Mayor and Members of the City Council:

This is the weekly report for the week ending January 6, 2017.

1. **Meeting Notes**

   New and incumbent members of the Richmond City Council will be sworn in to office on Tuesday, January 10th. The first regular City Council meeting of the calendar year is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17th.

2. **Richmond Rent Program Office Opened on Tuesday, January 3, 2017**

   This past November, Richmond voters passed Measure L, the “Richmond Fair Rent, Just Cause for Eviction and Homeowner Protection Ordinance,” which became effective on December 30, 2016. The Ordinance establishes a Rent Program in the City of Richmond, directed by a five-member Rent Board.

   In advance of a Rent Board being appointed to operate these new rent regulations, and in accordance with this new ordinance, staff members from the City Manager’s office are beginning to implement preliminary elements of the program. As a first step, over the past several weeks, residents began receiving written information about the new rent ordinance and its implementation. The Richmond Rent Program office also opened this past Tuesday, January 3rd to begin assisting tenants and landlords. The office is located on the second floor at 440 Civic Center Plaza, and open Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Staff are available via phone 510-620-6576 and email: rent@ci.richmond.ca.us.

   Please visit the Rent Program website at [www.RichmondRent.org](http://www.RichmondRent.org) for more information and resources.

   The Rent Program Brochure (pictured below) is also now accessible at [www.RichmondRent.org](http://www.RichmondRent.org).
**TERMS TO KNOW**

- **Rent Control**
  Establishes maximum annual rent increases for residential housing units. Not all residential properties are subject to rent control.

- **Just Cause for Eviction**
  Prohibits landlords from ending a rental agreement without a "just cause." Relocation payments must be made to tenants for certain permitted evictions, such as substantial repairs.

- **Base Rent**
  The initial rent on a lease or rental agreement. The starting base rent for rent-controlled units is the rent paid in July 21, 2015, or the first month a tenant moved in after that date.

- **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**
  A measurement of the average change over time in the prices of goods and services determined by the federal government. Rent may be increased by 100% of the CPI each year.

- **Maximum Allowable Rent**
  The most money that can be charged to a tenant each year, including the base rent and properly noticed CPI adjustments. Landlords and tenants may petition the Rent Board for an upward or downward adjustment of the maximum allowable rent based on changes to the property, conditions, etc.

**RESOURCES**

This list is intended to guide Richmond residents and property owners to relevant information for landlords and tenants regarding their legal rights, but is not in any way an endorsement or representative list. Visit our website or give us a call for more information.

- **Bay Area Legal Aid**
  Legal services and aid for regardless of a client's location, language or disability.
  1025 Macdonald Avenue, Richmond, CA 94804
  Legal Advice Line - Contra Costa County East: (925) 219-3325
  [https://www.baylegal.org/](https://www.baylegal.org/)

- **Tenants Together**
  Tenant Rights Hotline:
  (415) 495-8100 or (888) 495-8020

- **Eden Council for Hope and Opportunity (ECHO)**
  ECHO's Tenant/Landlord Counseling Program provides information to tenants and landlords. Additionally, ECHO has trained mediators to assist in resolving housing disputes.
  (510) 581-0380
3. **Richmond Rent Program Community Education**

The City of Richmond is hosting a series of community education classes regarding the new Rent Program and the Richmond Fair Rent, Just Cause for Eviction, and Homeowner Protection Ordinance. The first class will be on January 18th at the Richmond City Council Chambers from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM. The class will provide an opportunity to learn more about the new Rent Program and explore resources for tenants and landlords. Please RSVP if you plan to attend so that we may plan accordingly for the size of the group: [https://richmondrentworkshop.eventbrite.com](https://richmondrentworkshop.eventbrite.com)
Richmond Rent Program
Community Education

Richmond Fair Rent, Just Cause for Eviction, and Homeowner Protection Ordinance

January 18, 2017
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Richmond City Council Chambers
440 Civic Center Plaza

- Learn more about the Richmond Rent Program
- Explore resources for Tenants and Landlords
- RSVP: https://richmondrentworkshop.eventbrite.com

www.richmondrent.org

rent@ci.richmond.ca.us (510) 620-6576

Programa de Renta de la Ciudad de Richmond
Educación Comunitaria

Ordenanza de Renta Justa, Causa Justa para el Desalojo y Protección del Propietario

18 de enero, 2017
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Richmond City Council Chambers
440 Civic Center Plaza

- Más información sobre el Programa de Renta
- Explore los recursos para inquilinos y propietarios
- RSVP: https://richmondrentworkshop.eventbrite.com

www.richmondrent.org

rent@ci.richmond.ca.us (510) 620-6576
4. **Holiday Tree Disposal and Recycling Options**

Residents have several options to properly dispose of holiday trees. Please read the summary below or access the flyer for more information.

a) If you’ve not already used your allocated On-Call Curbside Clean-up(s), call Richmond Sanitary Service (RSS) Customer Service to arrange for no cost curbside pick-up at (510) 262-7100. Unscheduled pickups are subject to a $16.00 service fee by RSS.

b) On any of your regular green waste collection days, cut your unflocked, natural tree to fit in your yard waste cart. Trees must be 6 feet or less in diameter and cut to 3 feet in length. Cut off top and remove stand and all decorations. Artificial trees should be put into the trash bin.

With proof of residency (driver’s license or CA ID), RSS customers can take Christmas Trees to Golden Bear Transfer (1 Parr Blvd, Richmond Monday - Friday, 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM; Saturday - Sunday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM) through the first weekend in February at no cost for compostable trees; $8.50 disposal fee for non-compostable tree, or no proof of residency.

5. **Richmond’s Minimum Wage Ordinance Became Effective January 1, 2017**

The increase in the City of Richmond’s minimum wage went into effect on January 1, 2017. Effective on that date, the minimum wage as set forth in Richmond’s Minimum Wage Ordinance (RMC 7.108) is $12.30/hour (compared to $10.50/hour for the State of California effective 2017, and increasing from $11.52/hour which went into effect in Richmond on January 1, 2016). The Minimum Wage Ordinance applies to any employee who works two or more hours per week.

To advise the business community of this change, the Employment and Training staff posted notices announcing the increase on KCRT and the City’s website. Packets were mailed to over 1,000 businesses and to the Richmond Chamber of Commerce members to inform them of the change. The information packet includes versions of the official notice in various languages that must be posted in all
workplaces along with a list of employer and employee rights under the Ordinance. Employers who pay for less than 800 hours of employee labor in a given two week period need not pay the City’s minimum wage until they pay over 800 hours or more of employee labor in a two week period. This is the second of three annual increases that will max out at $13.00/hour on January 1, 2018.

For questions and concerns, please contact Gina Baker at (510) 307-8011.


Richmond homeowners can now qualify for a FREE home solar system funded by the City of Richmond and State of California. To be eligible, Richmond and North Richmond residents must live in their own home, and make less than 80% of area median income (income limits are included in the flyer below and at [www.richmondenvironment.org](http://www.richmondenvironment.org)).

The City’s partnership with GRID Alternatives has serviced over 190 homes in Richmond and provided millions of dollars in energy cost savings to the community. This new initiative will provide free solar to an additional 100 Richmond households, create more than $2.5 million in energy cost savings for local families, and prevent more than 5,700 tons of greenhouse gases over the systems' lifetimes. Qualifying homeowners are encouraged to attend the City of Richmond and GRID Alternatives’ sign-up event on Wednesday, January 25th, from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM in the Richmond Council Chambers at 440 Civic Center Plaza. Please RSVP at [http://www.gridsolar.org/Richmond/](http://www.gridsolar.org/Richmond/) or residents may also contact the City at (510) 621-1541.

To enroll at the workshop please bring copies of:

1) The latest tax return (two pages) for each member of the household;
2) One PG&E bill (all pages); and
3) Either a mortgage statement, insurance statement, property tax bill, or copy of the deed.

More information about the program can be found at [http://www.gridalternatives.org/](http://www.gridalternatives.org/).
FREE Solar
For Qualifying Richmond Homes

Sign-Up Workshop
Wednesday, January 25th, 2017
6:00pm - 7:30pm
City Council Chambers, 440 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA 94804

Richmond homeowners can now qualify for a FREE solar system funded by the City of Richmond and State of California. Program Requirements:

• You own and live in your Richmond/North Richmond home.
• Your 2015 household income is at or below the qualifying limit.

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<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>$93,200</td>
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</tbody>
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Please Bring Copies of:
• Latest tax return (first two pages) for each member of the household.
• One PG&E bill (all pages).
• Mortgage statement, insurance statement, property tax bill or copy of deed.

Apply now! Visit www.gridsolar.org/richmond
or call GRID at (510) 731-1333.
Residents may also contact the City at: (510) 621-1541
Help Us Update the 2016-2021 Five-Year Strategic Business Plan

The City of Richmond is currently updating its Five-Year Strategic Business Plan (http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/1785/Five-Year-Strategic-Business-Plan), with an outlook through the year 2021. The Strategic Business Plan was developed to help the City implement actions outlined in the General Plan 2030, as well as other priority issues that impact the quality of life for residents. We would be grateful to hear your ideas for projects/programs on which the City should focus during the next five years (2016-2021).
Please go to the City’s webpage, click on the Community Voice icon, and look under the “Economic Development Ideas” area to locate the question regarding the Strategic Business Plan (http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/CommunityVoice/Ideas?initiativeID=Economic-Development-Ideas-1). Suggestions collected by Monday, January 9, 2017 will be shared with the City Council for possible incorporation into the updated plan.
8. **Help the Community Services Department Better Serve You**

The Community Services Department (formerly Recreation Department) wants to hear from you! The department is currently conducting a survey regarding its programs and facilities. We want to know how we can better serve you and your family through recreational opportunities. Please find and share a copy of the survey here: Community Services Department Survey.

Thank you for taking a few minutes to provide your input by **Friday, January 13, 2017**. Your responses and identity will remain confidential. The compiled results will be shared with the Richmond community and will be a critical part of our service planning. If you have any questions, please contact Rochelle Monk, Community Services Director, at (510) 620-6511 or rochelle_monk@ci.richmond.ca.us.

9. **Community Services Department Department Holiday Food Drive**

The Community Services Department thanks all participants of last month’s Holiday Food Drive. From December 5th through December 20th, community members brought in canned food and other non-perishables to food drive barrels in 14 city facilities. With your help, we raised approximately **$5,258.75** in food donations to benefit and support the local *Bay Area Rescue Mission*!

*Eric Jacobsen of Bay Area Rescue Mission with just some of your donations.*
Additionally, we thank Point Richmond Music, Mom & Pop Art Shop, and Richmond Grocery Outlet (corner of Macdonald and San Pablo), whose generous donations sponsored the Crafts & Cocoa event to promote the Holiday Food Drive.

We look forward to making the Holiday Food Drive an annual event for our city to help provide meals to those in need!

10. **Drug Disposal Law Passed by Contra Costa County**

Drug makers will be required to establish drop-off centers to accept unwanted or expired medications, under an ordinance recently passed by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors. The bill requires drug makers to pay the full cost of establishing and operating a network of centers to take unwanted or unused pharmaceuticals. The goal is to have at least three drop-off sites in each of the five supervisorial districts in the county.

![Image of pills](image)

County staff members said the program will protect creeks and bays against contamination by illegal dumping of drugs into the environment, and reduce the risk of people overdosing on prescription drugs. The City of Richmond’s Department of Water Resource recovery and six other wastewater agencies in Contra Costa County supported the ordinance.

Richmond residents may dispose of expired and unneeded medications at the take-back bin located in the lobby of the Richmond Police Department. We will provide more details on additional disposal centers when the County provides the information.

11. **Construction Trades Event for Modernization Project**

The Employment and Training Department’s RichmondBUILD Academy and Chevron are hosting Trades Day II, in partnership with the Contra Costa Building and Construction Trades and other local partners. Trades Day II participants will receive information about temporary opportunities through third party contractors on the Richmond Refinery Modernization Project.
Interested in Contract Work on the Richmond Refinery Modernization Project?
We invite you to attend Trades Day II!

Chevron and RichmondBUILD Academy are hosting Trades Day II, in partnership with the Contra Costa Building and Construction Trades and other local partners, to share information about temporary opportunities through third party contractors on the Richmond Refinery Modernization Project.

Receive information about upcoming apprenticeship opportunities and educational and employment resources in construction and non-construction positions. Sign up for training at the RichmondBUILD Academy and receive additional resources with the goal of removing barriers to employment and broadening lifetime career path choices.

Please note the option to attend the morning or afternoon resource fair. Be prepared to stay the entire duration of the morning or afternoon resource fair and bring copies of your current resume. Veterans and women are encouraged to attend. Preference given to Richmond, North Richmond and San Pablo residents who reside in the following zip codes: 94801, 94803, 94804, 94805, 94806, 94808, 94809. Most jobs will require the ability to lift 30 or more pounds. The basic qualifications are in addition to other requirements for each position. Attending Trades Day II does not guarantee employment.

For questions or additional information, contact Akeele Carter, Local Hire Job Coordinator for the Richmond Refinery Modernization Project. Email: acarter@chevron.com or call 510-242-4018.

Date:
Wednesday, January 25, 2017

Time:
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Welcome/Arrival
Overview of Modernization Project and Employment Resources
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Morning Resource Fair
1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Welcome/Arrival
Overview of Modernization Project and Employment Resources
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Afternoon Resource Fair

Location:
The Bermuda Room
Richmond Memorial Civic Center
440 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA 94804

For more information, please e-mail: acarter@chevron.com or call 510-242-4018.

12. Richmond Public Library Displays their “GratitudeTree”

In November 2016, Richmond Public Library families and staff created a “Gratitude Tree” in the Main library Children’s Room. They cut out different colored leaves and people wrote what they are thankful for on the leaf. The leaves were then hung on
the branches of a paper tree on the wall of the Children’s Room. Every day more leaves appear on the Gratitude Tree!

13. Richmond Seeks Next Poet Laureate

The City of Richmond’s Arts & Culture Division is currently seeking applications for the next Richmond Poet Laureate. This position offers the unique opportunity of being able to interpret the challenging times we live in through original poetry, and allows the poet to gain exposure for his/her work. The position is a two-year term. The new application period will remain open until February 1, 2017. For the application and more information go to http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1507.

The Poet Laureate position provides a focus for the appreciation and dissemination of poetry in Richmond, promotes poetry among our youth, and acts as a spokesperson for the growing number of poets and writers in Richmond. The Poet Laureate will also work with the West Contra County Unified School District (WCCUSD) to bring poetry into the classrooms, and will coordinate poetry events in
the community. An anthology of poetry will be published at the end of each Poet Laureate term.

Previous Poets Laureate include Dwayne Parish, Donte Clark, Lincoln Bergman, and Brenda Quintanilla. A combined anthology of Clark, Bergman, and Quintanilla is available for $10 through the Arts & Culture Manager by contacting her at Michele_seville@ci.richmond.ca.us. An anthology of Dwayne Parish's work will be available in 2017.

Live poetry events were recently held at Kaleidoscope Café on December 10th, and at Richmond Progressive Alliance headquarters on December 15th. Both events featured over 30 poets, who read to overflow crowds at both locations – proving poetry is alive and well in Richmond.

14. **Apply to the Richmond Promise Scholarship by March 10!**

The Richmond Promise Scholarship is due on March 10th! *Please encourage the eligible high school seniors in your life to apply!*

To be eligible a student must:

- Be a Richmond or North Richmond resident (i.e. have a Richmond home address);
- Graduate from a public, private, or charter high school within the WCCUSD boundary area;
- Have attended a public, private, or charter high school within the WCCUSD boundary area since 9th grade.

Students must complete their FAFSA/Dream Act in order to complete the Richmond Promise application. The Richmond Promise Team will be hosting workshops to assist students and families complete their financial aid and Richmond Promise applications on the following dates from 3:00 – 7:00 PM at 450 Civic Center Plaza:

- March 1
- March 2
- March 7
- March 9
- March 10

The application can be found at [www.richmondpromise.org](http://www.richmondpromise.org).

Questions? Contact us at info@richmondpromise.org or 510-620-6531.
15. New Year, New Main Street Zumba Schedule!

Richmond Main Street is proud to once again offer Zumba classes in 2017. Long-time instructor, Willa Willis-Jacobs, will be back to guarantee that you have an excellent workout experience.
The new Main Street Zumba class schedule will begin Thursday, January 5th, with a 1-hour class taking place from 6:15 PM - 7:15 PM. Then, starting January 12th, the schedule will be extended to include an additional class from 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM.

Class fees are $5 - $8 per class. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. All classes will take place at the BBK Health & Wellness Center, 310 9th Street, Richmond, CA 94801 (9th Street @ Macdonald Avenue). For more information please visit www.RichmondMainStreet.org or call (510) 236-4049.

16. Information Technology

Website Statistics

For the week ending 01/06/2016
Facebook Statistics
Total Actions on Page are up 100%
Total Page Views are up 56%
Page Likes are up 67%
People reached are up 134%
Total Video Views are up 100%

Twitter Statistics
Tweet impressions increased by 27.6%

Followers are up
Top mention earned 3 engagements

Chris Treadway
@christsreadway · Jan 2
Stege Marsh in @CA_Richmond on New Year's day pic.twitter.com/9oxjvQMaP

Top media Tweet earned 119 impressions
NWS San Francisco Bay Area Weather Brief: Rain Returns Starting Tuesday. Widespread heavy rain and gusty winds likely Thursday. pic.twitter.com/dvrHkLLYtvL

KCRT DATANET OF THE WEEK:

CALL FOR POETS
The Poet Laureate also promotes the knowledge of poetry among our youth, and act as a spokesperson for the growing number of poets and writers in Richmond.

For more information call Michelle at 510-620-6952

CALL FOR POETS
The City of Richmond is seeking a New Poet Laureate for 2017-19.

The Poet Laureate program is to provide a focus for the appreciation and dissemination of poetry in Richmond.

Duties include visiting schools to promote poetry and/or attend city, library, and other public functions.
City of Richmond Mobile APP UPDATE

The City of Richmond’s mobile phone app is available on the Apple App store and Google Play store.

![Image of City of Richmond mobile app]

QR Codes are available for easy downloading of this APP:
- Apple version of APP
- Android version of APP

This City of Richmond mobile app provides Richmond’s community members with one-stop access to City services and information via mobile devices. The app allows quick and real-time reporting of neighborhood-related issues; viewing the City’s Events Calendar; finding addresses and phone numbers of local businesses, city departments and council members. Locating one of Richmond’s numerous parks, and welcoming libraries and community centers, including reserving rental space for that special occasion are all done with ease!

You may view the City’s mobile app on YouTube: [https://youtu.be/i4W1wVvB9fw](https://youtu.be/i4W1wVvB9fw)

The City of Richmond is looking forward to feedback from the community on this upgraded Mobile App. We welcome your comments at [webservices@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:webservices@ci.richmond.ca.us)
Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments about these or any other items of interest to you.

Bill Lindsay  
City Manager  
City of Richmond  
450 Civic Center Plaza  
Richmond, California 94804  
(510) 620-6512  
Bill_lindsay@ci.richmond.ca.us

You can sign up to receive the City Manager’s weekly report and other information from the City of Richmond by visiting: www.ci.richmond.ca.us/list.aspx