For Immediate Release
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Mayor Presents 2018 State of the City Address

RICHMOND, Calif., Mayor Tom Butt presented the annual State of the City address at the Tuesday night’s city council meeting; his fourth presentation since taking office in January of 2015. The presentation was delivered with a 100 page slideshow which covered a wide range of topics, updates, announcements and highlights. This year’s address was notably the most positive and optimistic report yet due in part to the wide ranging improvements made in 2017.

In order of appearance, some highlights of the presentation include:

- City finances – best shape in decades with a stable outlook
- Record low unemployment – 3.6%
- Rents stable; home values up
- Ferry service starting this fall
- Hilltop Mall being renovated
- Mayor’s branding and marketing initiative completed
- Second lowest homicide rate in over 30 years
  - 37% reduction from 2016
  - zero homicides in 2018
- Richmond Promise awarded 361 scholarship worth $2.2 million
- Street maintenance funding is increasing
- 10.5 MW Solar One project completed and on line
- Richmond icon – Ryan Coogler named Person of the Year

Speaking on data gathered in the 2017 Community Survey, Mayor Butt noted: “Over the last ten years, residents have repeatedly rated Richmond ever higher as being a better place to live, retire, and raise children. Overall quality of life, appearance and the image of Richmond have also improved dramatically according to responses from the city’s bi-annual community survey.”

The presentation also offered an in-depth review of Richmond’s housing and development activity including rents, home prices and new residential and commercial developments. “Richmond still has the cheapest rents in the inner Bay Area. With a median rent of $2,485/month, that means half are even less,” said Mayor Butt. At the same time he noted that “Like the entire Bay Area, median rents are still above the 30% of income affordability rule of thumb.”

Additionally the mayor shared a strong list of achievements in the area of renewable energy and sustainability. The mayor showcased that on roof tops and around neighborhoods hundreds of income-qualifying households installed solar panels and over 500 trees were planted along sidewalks and in public parks. Speaking on the City’s program, a partnership with GRID Alternatives, the mayor stated
that the solar installations “will provide a total of $7.85 million in energy cost savings for Richmond families and eliminate over 19,000 tons of harmful Greenhouse Gas emissions, the equivalent to taking 3,660 cars off the road for 1 year, or planting 445,000 trees.”

The mayor ended the presentation by presenting his 2017 progress report based on his predictions from January of last year, and offered a new wish list along with his top 10 challenges for 2018.

Copies of the presentation and a video recording can be found at the following links:

- Link to presentation document: http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/45899
- Link to presentation with notes: http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/45903
- Link to video recording of council meeting: (presentation begins at 20:45) http://richmond.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2

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