RICHMOND, Calif. – Today Richmond Mayor Tom Butt outlined his plan for addressing growing housing pressures in the city. The Mayor’s Housing Strategy emphasizes housing creation and preservation as proactive strategies for addressing housing pressures amid decreasing affordability throughout the Bay Area. The Housing Strategy document comes one year after the Mayor convened a group of housing, development, and financial experts to study and discuss challenges and opportunities for improving the availability, quality, and development of housing in Richmond.

“For most cities in ever-populating metropolitan areas, a robust housing strategy is essential to enhancing the supply of housing to accommodate existing and new residents of all income levels,” Mayor Butt stated. “This housing strategy document identifies policy solutions that Richmond can use to address threats to neighborhood stability and at-risk populations. The document is also a living document, and we intend to add new solutions to future documents as the city’s needs and opportunities change over time.”

Mayor Butt’s Housing Strategy is designed to provide a comprehensive approach for addressing opportunities to increase housing and access to housing for Richmond’s renters, with or without rent control/just cause. These strategies help homeowners, property owners, housing developers and service providers in the housing market. The Mayor’s Housing Strategy also aims to accommodate the diverse needs of the city’s existing residents, improve supply for shifting demographics and preserve the affordability of Richmond’s housing stock.

Specific examples of items mentioned in the document include state and municipal initiatives to allow Junior Accessory Dwelling Units, the use of an inclusionary housing policy and in-lieu fees as a funding mechanism for affordable housing development, and gap financing sources to fund the creation of new housing. The document also highlights Richmond’s recent zoning update, which coincides with Richmond’s General Plan 2030 and focuses on mixed use affordable and market-rate development in three major activity centers – Downtown, Hilltop District and the South Shoreline.
“The greater supply of housing we are able to provide, the better we can address various impacts of high housing costs,” Mayor Butt said. “We need an ample supply of both affordable and market-rate units to provide stable housing for households of varying income levels. Every city in the region needs to chip in to prevent displacement, homelessness, and effects we are trying to cope with.”

The Mayor’s Housing Strategy will be presented at the Richmond City Council meeting this evening.

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