RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, March 23, 2010

The Richmond City Council Evening Open Session was called to order at 5:10 p.m. by Mayor Gayle McLaughlin.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Bates, Butt, Vice Mayor Ritterman, and Mayor McLaughlin. Absent: Councilmembers Rogers, Lopez, and Viramontes (Councilmembers Rogers and Lopez arrived after adjourning to Closed Session).

PUBLIC COMMENT

The city clerk announced that the purpose of the Evening Open Session was for the City Council to hear public comments on the following items to be discussed in Closed Session:

CITY COUNCIL

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION (Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9): Barra vs. City of Richmond; Baykeeper vs. City of Richmond; Communities for a Better Environment vs. City of Richmond; Citizens of East Shore Park vs. City of Richmond.

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (Initiation of litigation pursuant to Subdivision (c) of Government Code Section 54956.9): One case

CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR (Government Code Section 54956.8): Property: Point Molate (site of former Naval Shipyard Depot), Agency Negotiators: Bill Lindsay and Janet Schneider, Negotiating Party: Upstream Point Molate LLC, Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

There were no public speakers.

The Evening Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 5:12 p.m. The Closed Session adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 6:46 p.m. by Mayor McLaughlin who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Bates, Butt, Rogers, Lopez, Vice Mayor Ritterman, and Mayor McLaughlin. Absent: Councilmember Viramontes.
STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Billy Alexander spoke regarding an article printed in the West County Time regarding medical marijuana dispensaries within the City of Richmond.

Simms Thompson expressed concern regarding lights that are missing and/or continuously burning throughout the City of Richmond. He also stated that many of the city’s ordinances are being violated and should be regulated, i.e., red zone parking, parking on side walks, etc.

Jackie Thompson continued reading an article entitled “Haters.”

Corky Booze stated that Mayor McLaughlin deserves respect from Councilmembers.

James Walker spoke in opposition to the proposed wastewater fees increase.

Eleanor Thompson stated that Mayor McLaughlin cannot take control of the Council if the Council is not listening to her.

Eric Welch spoke in support of the Office of Neighborhood Safety.

Princess Sanders spoke in support of the Office of Neighborhood Safety.

Kaiya Gatewood spoke in support of the Office of Neighborhood Safety.

Dorothy Walls-Stewart spoke in support of the Office of Neighborhood Safety.

Michael Beer invited all everyone to attend the Fourth Annual Richmond Silly Parade on Saturday, April 10, beginning at 10:30 a.m. For more information, visit richmondsillyparade@gmail.com.

Mike Ali spoke in opposition to the proposed wastewater fee increase.

Charlotte McIntire spoke in opposition to the proposed wastewater fee increase.

Emmett Boone thanked the City Council and the City of Richmond for making “Operation Richmond” a success. Mr. Boone asked Councilmember Butt if he had a vested interest in the failure of Richmond, specifically the Iron Triangle. He stated that Councilmember Butt was the only Councilmember that did not give accolades to the faith-based operation and all supporters of the program at the March 16, 2010, Council Meeting.
Antwon Cloird stated that programs that are currently operating within the City of Richmond should not be reinvented.

Patricia Jackson spoke in support of the Point Molate Resort.

Stephan Cowans spoke in support of the Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS). He stated that the ONS is not a necessity it is are a priority.

Corinche Williams spoke in support of the Office of Neighborhood Safety.

Darvone Crenshaw spoke in support of the Office of Neighborhood Safety.

Tom Waller expressed his concern regarding the lack of balance on the City Council and economic development within the City of Richmond.

Michael Parker stated that there needs to be fairness of taxation within the City of Richmond. He also stated that Chevron should pay its fare share.

Charles Johnson spoke in support of ONS and the help they have given to the 21st Century Mentor's Program.

Norma Bautista spoke in support of the 21st Century Mentor's Program.

Christopher Dixon spoke in support of the 21st Century Mentor’s Program.

Abel Pineda spoke in support of the 21st Century Mentor’s Program.

Julius Vanhook spoke in support of the ONS. He stated that the ONS has provided resources to help our community.

In reference to statements made by Emmett Boone, Councilmember Butt stated that he generally does not speak just for the sake of speaking, specifically if other Councilmembers have spoken and he has nothing to add. He stated that he asked for a homicide summit to be placed on the agenda even before the shooting at the New Gethsemane Church of God in Christ occurred. Councilmember Butt stated that he felt that a council meeting should be devoted to the issue in great detail to gather input from every. He also stated that he authorized the resolution in 2006 that set up the City of Richmond’s current mechanisms in an approach to dealing with violence. The resolution identified violence as a public health challenge and it also identified the kinds of tools that are general used in dealing with public health issues. One of the things that involved was mobilizing and coordinating all the resources in the community to assist with the violence problem. He stated that the City of Richmond has gone
along with the idea that the faith community has one of the most important roles in preventing violence. Councilmember Butt congratulated all the participants in the movement and stated that he hopes the movement would continue and expand.

Mayor McLaughlin encouraged everyone to attend the community meeting to be held on March 31, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. in the Bermuda Room of the Richmond Auditorium to discuss the proposed sewer increase.

AGENDA REVIEW

None.

PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND COMMENDATIONS

Councilmember Bates introduced Don Delcollo of the Richmond-Shimada Friendship Commission who gave an overview of the program. Mr. Delcollo introduced the teacher and Youth Ambassadors visiting from Shimada, Japan. Each visitor expressed their appreciation for the warm welcome they felt from the City Council and the citizens of Richmond. Mayor McLaughlin and Councilmember Bates thanked the host families and welcomed the guests from Shimada, Japan.

Mayor McLaughlin invited members of the Richmond-Zhoushan Friendship Commission as she read a proclamation honoring Walter Fong for 17 years of service and leadership on the Richmond-Zhoushan Friendship Commission. Commissioners Rosemary Corbin accepted the proclamation on behalf of Walter Fong and gave words of appreciation to the City Council for the presentation. Richmond-Zhoushan Friendship Commissioner Karen Fantom invited everyone to a friendship dinner that would feature pictures of the 2007 Richmond-Zhoushan Friendship Commission’s trip to Zhoushan, Japan. The event was sponsored by the Friends of Zhousand and the Zhousand Sister Committee. She also announced an upcoming pilot program, sponsored by the Richmond-Zhoushan Friendship Commission, which would bring 12 adult students to Richmond to improve their English and to learn the American culture. Richmond-Zhoushan Friendship Commissioner Jim McMillian and Councilmember Bates gave comments.

Officer Larry Lewis gave a presentation of the Richmond Little League 2010 Board of Directors, Managers and Coaches. He also introduced players of the 2010 Richmond Little League. Officer Lewis encouraged everyone to visit the Police Activities League (PAL) facilities at 22nd Street and Macdonald Avenue. PAL offers an after school program, Monday through Friday, which includes tutoring, a recording studio, a boxing program, etc. Councilmembers Rogers, Lopez, and Bates gave comments.
Mayor McLaughlin gave a brief history on La Perla Delicatessen and presented a certificate honoring owners John and Doris La Perla of La Perla Delicatessen as Richmond Small business of the Month for March 2010. John gave comments and thanked the community and the City of Richmond for the certificate. Corky Booze and Antwon Cloird gave comments.

**REPORT FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY OF FINAL DECISIONS MADE AND NON-CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSIONS HELD DURING CLOSED SESSION**

City Attorney Scott Dickey reported that there were no reportable actions taken during closed session.

**STUDY AND DIRECTION TO STAFF SESSION**

The purpose of the Study and Direction to Staff Session:

The City Council heard presentations from the Richmond Police Department (Chris Magnus, Police Chief) and Office of Neighborhood Safety (DeVone Boggan, Director), and a Consortium of Richmond/West County service providers concerning: (1) existing programs and activities to reduce the incidence of violent crime in the Richmond community, and (2) recommended policies and actions for strengthening these efforts. Councilmember Butt gave an overview of the item. City Manager Bill Lindsay gave brief comments. Police Chief Magnus along with Deputy Police Chief Madina, and other Police Department staff Captain Allwyn Brown, Police Captain Alec Griffin, Police Sargent Bisa French, Captain Anthony Williams, Captain McBride, Michelle Milan, and Deputy District Attorney Mark Eichman gave a presentation which highlighted the following: A Combination of Strategies (suppression, enforcement, intervention, and prevention); Targeted "Hot Spot" Patrols; Data Driven Enforcement Activities; Crime Guns in Richmond; Law Enforcement Partnerships to Deal with Gun Violence; Gun Tracing; Continued Use of Smart Technology; Gang Injunctions; Domestic Violence Homicide Reduction - Family Justice Center; Daytime Curfew; High Crime Apartment Complexes; Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design; and Enhanced District Attorney Services to Prosecute Gun Crimes. Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS) Director DeVone Boggan along with ONS staff gave an overview of the ONS which included: Available data reveals; Characteristics of those that the ONS focuses its resources; ONS’ Role, Actual Funding; Partnerships - Capacity Building - Service Coordination; Current Office of Neighborhood Safety Initiatives; ONS Peacekeeper Program; Life Skills for Peace; Beyond Violence Initiative; County-Wide Prison Reentry Planning Initiative; Upcoming Office of Neighborhood Safety Initiatives; and Challenges. The city clerk announced that the representatives from the consortium had to leave the meeting due to the late hour and would like to
reschedule for a later meeting. Mayor McLaughlin acknowledged that the presentation would be scheduled for a future meeting. The following individuals gave comments: Mary Spearman, Claudia Ponce, Lola Stokes, James Bowen, James Johnson, Corky Booze, (at 11:00 p.m. a motion was made by Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Vice Mayor Ritterman to extend the meeting for one hour. The motion was approved with Councilmembers Bates and Butt voting Noe) speakers continued with Jackie Thompson, Mark Wassberg, Alvin Bernstein, Simms Thompson, Bea Roberson, Eleanor Thompson, Andres Soto, John Marquez, Gary Scott, Rusty Tilson, Marilyn Johnson, Rhonda Harris, Ron Kamb, Phillip Mehas, and Tony Thurman. On motion of Councilmember Butt, seconded by Vice Mayor Ritterman approved Items G-1(c) and G-1 (d) by the unanimous vote of the Council. A motion was made by Councilmember Butt to approve Item G-1(a), seconded by Councilmember Bates with a friendly amendment to include the first reading of Item G-1(b) and work out issues before the second reading. The amendment was accepted. Following further discussion, Councilmember Bates withdrew his second and Item G-1(b) was continued to April 6, 2010. Councilmember Lopez seconded the motion to approve Item G-1(a). The motion was approved by the unanimous vote of the Council.

(a) In the matter to approve a contract with the Contra Costa County District Attorney’s Office for the dedicated services of a Deputy District Attorney who would specifically be assigned to handle Richmond gun-crime cases. This two-year contract would be for the period beginning April 5, 2010, through April 4, 2012, and would be for an amount not to exceed $290,000.00 (or $145,000.00 a year). A motion was made by Councilmember Butt to approve Item G-1(a), seconded by Councilmember Bates with a friendly amendment to include the first reading of Item G-1(b) and work out issues before the second reading. The amendment was accepted. Following further discussion, Councilmember Bates withdrew his second and Item G-1(b) was continued to April 6, 2010. Councilmember Lopez seconded the motion to approve Item G-1(a). The motion was approved by the unanimous vote of the Council. The City Council requested Police Chief Magnus provide more information regarding truancy within the City of Richmond when the item returns on April 6, 2010.

(b) Continued to April 6, 2010, the introduction of an ordinance (first reading) that makes it unlawful, with certain exceptions, for any minor subject to compulsory education to be in or upon any public street, highway, road, alley, park, playground, or other public ground, public place, place of amusement, eating establishment, or vacant lot 30 minutes after school commences until 30 minutes before school concludes on days when said minor’s school is in session.

(c) In the matter to approve the appointments of Councilmembers Bates and Viramontes as an ad hoc
committee of two councilmembers to join the Richmond Police Department, other regional elected officials, and representatives from other designated agencies/organizations to meet with a group of Contra Costa County Superior Court Judges regarding sentencing practices for gun crimes. On motion of Councilmember Butt, seconded by Vice Mayor Ritterman approved Items G-1(c) and G-1 (d) by the unanimous vote of the Council.

(d) In the matter to approve the appointments of Mayor McLaughlin and Vice Mayor Ritterman as an ad hoc committee of two councilmembers to join the Richmond Police Department in meeting with the Contra Costa County District Attorney (or his designee) and Supervisor John Gioia to discuss prosecution issues related to gun crimes committed in Richmond. On motion of Councilmember Butt, seconded by Vice Mayor Ritterman approved Items G-1(c) and G-1 (d) by the unanimous vote of the Council.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:25 p.m. in memory of Mother Fannie Evans, Sergeant James Ingram, and Kathy Myers to meet again on Tuesday, April 6, 2010, at 6:30 p.m.

______________________________
City Clerk

(SEAL)

Approved:

______________________________
Mayor