



The Mayor's Musings

Office of Richmond Mayor Tom Butt Newsletter

ISSUE 01 - September 2015



RICHMOND CITY HALL

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A word from Mayor Butt...

Thanks for checking out this edition of "The Mayor's Musings" — the first of what will be a regular newsletter from the Mayor's Office.

I created this publication to highlight the different efforts we are working on at the office and publicize some of the engaging community initiatives by our community partners.

In addition to the newsletter, we have also launched a number of social media platforms to connect with the public.

Check out my Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, and YouTube pages for the latest community news, pictures, and videos about Richmond. You can search for my pages using the keyword "MayorTomButt."

We're also giving the Mayor's Office homepage at www.RichmondCaMayor.org a fresh look so the posted information will always be topical and timely.

That's where you can see more information about my priorities and projects.

By now, I hope you've had an opportunity to meet the staff at my office. They are Terrance Cheung, my Chief of Staff; David Gray, my Director of Projects and Programs; and Alex Knox, my Director of Community Relations.

If there's anything they can help with or assist in, let them know. Their contact information is on the last page of this newsletter.

Since taking office this past January, I've launched a number of initiatives to support and raise the quality of life for Richmond residents and businesses including efforts to expand our affordable housing stock in the City, improving our economic development, supporting our youth, and updating the City image.

I look forward to working with every community member in Richmond to make our City the best place to live, work, and have fun.

- Tom

Highlighting Richmond's Businesses

"...supporting current businesses and attracting new employers to Richmond is a cornerstone of the office."

Richmond is friendly to businesses... again.

As one of the priorities listed in Mayor Butt's State of the City address, supporting current businesses and attracting new employers to Richmond is a cornerstone policy of the office.

That's why Mayor Butt created Business Roundtable lunches — an informal networking opportunity for business owners (big and small), community stakeholders, and organizations.

The gatherings are held every other month at different locations around the City and are sponsored by the business community.



To date, three Business Roundtables have been held with a fourth one planned for October.

Next Business Roundtable
Thursday, October 8, 2015
12 noon—1:30 p.m.
Location: To be determined

As part of the program, Mayor Butt invites two to three local companies to speak about their experiences doing business in Richmond. Previous businesses include Ekso Bionics, Nutiva, Blue Apron, and R & B Winery.

If you're interested in sponsoring an upcoming Business Roundtable or would like more information, contact David Gray at (510) 620-6527.

Richmond Says No To More Jail Beds

The Sheriff's Office is moving forward with plans to expand the West County Detention Facility (WCDF) in Richmond by more than 400 beds and has submitted a \$90 million construction proposal to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC), even though it was unable to get the necessary four votes on the Board of Supervisors to contribute the necessary \$10 million in local matching funds.

On August 27th, a day before the application deadline, the City of Richmond took action to block the proposal by submitting a petition to the State challenging the County's Environmental Impact Report for the proposal.

The City's actions come just weeks after Mayor Butt and the Richmond City

Council voted to oppose the Sheriff's plans.

If the Sheriff is successful, WCDF would house three-fourths of the County's nearly 1,600 inmate population and cost an estimated \$5 million annual more to maintain.

According to the Sheriff's Office, the proposal would construct a new building at WCDF, tentatively named the Mental Health and Reentry Center.

Everyone agrees that inmates should have real mental health programs, but at a time when the national trend is to decrease jail beds and provide more resources for post-release services, many believe the proposal is premature.

Mayor Butt, Vice Mayor Myrick, Councilmembers Martinez, Beckles, McLaughlin, City Manager Bill Lindsay, and Police Chief Chris Magnus join a growing chorus of jail expansion opponents including Supervisor John Gioia, community members, and non-profit service providers who are calling for more community input into the jail project.

BSCC is expected to make its awards decision on the highly competitive grant by November 12.

If you're interested in learning more about the Sheriff's jail expansion proposal, contact David Gray or Terrance Cheung at the Mayor's Office at 510-620-6503.



Affordable Housing in Richmond

Mayor Butt wants to take an in-depth look at the housing environment (both rental and homeownership) in Richmond.

Recently, National Resource Network (NRN) — a core component of the Obama Administration’s Strong Cities, Strong Communities initiative that develops and delivers innovative solutions to American cities to help them address their toughest economic challenges — agreed to assist Mayor Butt in his request to address the issue of affordable housing in Richmond.

Mayor Butt is also sponsoring a special study session at the **Tuesday, September 29 City Council Meeting** to focus on affordable housing and has enlisted a cross sector group of advocates and supporters to provide information.

“A main reason why rental prices are going up is because there’s a shortage in housing stock in the City,” said Mayor Butt who is a professional architect.

For the last several months, the Mayor’s Office has been working with non-profit affordable housing experts from Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), EAH Housing, the Turner Center for Housing Innovation at UC Berkeley, and the Planning Department to develop the presentation to City Council.

“I want our respected experts to tell us how to respond to the housing shortage in Richmond,” said Mayor Butt. “I don’t want to see our residents moving out of Richmond because the rent’s too high or if they can’t afford to purchase a home.”

As part of the presentation, the group will provide an overview of the current state of affordable housing in Richmond, development trends for new housing, and recommendations to increase and improve the City’s housing stock.

For more information about this issue, contact Alex Knox at 510-621-1302.

Tee Time for Good

Spaces are still available for Mayor Butt’s upcoming Golf Tournament Fundraiser on **September 28 at the Richmond County Club**.

Proceeds will help support worthwhile community efforts including youth athletics, environmental stewardship, Summer youth programs, and economic development as part of Mayor Butt’s Community Benefit Fund, which he started earlier this year.

Benefit Fund Steering Community Members include Janie Holland (Community Housing Development Corporation), Doria Robinson (Urban Tilth), Brian Villa (RYSE), Josh Genser, Rosemary Corbin (former Mayor), Stacey Street and Jim Becker (Richmond Community Foundation).

Spend a day on the greens with the Mayor while also supporting our community.

For more information, contact Terrance Cheung at 620-6503.

Mark Your Calendars

California Coastal Clean-up

- Saturday, September 19
- 9 a.m.—12 noon
- Garrity Creek at Hilltop
- Baxter Creek behind Home Depot
- Pt. Pinole at the Park
- Keller Beach at Miller Knox Park
- Richmond Greenway (East & West)
- Shimada Strand at Shimada Friendship Park
- Annual Healthy Lunch served at 12 noon at Shimada Park hosted by Supervisor Gioia

Contact:

Juliana Gonzalez at

Juliana@thewatershedproject.org

MAYOR TOM BUTT COMMUNITY FUND
ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

SUPPORT RICHMOND YOUTH SPORTS

SEPTEMBER 28, 2015
RICHMOND COUNTRY CLUB

SIGN UP!
[FUNDRAISE.RICHMONDCF.ORG/MAYORSGOLFTOURNAMENT](http://fundraise.richmondcf.org/mayorsgolftournament)

SCHEDULE
10:30 AM - REGISTRATION
12:00 PM - GAME STARTS
6:30 PM - DINNER

PRICES
\$250 - EACH GOLFER
\$1000 - FOURSOME
\$50 - DINNER ONLY

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS,
PACIFIC EAST MALL, Mechanics Bank, Chevron, LACONIA, R&B, HUMAN ENERGY, REPUBLIC SERVICES, BAY AREA RESCUE MISSION

- Monday, September 28
 - 10:30 a.m.—Registration
 - 6:30 p.m.— Dinner
 - Richmond Country Club
- <https://fundraise.richmondcf.org/mayorsgolftournament>

Contact:

Terrance Cheung, Mayor’s Office
(510) 620-6503

300 OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Frequently Requested Numbers

City of Richmond

City Manager's Office	(510) 620-6512
City Clerk	(510) 620-6513
City Council	(510) 620-6581

Police/Fire/Medical Assistance

Emergency Assistance

911

Police Non-Emergency	(510) 233-1214
Fire Non-Emergency	(510) 307-8031

Animal Services (Contra Costa County)	(510) 374-3966
Blight Hotline	(510) 965-4305
Code Enforcement	(510) 621-1279
Economic Development	(510) 307-8131
Employment & Training	(510) 307-8014
Graffiti Hotline	(510) 965-4905
Housing Authority	(510) 621-1300
Library	(510) 620-6561
Neighborhood Councils	(510) 620-6511
Office of Neighborhood Safety	(510) 412-8540
Planning Department	(510) 620-6706
Pothole Repair	(510) 231-2011
Sidewalk Repair	(510) 307-8091
Volunteer Opportunities	(510) 620-6511

Elected Officials

Congressman Mark DeSaulnier	(510) 620-1000
State Senator Loni Hancock	(510) 286-1333
State Assemblyman Tony Thurmond	(510) 286-1400
County Supervisor John Gioia	(510) 231-8686

Government Agencies

AC Transit	(510) 891-0404
BART	(510) 236-2278
EBMUD	(866) 403-2683
East Bay Regional Parks	(888) 327-2757
West Contra Costa Unified School District	(510) 231-1100

Stay Connected

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Keyword "MayorTomButt"

Commission Openings

Volunteering to serve on a City commission is a terrific way to give back to your community.

Here are some commission vacancies available now:

- Commission on Aging
- Economic Development Commission
- Human Rights & Human Relations Commission
- Library Commission
- Public Art Advisory Committee
- Point Molate Community Advisory Committee
- Recreation & Parks Commission

For more information or to download an application, go to the City Clerk's webpage at <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/256/Boards-and-Commissions>

Contact:
Alex Knox, 510-620-6503