

**RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, February 25,
2014**

The Richmond City Council Evening Open Session was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Bates, Butt, Myrick, Vice Mayor Beckles, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Absent:** Councilmembers Boozé and Rogers.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The city clerk announced that the purpose of the 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):

Riley vs. City of Richmond

There were no public speakers.

The Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 5:34 p.m. Closed Session adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Mayor McLaughlin.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Bates, Boozé, Butt, Myrick, Rogers, Vice Mayor Beckles, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Absent:** None.

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

AGENDA REVIEW

Councilmember Bates asked why the matter to discuss the Housing Authority matters was not placed on this agenda. Mayor McLaughlin stated that a special meeting will be scheduled soon.

Items I-2 and I-4 were continued to the March 4, 2014, City Council Meeting.

PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND COMMENDATIONS

Mayor McLaughlin, and Councilmembers Bates and Boozé presented a proclamation acknowledging Rodney "Alamo" Brown for writing the book: If My Eyes Could Rewind - The Real Richmond, California Story. Ellen Gailing and Charles Newsome gave comments.

Mayor McLaughlin and Councilmember Booze recognized the newly installed officers for the Richmond Branch of the NAACP. Wesley Ellis and Antwon Cloird gave comments.

Mayor McLaughlin presented a proclamation recognizing March 2014 as International Women's Month to Marilyn Langlois and Amara Hicks.

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

City Attorney Bruce Reed Goodmiller reported that there were no reportable actions.

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Naomi Williams, West County Alcohol Policy Working Group, stated that their group meets every 3rd Monday in North Richmond at 1535 Fred Jackson Way at 11 a.m. and invited anyone interested to attend.

Antwon Cloird stated that Richmond needs jobs because they stop crime, stress, and many other things.

Leonard Taylor thanked the construction workers for completing the job at San Pablo Avenue and Robert H. Miller Drive.

Sims Thompson stated that 37th and Cutting Avenue/Carlson Boulevard, and 37th & Barrett need left turn arrow signal lights.

Don Gosney stated that often the general public is not aware of emergency or special items added to the agenda.

Mark Wassberg stated that the residents at the Hacienda Development should take video and photos of the conditions of their units. Mr. Wassberg also stated that he created a documentary titled “The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly”, which depicts the violence in Richmond.

Nestor Paraiso, Chevron employee, stated that he is an active volunteer in the community and many Chevron employees support local businesses.

Larry Lewis announced that the Annual PAL Luncheon will be held on Thursday, February 27, 2014, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Mr. Lewis also thanked the Rich City Rides Bicycle Coalition who have repaired many bicycles for kids from PAL, and is trying to assist the group in finding a storefront location.

Jackie Thompson stated that it’s very disrespectful for members of the audience to speak when the Mayor is announcing the names of persons the meeting is being closed in memory of.

Marilyn Johnson gave comments regarding the unsafe conditions in her clients unit at the Hacienda development.

Wesley Ellis stated that in 2014 Richmond residents must elect candidates with Richmond’s best interest in mind.

Diana Classen, Nevin Plaza resident stated that her unit is infested with roaches and rodents.

Texanita Bluitt stated that the front door of the Kennedy Swim Center was broken and the doors are too heavy for disabled persons to open, especially if they have walkers or wheelchairs. Ms. Bluitt also stated that the water temperature in the pool varies alot.

Gail Brown, Nevin Plaza resident, stated that when she flushes her toilet, water comes up from her sink and there are black spots on her tile that she thinks is mold.

Cheryl Cephus stated that the security at Nevin Plaza is not adequate and another company should be hired.

Teddie Parker's comments were read by the city clerk. Ms. Parker wrote that when she flushes the toilet it rises to the top and sometimes overflows.

Jeffrey Wright stated that the City should eliminate eminent domain program.

George Salter thanked the City for the relocation of Paratransit to the Richmond BART Station.

AJ Jelani asked persons to support African American History month by purchasing "The Seal of the African American" t-shirts.

Mike Ali spoke against the proposed bond measures on the July 2014 ballot by Doctor's Hospital and the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

Eduardo Martinez stated that the Dalai Lama was in Richmond last week and asked for peace and unity and stated that the CEASFIRE walks that take place every week are an example of peace in our community.

STUDY SESSION

The matter to receive a report on bicycle safety tips and resources was presented by Vice Mayor Beckles, who gave an overview of the matter. Joshua Tovar presented the report. Some important safety tips before getting on the road are check your bikes air, brakes, chain and cranks; wear a helmet; use a light and reflector on the back and front if riding at night. Some of the bicycle safety basics are to share the lane with motorists, but stay on the right side when going slower than the speed limit; ride outside the 'door zone'; don't weave in and out of parked cars; don't ride on the sidewalk; ride with traffic, not against it; obey traffic laws: use proper hand signals when changing lanes or turning; stop at red lights and stop signs; and share the lane with motorists, but stay on the right side when going slower than the speed limit. The following individuals gave comments: Jackie Thompson, Marilyn Langlois, Najari Smith, and Nancy Baer.

The matter to receive a presentation concerning the City of Richmond Health in All Policies (HiAP) strategy and ordinance was presented by City Manager, Bill Lindsay, Shasa Curl, Administrative Chief, Jason Corburn, UC Berkeley Professor, and City Planning & Public Health, Gabino Arredondo, City Manager's Office. The goal of the HiAP Strategy is to increase health equity for all residents in the City of Richmond. Health equity is achieving the highest level of health for all people. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, health equity entails focused societal efforts to address avoidable inequalities by equalizing the conditions for health for all groups, especially for those who have experienced socioeconomic disadvantages or historical injustices. Compared to the rest of Contra Costa County, Richmond has high rates of health disparities and as a result residents experience drastic health inequities. The rate of childhood asthma is much higher in the City of Richmond than in surrounding communities. The rate for African American children in the same study was over three times the statewide rate. This concept acknowledges that all city departments impact health, even those not traditionally considered as conducting health-related

work. Richmond's Health in All Policies Strategy is being developed as a collaborative approach with the goal of improving health equity by addressing the social determinants of health and integrating health into the decision making process across all departments of the City. Jennifer Lyle and Wendell Greer gave comments. Councilmember Rogers requested that a study be done regarding the effect of airborne toxins and stated that Chevron should implement the air monitoring stations. The Health in All Policies ordinance will be presented for approval to the City Council in March 2014.

The matter to receive a presentation from Holland & Knight regarding their activities in doing advocacy work on behalf of the City of Richmond was presented by City Manager, Bill Lindsay, Lori Reese-Brown, City Manager's Office, and Nicholas Targ and Dan Maldonado, Holland & Knight. Some of the successes made for the City of Richmond have been project funding for Urban Greening Grant \$1.6M; HUD Section 108 \$1.0M – waiver; CALReUSE Grant - No cost extension; DTSC RLF Grant/Loan \$200K/\$800K. The record of funding success in Richmond is project funding for Mathieu Court Alley; Urban Greening Grant \$337,818; Grant from Rosie the Riveter Trust; Workforce Development Funding Project Funding: Richmond Parkway Ohlone Gap Closure; Urban Greening Grant \$1.2M; Urban Greening Grant (Pending) \$1.2M Unity Park Community Garden; USEPA Targeted Brownfields Assessment; Continue to coordinate with UC Berkeley/Lawrence Berkeley National Lab (LBNL) on identifying advanced energy projects for Richmond Bay Campus. Some of the strategic and legislative advocacy has been follow up with House and Senate meetings on scientific and economic importance of the campus to region and city; follow up with White House and Energy Department officials on regional and local significance of the LBNL Richmond campus. Some of the transportation related initiatives have involved discussions with the Department of Transportation and follow up with White House, Housing and Urban Development officials, Senate and House Members, as well as Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and State officials on EasyGo, Paratransit and other City access initiatives.

Discussion ensued. Councilmember Rogers suggested that update reports from Holland & Knight be given to the City Council on a regular basis. Councilmember Boozé asked why their contract had increased by \$10,000. Ms. Brown replied that the additional money was a carry-over payment that was due to Holland & Knight from the Redevelopment Agency. A motion by Councilmember Butt, seconded by Vice Mayor Beckles to end debate, passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Butt, Myrick, Vice Mayor Beckles, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Noes:** Councilmembers Bates, Boozé, and Rogers. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** None. Wesley Ellis and Dexter Vizinou gave comments.

The matter to receive a presentation on a grant-funded strategy to provide free Internet access for low income Richmond residents was presented by Mayor McLaughlin, I.T. Director Sue Hartman, and Library Director, Katy Curl. City staff, in partnership with community partners Internet Archive, Building Block for Kids Collaborative (BBK), Reliatech, and the Glen Price Group, have developed and pilot tested a wireless system of repeaters that can provide reliable Internet access to homes within the Iron Triangle area. Grant funding has been identified through the IMLS-NLG program for the Richmond Digital Health Literacy Project, which proposes to provide low-income residents in the City with digital health literacy training, free refurbished laptop computers, and access to free wireless broadband. Councilmember Rogers asked what the average cost is for installation. Sue Hartman replied that antennas and repeaters have been averaging about \$500 and that training is separately funded. Councilmember Rogers requested a report that looks at an average block in Richmond and a rough calculation of how much existing customers of Comcast, AT&T, etc. could save using this free internet system. The following individuals gave comments: Jackie Thompson, Colyer Dupont, and Ben Delaney.

*(A motion by Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Vice Mayor Beckles, to extend the meeting 30 minutes, passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Myrick, Rogers, Vice Mayor Beckles, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Noes:** Councilmembers Bates, Boozé, and Butt. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** None.)*

STUDY AND ACTION SESSION

The matter to receive a presentation regarding the accessibility of the Civic Center Plaza for residents with disabilities and discuss potential actions the City can take to address the remaining concerns regarding this issue was presented by Councilmember Myrick and Senior Assistant City Attorney, Bruce Soublet. A survey was done by outside consultants to determine if any deficiencies existed in the Civic Center Plaza in terms of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. Some issues were found that could be improved in both the Community Services Building and City Hall Buildings. Some doors exceed the amount of pressure and are harder to open due to the pressure caused by the buildings central air system and there are problems with the lift located in the lobby of the Community Services Building that has to be repaired frequently. Attorney Soublet will determine if the lift can be returned. The Richmond Memorial Auditorium requires approximately \$1 million to become ADA compliant. Councilmember Butt requested a legal opinion on whether a demand can be made to the design build contracting team for the Civic Center Plaza and buildings to require them to repair deficiencies to conform to accessibility laws. Jackie Thompson gave comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:31 p.m. in memory of Dinky Felder, longtime Richmond resident, and Jackson, Mississippi Mayor, Chokwe Lumumba, to meet again on Tuesday, March 4, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.

City Clerk

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor