

# CITY OF RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA

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**Tom Butt**

Mayor

Office of the Mayor



**"We Can Do It!"**

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## **Statement from Mayor Butt to parents, students, and supporters of charter schools in Richmond October 14, 2015**

I want to thank everyone who's taken the time this afternoon to actively voice your support for Richmond residents who attend charter schools into the Richmond Promise Scholarship Program.

The Richmond City Council is currently in the process of reviewing the eligibility criteria and award amount for our innovative college scholarship program so your advocacy today is timely. Final details of the Richmond Promise will require the review and approval of our seven-member Council. That means that it will require at least four members of the Council to adopt any final changes. We're expected to take up the issue within the next two months.

Like you, I believe that every student should have the opportunity to access higher education.

As Mayor of this City, you have my commitment to making sure that all our families and residents have the best possible opportunities to better jobs, housing, and education so we can collectively lift and advance our communities.

As you know, Chevron has provided us with \$35 million to start the program. I know it sounds like a lot of money, and indeed it is. But it is our responsibility to be good stewards of the funds to make sure that the program is sustainable for as long as possible.

While I am open to including Richmond residents attending public charter schools into Richmond Promise, you should also know that there are members on the Council who want to limit Richmond Promise by launching the program at just one high school as a pilot program. That, I will not support because I believe that is not the intent of Promise Program and is counter to our efforts to create a college-going community.

Additionally, it has come to my attention that the City Manager's Office has sent an invitation to both charter and private schools in Richmond to discuss this exact issue. Invitations to the meeting, scheduled for this coming Monday, were distributed last week. I would strongly encourage all charter and private school administrators who want to be engaged in this process to attend that meeting.

We want to make Richmond's Promise Program the most successful in the nation. With your support, I have no doubt we will do that.

Thank you.

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*Home of Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park*

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