Briefs, Part 2

- *PR CERT, Charmain Tyler (510) 334-7267 charmain.tyler@gmail.com*
Kristen already covered PR CERT/
- *Point Richmond Business Association, Cordell Hindler, pointrichmondbusiness.com*
PRNC is invited to the 3rd community budget meeting on June 3 at 6:00 p.m. They will send you the link for the Zoom meeting.
- Phil added a business comment to promote Kristina's Nail Spa. She was in our neighborhood for 10 years. She has reopened in Belding Woods, with a separate building in her exquisite garden in the backyard. It is absolutely fantastic and a brand spanking new place. If you were a fan of hers, I would like to encourage you to support her in her new location. It's just 10 minutes away.
- *Point Richmond History Association, Bonnie Jo Cullison, pointrichmondhistory.org*
Not in attendance.
- *Arts of Point Richmond, Rita Gardner, artsofpointrichmond.com*
No one in attendance.
- *Magick Lantern, Kate Spaulding, MagickLantern.org, magick-lantern@att.net, (510)232-2559.* No one in attendance.
- *PRAM, Chrissie Bradley, pram.net* No one in attendance.
- *HOA's in Point Richmond, No one in attendance.*
- *East Brother Light Station, Kristen Gates*
I am on the board as Treasurer of East Brother Light station and want to give you an update. We have had a power outage since April 1, when the submarine electric cable failed. We lost power. The cable is owned by the U.S. Coast Guard. We have been using a small amount of generator time to power the island several hours a day to charge our batteries and keep the navigation light going. We did a splice on the weekend and we are waiting for PG&E to re-energize us at terminal four. We still have a lot of electrical repairs to do on both sides of the island. We are hopeful to get the power back. There will be more updates as we move forward.

10. ~~Richmond Love Your Block~~, Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force,

Stephanie Ny, Program Manager

This is about Richmond public safety, not about Love Your Block. These are different initiatives. We are going to reschedule this for June because we are over time. Public safety should not be just reduced to 10 or 15 minutes. These are large, life-changing initiatives that will affect all community members. We were scheduled for 8:30 but since it is so late, we have to get home to our families now. We are excited to come back to speak about reimagining public safety.

I'm so happy to be here. I wasn't aware of this before and thought the task force was going to speak first. When it said 8:30, I thought I could wait until 8:30. Everyone is really concerned about the task force and the \$10 million that it is going to cost. We are running late tonight. I wonder if it is worth while holding a special meeting for it.

Lisa added to the discussion. I have been very active in this and suggest this is going to need a lot of time. There needs to be three points of view to have an appropriate dialogue. I would like the board invite Bisa French, Police Chief, a neutral staff person, and a task force member. There needs to be fairness brought to this equation. It should be a special meeting.

Peter asked Lisa to email him so he could take this into consideration. They did want 45 minutes, but we did not get this item for the agenda until our agenda was already full.

11. Public Forum

- **Dave Bleckinger**

West Contra Costa Unified School district would like to use Judge Carrol Park for kids' programs during school hours. They would need to have the dogs on leash and people would have to be sure to clean up after pets. We will try to discuss this at the next meeting. Let people know if they are interested in coming for this discussion.

- **Cordell Hindler**

I agree with Lisa about having a special meeting to hear what is being proposed regarding police department. Also, I would like to invite the PRNC to the Santa Fe Neighborhood Council meeting tomorrow. We will have Gayle McLaughlin and Claudia Jimenez as speakers and they will be talking about the police department's budget. Another idea is to have Helen Ma come to speak to us about what GRID alternatives is and how to save money on your electric bill. I have an idea to have a casino night for fund raising for Masquers.

- **Graham Perrett**

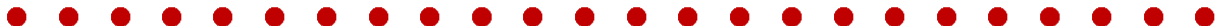
Just an issue about all these ads and film crews coming to The Point. We need to get them to make a donation of some sort to the PRNC. A couple of years ago we did receive a donation.

12. In Remembrance and Celebration

Garry spoke about a tennis player who lost his grandmother from COVID. She was 92. COVID is not over yet, so still stay on top of it.

Jojo from El Sol lost a family member to COVID a couple of weeks ago. It was a local guy, born and raised here, in our community. This is not over.

Meeting adjourned 9:54 p.m.





Point Richmond Neighborhood Council
Special Meeting Minutes
Reimagining Public Safety
Thursday, June 17, 2021

Present from PRNC Board:

- Peter Thelin Buzz Baylis
- Sue Rosenof Dave Bleckinger
- Charmain Tyler Garry Hurlbut
- Margi Sullivan was not present.

Presenters:

- Randy Joseph, Community Police Review Commission, Task Force for Reimagining the Police
- Jim Nantell, Community Services Director
- Bisa French, Police Chief

Randy Joseph: Randy explained some of the proposal. They tried to have a plan that would not call for layoffs at the Police Department. They had 6 options that were presented to the City Council. Most of the options included programs to help reduce crime: Office of Neighborhood Safety, Summer Youth Employment Program, and homelessness intervention.

The different options gave different ways of funding, including using a lump sum received from the pandemic recovery, moving money from the Police Department (causing layoffs), and elimination of some proposed vehicle purchases. Option E won the vote in the City Council. This option will eliminate 12 police officer positions. Since there were 12 vacant police officer positions, this avoids layoffs, and continues the current service level in the Police Department.

Jim Nantell: Jim explained some of the other programs for homelessness intervention, which includes a community crisis program to deal with mental health issues, and security services for homeless. He also talked about transitional village, temporary housing, and RV parking, including a site analysis.

- The original proposal was for \$10,280,089.
- The revised proposal, as of 6/9/21, was for \$6,315,150.
- About 1/3 will be funded by the American Recovery Act money.

Police Chief French: Chief French explained that they will lose 12 positions--from 157 officers down to 145 officers. She is preparing the org chart for the reduced force and figuring the deployment schedule for the next year. Some officers have resigned because of this proposal and they will need to be replaced. Also, there are some officers out on medical leave.

She is hoping that some of these programs will supplement the lower-level crime calls. They lost 20 sworn positions in the last budget cycle. They are not going to be able to deal with the quality-of-life issues, like prostitution, drug houses, or catalytic converter theft. These are things that take longer to investigate. Investigative teams that they have used will be eliminated.

Recently there has been a surge in violent crimes in Richmond. She is looking forward to working with the task force and hoping the city will have new programs up and going.

Chuck Weisselberg: Have they looked at any models, for mental health crises? Who has been successful?

Randy Joseph: We studied a model from Portland, Oregon, called the CAHOOTS model. A lot of youth get in trouble when they are bored so they have been looking at programs that are successful to try to get jobs for youth. The County helps with mental health issues, but they close after hours and weekends. We need to look inward to resolve our issues.

Cindy: Is the police department going to bear the brunt while these programs are getting up and running? Is there a transition plan since there won't be programs up and ready immediately?

Jim Nantell: Implementation team will develop how we transition into the new programs.

Randy Joseph: Youth Works is ready to go for July 1st. The Office of Neighborhood Safety is focused on expanding their demographic. It takes a community to fight crime.

Cindy: What other kinds of assistance is there for low level crimes, like catalytic converters?

Jim Nantell: Our response teams are not going to be dealing with theft of personal property.

Chief French: We are not able to address those types of crimes with the funding we have available right now. We try to address them on an overtime basis. 25 officers are off on injury leave now and that complicates things. At our highest we will have 203 officers. With 120 officers we can't do the work that we did. I hope that we don't have to further reduce. I have to constantly evaluate how we can respond to the needs of the community.

Randy Joseph: These were the initial recommendations and there will be continuing recommendations to help fill the holes. If things don't make sense then we will reevaluate.

Phillip: What percentage of calls required a police escort? A lot of social workers don't go out in the homelessness encampments. It seems like we could find resources in other places, rather than cutting the police department. What other funding sources were considered?

Chief French: I can't give you a percent for calls that require a police officer response. Currently, the mental health calls include the County for response. I am hoping this proposal with the Richmond Mental Health Team will reduce our calls in the Police Department.

Jim Nantell: We considered reducing equipment, vehicles, and eliminating other city workers. The task force is worried about the one-time money. It is a mix of one-time money and ongoing options, to carry over and keep this going on an ongoing basis. In 6 months we will see how successful it will be. We did not cut any other positions, in police or other parts of the city. The task force will continue to work on the other related issues. Their term is extended until the end of September to make further recommendations.

Mr. LLC: Will they continue with the plan for substations in Parchester and at Hilltop?

Jim Nantell: Will the developer by providing the funding for these substations add additional officers?

Chief French: My hope is that the developers are willing to fund the additional officers.

Amanda Bruin: At any given time how many officers are out on the street?

Chief French: 9 officers are covering the city at any given time. This is minimum staffing.

Graham Perrett: Was the police dept invited to give input to the task force? Why did the Council reject the proposal to not have any cuts to the police dept?

Chief French: The task force asked me to speak at 2 of the meetings re: staffing and budget. They did not ask me to give input for their task force.

Jim Nantell: The majority of the Council is concerned about the percentage of dollars invested into the police dept. At first they wanted to cut overtime, operating budgets and number of officers. They compared our costs to other cities. They wanted to find a way to do this by pulling the money out of the police force. They are already living with the impact of fewer officers. They made a compromise by using the one-time money from the pandemic. It is a compromise.

Graham Perrett: Did they look at Richmond's crime profile?

Jim Nantell: Remember they are reimagining public safety. They are trying to resolve the systemic problems that lead to crime. They need to deal with the systemic problems. They don't want the model of only arresting and incarcerating people.

Garry Hurlbut: It must be a challenge for morale with the officers. How do you deal with that?

Chief French: Morale has been down. I sent an email to explain what was voted on. At least we know the budget. Let's get back to focusing on how to resolve issues. Other officers are concerned about the future. There are people who want to further reduce the police dept. Having the decision made, we can start trying to move forward. As a community. We're looking forward to whatever program for community policing we can for next year.

Mark Wassberg: Asked a question about hiring freeze and weapons. Speech was not audible.

Chief French: There is not a hiring freeze. We are starting to recruit again because we didn't know how the budget would go. Some officers are retiring for medical reasons. We will start filling positions.

Dave: \$3.4 million of unfunded or one-time funded money is a lot. Mental health services would grow from \$1 million to \$4 million. So in the future, they will need more money. Is there any other thought of how to fund this going forward?

Jim Nantell: The city manager wants to avoid further reduction of the police dept. If we have to fund an additional amount from police dept, the city manager is uncomfortable with that. By eliminating some positions in other depts they could get more money to fund these programs. We will need evidence to justify taking more money away from the city. Other depts could be doing more things for the community. We need to look more broadly. There is some funding coming from the state that we might be able to access.

Randy Joseph: This is an evidence-based approach. We have to get to the root causes of crime. Not just throw more police and money at the problem. Let's try something new to see what would work. We can make the community better and also make the police job easier.

Dave: Does the task force continue going?

Randy Joseph: Only until September 30, this year.

Peter: What is the metric for effectiveness for these reductions? You're shifting money to mental health. How do you measure that against the police effectiveness?

Randy Joseph: That will come from the implementation team. We will and share with everyone when we have decided. I wish we could have done a better job of community outreach.

Jim Nantell: We don't want people back on the street a week later. We want to stop the repetition. The officers spend a lot of time on repeat offences. We don't want that.

Chief French: We will know if our call volume is lowered. We will know if fewer juveniles are getting into less trouble.

Jim Nantell: We are hopeful that we can reduce the number of calls.

Charmain: This has been helpful. How can we learn what you are doing in the future? How can we know if things have improved? How can we get you to come back to the neighborhood council? We can provide a forum for you.

Randy Joseph: Whenever there are new recommendations, we should go out to the neighborhood councils. I agree with Charmain. I will contact Peter. My email is rjoseph.cprc@gmail.com.

Chief French: We all have a common goal -- a safe community. I want to do more outreach.

Peter: I will reach out to you, Randy, to see what you have to say about the metrics. Thank you to everyone for coming and attending our special meeting.





RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND PAY YOUR DUES! The dues help cover our administrative expenses and are only \$20 per individual and \$25 per household. If this is a financial hardship, a waiver is gladly granted. Lifetime memberships are \$500. Pay online via PayPal at www.pointrichmond.org or mail your check and application to: **PRNC; P.O. Box 70386; Point Richmond, CA 94807.**

- New Individual
 Renewal Household

Name _____ Date: _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone _____ e-mail _____

***Point Richmond Neighborhood Council General Membership Meeting
is Wednesday, June 30, 7:30 pm via ZOOM.***

PRNC will send access info to members via email.

POINT RICHMOND
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
www.pointrichmond.org
P.O. Box 70386
Pt. Richmond, CA 94807