

**Marina Bay Neighborhood Council
Minutes of March 14, 2007 Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by President, Virginia Finlay. Other officers present were Barbara Norrish, Vice President and Secretary, Pat Kiely. As usual, introductions of all present were performed in a round robin format. We were pleased to see new neighbors from the Anchor Cove subdivision in the audience. There was a full house at the Harbormaster's Office. Before the meeting began VP Norrish passed around the sign-up sheet and reminded the gathering that it is easy to become a member of the MBNC. Dues are \$10 per person per year which supports the work the MBNC does in and for the community.

1. Beat Officers' Report: Sgt. Dave Harris reminded the gathering that the Richmond Police Department's concern is that they are meeting our community needs. Officer Tod Opdyke handed out copies of the RPD's "Partnering with the Community" booklet. Once again, Officer Opdyke reminded us that "the best thing to be is a nosy neighbor" because it keeps the community safe. This is borne out by our crime stats, which are "really good" because we are "a very active community... committed...and involved." You may contact Sgt Harris or Officer Opdyke at: Pdbeat1@Richmondpd.net and/or 510-621-1212 XOfficer's name.

Officer Opdyke went through all the crime stats for 2005 and 2006 and commented that our numbers are way down from one year to the next. For example:

	2006	2005
Auto thefts	22	35
Robberies	2 strong arm	4... 1 armed, 3 strong arm
Residential	5	10
Commercial	4	4
Auto	26	30
Grand theft/petty*	6/7	4/15
Homicides	0	0
In home rape	1	0

*Grand theft = over \$400; petty theft = under \$400

President Finlay pointed out that the conversion from rental apartments to owner occupied condos has had a positive impact on the community. This was confirmed by Officer Opdyke.

Ms. Finlay also pointed out, in response to a question from the audience, that the Anchor Cove parking areas are "gateable" if problems arise in future."

2. Police Chief, Chris Magnus: The Chief, who has been on the job a little over a year now, complimented our beat officers as "setting the pace for understanding community policing in a neighborhood." He also corroborated what the beat officers had said by

stating that “complacency equals victimization” and that “the point is we have to stay vigilant and be on the same page.” He further pointed out that “blight issues in a neighborhood indicate that crime could flourish” and that “our city is going in the right direction and, while understaffed, the partnership is working.” Chief Magnus talked about six projects that are currently happening during his watch:

a. Compstat: (Computer Statistics) which is the important collection of and dissemination of crime data. The RPD is now up-to-date with our CAD (Computer Aid Dispatch) and RMS (Records Management System). These systems put together the information in order to look at what’s going on in the city during the past few days and does a geographical overlay to see if there are any correlations to look for. Compstat also helps predict the location and types of calls for service the RPD will receive so that officers can be deployed more efficiently. This information will also allow officers to respond to crimes as they are occurring. The reality of crime is that most burglaries are performed during the day and most auto thefts happen at night. Compstat gives the RPD the ability to share information quickly and to see neighborhood trends and dictate deployment of staff at block and neighborhood levels.

b. Neighborhood Watch: The Chief said the City of Richmond needs to redouble its efforts regarding the Neighborhood Watch program so he is very excited that Michelle Milan, Crime Prevention Coordinator, has been hired to oversee the program. He noted that the Watch program groups need to be small to be effective. A building or cluster of homes within a subdivision is the perfect size for a Neighborhood Watch Program. It is also “very exciting” that in the Southern District the overall crime rate is down 17%... but auto theft is up 43%! It is important that valuables are removed from the interior of all cars, that cars are locked when not in use and that anti-theft devices are placed on older model cars which are frequently targeted by car thieves.

c. Closed Circuit Camera Project: This new program may have a huge impact on cutting down crime in the City. The Chief will soon be proposing the purchase of 25 wireless, moveable cameras to the City Council. These cameras can be set up to activate during a particular activity such as the act of dumping or graffiti. When this behavior activates the camera it (the camera) sends an alarm to the dispatcher who can contact the beat officer who can then respond while the perpetrator is still in action.

d. Shot Spotter Technology: The Chief is hoping to get funding for this new technology that can detect shots within a block of an occurrence. Due to the proximity to the Bay and shoreline, the acoustics associated with the firing of a firearm are very deceptive. This new technology will assist the Police in locating trouble spots in a timely manner.

e. Police Recruiting: The Department is very active and aggressive right now regarding the recruitment of new officers. The Chief called our attention to the “LEAD” ad and billboard campaign that we may have seen around town. Additionally, the Chief brought copies of the new brochure that is part of the recruitment effort. He said that we cannot just go after anyone; that the Department needs people who see the challenge in police work and want to “lead!” Policing is a helping profession and the police department

needs to change by hiring leaders to police our city. Richmond needs at least 25 more officers (preferably more to get back to a staffing level of 210) and he asked that we look around us to see if there might be anyone we know who we think would make a good officer. Inquires regarding positions within the Richmond Police Department may be made by contacting www.RPDJOB1.com

f. The Move to Marina Bay: The current Hall of Justice building is 60 years old, full of mold and floods on every floor during the rainy season. Due to these conditions, the City Council made the decision to relocate the Police Department to the Dicon site at Marina Bay until a new Hall of Justice could be built at the Civic Center complex. After review of available space throughout the city, the Dicon building was picked as the best choice for the Department. The building contained enough square footage for the Department's needs as well as the required parking and was already wired for hi-tech usage. While there will be an interim holding cell located at the facility there will not be a jail. There will also be space in the new building that will be made available to the community. The Chief said they look forward to being good neighbors. He also stated that with a lot of police cars around that, by and large, their presence will be a deterrent! The Department will be having an open house once the facility is completed.

Be sure to check out Chief Chris Magnus' and the Richmond Police Department's newsletter on the MBNC website...www.marinabaycouncil.org.

Note: we can submit our email addresses to the beat officers so that they could shoot out an email regarding any trends they see in Marina Bay...pdbeat1@Richmondpd.net; 621-1212 X Officer's Name

3. National Park Service Update: "WE ARE LIVING IN A NATIONAL PARK!" so stated Lucy Lawliss, Resources Program Manager of the National Park Service. She connected award-winning filmmaker Ken Burns' seven-part PBS documentary "The War" with what it was like in Richmond, the homefront, during WWII and how the Homefront Festival by the Bay celebration in late September will follow this TV series. She also talked about how we are "getting traction" in that we have something unique here in Marina Bay with the Rosie Memorial and the Homefront National Park. Also noted was that Rosie represents all people who worked in homefront industries which brought traumatic changes to Richmond.

The National Park Service in Richmond is making progress with the general management plan and that their idea is to meld their plan with The City's General Plan. In future, they will be looking for feedback from the community.

4. Old and New Business:

a. Introduction of Terence Cheung, Supervisor John Gioia's Chief of Staff and resident of Marina Bay.

b. Announcement of congratulatory anniversary reception for Chief Chris Magnus on Wednesday, March 28, from 5 to 7PM at Civic Center Auditorium Foyer which is being sponsored by the Richmond Chamber of Commerce.

c. John Gurley of Davis & Associates talked briefly about the outreach efforts for Richmond's General Plan and how citizen input is needed for all elements of the plan. Such elements as what should land use be 20 to 30 years down the line are among the many ideas about how our city should grow. The draft vision is ready for the community comments at General Plan Workshops to be held from 6 to 9Pm on March 26 at City Council Chambers, April 4 at the Hilltop Mall Community Room and on April 12 at St. Mark's Church on Harbor Way (en Espanol). Refreshments will be served at all locations. Please attend to provide feedback on how growth should occur in specific areas of the city.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9PM. Next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 11.

Respectfully submitted:

Pat Kiely
Secretary, MBNC