

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, March 24, 2020

The Richmond City Council Meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. by Mayor Thomas K. Butt via teleconference

ALL CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PARTICIPATED VIA TELECONFERENCE

On March 16, 2020, the Health Officer of Contra Costa County issued an Order through April 7, 2020, that directed that all individuals living in the County to shelter at their place of residence except that they may leave to provide or receive certain essential services or engage in certain essential activities and work for essential businesses and governmental services.

On March 17, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20, authorizing legislative bodies to hold public meetings via teleconferencing. Executive Order N-29-20 further provided that a legislative body that held a meeting via teleconference and allowed members of the public to observe and address the meeting telephonically or otherwise electronically, consistent with notice and accessibility requirements as set forth in the Order, shall have satisfied any requirement that the body allow members of the public to attend the meeting and offer public comment. Such a body need not make available any physical location from which members of the public may observe the meeting and offer public comment.

DUE TO THE SHELTER IN PLACE ORDER AND GOVERNOR NEWSOM'S EXECUTIVE ORDER, WE ARE REVISING THE AGENDA TO INCLUDE ONLY URGENT, TIME SENSITIVE, AND/OR ROUTINE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS. Additionally, attendance at the meeting will be limited to Council members, City of Richmond staff, and members of the news media. Public comment will be confined to items appearing on the agenda and will be limited to written communication as provided below. Consistent with Executive Order N-29-20, this meeting will utilize teleconferencing only.

Written comments received by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, 2020, were provided to the City Council via e-mail, considered a public record, put into the record, and considered before Council action. Comments were submitted via email to cityclerkdept@ci.richmond.ca.us.

ROLL CALL

All Council Members participated via teleconference.
Present: Councilmembers Ben Choi, Jael Myrick, Demnlus Johnson III, Eduardo Martinez, Melvin Willis, and Mayor Thomas K. Butt. **Absent:** Vice Mayor Bates arrived during the report from the city manager.

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

AGENDA REVIEW

Item G-5 was continued to the April 7, 2020, City Council Meeting.

REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Laura Snideman reported regarding the City's Covid-19 situation and response, which highlighted the following: the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) remains active; fire inspectors and code enforcement staff educated the community and businesses regarding Contra Costa County's Health Order that required the shelter-in-place; City's website and public service announcements were enhanced to better inform the public regarding the pandemic.

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The following comments were submitted by the following individuals via e-mail:

Michael Vasilas, Christina Redse, Gloria Scoggins, and Peter Pan gave comments in support of a moratorium on evictions and for rental and mortgage assistance for residents.

Stan Niedzwiedz, Leisa Johnson, and Ilona Clark gave comments in support of suspension of rent board fees and business license fees for landlords that applied to both residential and commercial tenants.

Tarnel Abbott requested that the City deploy portable toilets and hand washing stations for the homeless. Ms. Abbott also stated that City librarians could perform essential services to the public remotely.

Cordell Hindler stated that he met with a teacher at Salesian College Preparatory to recruit students to apply for the Youth Council. Mr. Hindler also stated that he recommended the firm Koff & Associates to assist with the pay differential matter.

CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Councilmember Myrick, seconded by Councilmember Choi, the items marked with an (*) were approved by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

***G-1.** Proclamation declaring March 2020 as Red Cross Month in the City of Richmond. Briana Taylor gave comments.

***G-2.** Proclamation declaring April 2020 as Alcohol Awareness Month in the City of Richmond. Joan Binalinbing and Jacquelyne Vera gave comments.

***G-3.** Proclamation declaring April, 2020 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the City of Richmond.

***G-4.** Received a report on the recent resignation from City of Richmond boards, commissions, and committees, and vacancies as of March 18, 2020, and encourage interested individuals send applications to the City Clerk.

G-5. CONTINUED to the April 7, 2020, City Council meeting, regarding an update regarding the steps taken to address differentials, and on the development on a new policy outlining the City's proposed process for approving non-contractual differentials.

*G-6. Received a report from the City Manager regarding the status of strategic plan priorities adopted by the City Council on March 26, 2019.

*G-7. Adopted **Resolution No. 26-20**, amending Fiscal Year 2019/20 to include the West County Agency adopted budget amount of \$400,000 for the joint use operation, maintenance and capital expenses between the West County Wastewater District and the Richmond Municipal Sewer District.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS: REFERRALS TO STAFF, AND GENERAL REPORTS (INCLUDING AB 1234 REPORTS)

Mayor Butt thanked the City Manager and staff for managing and dealing with the difficult COVID-19 situation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m., to meet again on Tuesday, April 7, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor

Sabrina Lundy

From: Michael Vasilas <mvasilas@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 1:32 PM
To: Demnius Johnson; Nat Bates; Jael Myrick; Melvin Willis; TomButt4Mayor@intres.com; Eduardo Martinez; Ben Choi
Cc: City Clerk Dept; City Attorney's Office; Laura Snideman
Subject: URGENT: Agenda Item request for Mar 24th City Council Meeting-Emergency Order Prohibiting Evictions & Protection of Housing Providers
Attachments: COVID-19%20Fact%20Sheet_202003181702076335.pdf

Dear Honorable Richmond City Council Members,

The COVID-19 pandemic has quickly forced our City, State, and Nation into uncertain times. As a means to thwart the spread of the virus, much of our local economy has essentially been shut down. This has, and will continue to have, an immense economic impact on much of our community, especially those most financially vulnerable. In response to our crisis, Governor Gavin Newsom has declared a state of emergency and has signed Executive Order N-28-20

On March 17th, the Richmond City Manager, as Director of Emergency Services, enacted an emergency order prohibiting evictions in response to Executive Order N-28-20 (links below). However, this order in no way addresses the direct financial impact on housing providers. We urge the City Council to address this immediately by taking charge of the process, from tenant hardship evaluation to housing assistance allocations.

<http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/52484/20-20-reso-temporary-moratorium-on-evictions-for-non-payment---COVID-19---Issued-3-17-2020>

<http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/list.aspx?MID=2454>

The Richmond Rent Program has interpreted this Order as per the attached pdf.

Richmond's City Manager is granted certain powers under Richmond Municipal Code 2.20 which includes the following clause:

- (a) Make and issue rules and regulations on matters reasonably related to the **protection of life and property** as affected by such emergency; provided, however, such rules and regulations must be confirmed at the earliest practicable time by the City Council

While we fully support the policies being put in place to protect the well-being of Tenants, there are significant and direct ramifications of Order 20-20 to Property Owners that have not been addressed under this Order. Shy of these protections:

1) **Richmond Property Owners are being asked to provide an interest-free loan to their tenants for a minimum of 9 months** (March through Nov 30, 2020); this could be extended if the governor decides to extend executive order N-28-20. Very few if any Property Owners can serve as a bank for 9 plus months.

2) **Many Property Owners require the tenant's rent payment to meet their own mortgage payment on said property** and perhaps additional basic necessities. Without protections for these Property Owners, they will at a minimum incur late fees, suffer a negative impact to their credit rating, and could lose their properties through default and/or foreclosure.

3) This problem is exacerbated several-fold for multi-unit Property Owners.

4) State Executive Order 28-20 refers to working with financial institutions to develop "tools" that can mitigate default, foreclosure, and associated property owner hardship. However, this language is not defined, ordered, nor guaranteed. Evictions will be immediately frozen, as will loss of rental income, but relief for Property Owners is only theoretical at this time.

In order to effectively provide protections for both Tenants and the Owners of the properties in which they reside, the City must:

- 1) **administer the Tenant qualification process for COVID-19 financial impact, and**
- 2) **provide temporary financial relief for either the Property Owner or Tenant in those cases for which proof of financial hardship has been demonstrated.**

Current Issues with Richmond's Resolution No. 20-20

1) Resolution No. 20-20 does not explicitly state how long the "temporary" moratorium is in effect. Is it through "May 31, 2020, unless extended" as per the governor's Order N-28-20?

2) How do Tenants prove financial impacts related to COVID-19?

Per Resolution No. 20-20: 1) (b)

"A landlord knows of a tenant's inability to pay rent within the meaning of this Order if the tenant, within 30 days after the date that rent is due, notifies the landlord in writing of lost income and inability to pay full rent due to financial impacts related to COVID-19, and **provides documentation to support the claim.**"

- There are no definitions provided in this Resolution regarding what constitutes **acceptable documentation.**
- How does a Landlord/Property Owner know if the Tenant actually meets one or more of the 5 defined "financial impacts related to COVID-19"?

Proposed Solutions:

- Tenant should be required to provide "acceptable" documentation – as defined by the City Manager and/or City Council to the City proving why they can't pay their rent as a result of Covid-19.
- Only once this has been reviewed and approved, the City notifies the Property Owner.

3) Lack of equal protection for Property Owners

Per Resolution No. 20-20: 1) (a)

“Nothing in this Order shall relieve the tenant of liability for the unpaid rent, which the landlord may seek after expiration of the local emergency and the tenant must pay within **six months of the expiration of the local emergency**. A landlord may not charge or collect a late fee for rent that is delayed for the reasons stated in this Order; nor may a landlord seek rent that is delayed for the reasons stated in this Order through the eviction process.”

- If a Landlord/Property Owner requires rental income from the property to make that property’s mortgage payment, how are they protected?
- Tenants incur no fines for late rent. Who covers the Property Owner's late fees for missed mortgage payments?
- How is the Property Owner protected from losing their property?

Proposed Solutions:

- **Until State and/or Federal government funding is acquired, utilize reserve funds (provided by Richmond Landlords/Property Owners rent program fees) in Richmond Rent Program as well as City funds as a loan for Tenants meeting COVID-19-related financial impacts** to continue paying their rent or at least a defined % of it.
- City should support all Richmond Residents and Taxpayers and immediately reach out to State and Federal representatives and senators to seek equal protections for Property Owners of impacted Tenants.
- City should manage all loans provided by State and/or Federal funding to support Order protecting all eligible Tenants and their Property Owners.
- If the Federal gov’t ultimately provides one or two stimulus payments, there should be a requirement to use a certain % of that towards rent and mortgage payments within 5 days of receipt of stimulus payment.

Our City is going through troubling times, and it is more important than ever that our City Council makes decisions that take into account the health and economic stability of all our residents and service providers. We strongly advise the Council to make necessary amendments to Order 20-20 that provide needed protections for Property Owners and Housing Providers to prevent an even deeper systemic crisis in our community.

Due to the urgency of this matter we are requesting this item be added to the March 24th City Council Agenda as Order 20-20 must be approved by the City Council per Richmond Municipal Code

Sincerely,

Michael Vasilas
Founder
The Association of United Richmond Housing Providers

Sabrina Lundy

From: Christina <credse@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2020 10:53 AM
To: Demnlus Johnson; Nat Bates; Melvin Willis; Eduardo Martinez; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Tom Butt - external
Cc: City Clerk Dept; City Attorney's Office; Laura Snideman; Michael Vasilas
Subject: COVID-19 & housing

Dear Mayor Butt and Members of the Richmond City Council:

As we know, COVID-19 has created great uncertainty for everyone. While we're all doing our best to 'flatten the curve', we are counting on our city's elected officials to provide leadership in this time of crisis. We need our city administrators to help coordinate essential aid for all our residents, sheltered and unsheltered. We also need the city to figure out how to streamline and prioritize necessary assistance to residents who will be unable to pay their bills due to COVID-19-related loss of income. This includes renters, homeowners, housing providers and other small business owners.

We are in a declared state of emergency and we need to protect housing and other vital services for our residents. But how do we implement this? It would be optimal if the city could help coordinate necessary rental and mortgage assistance directly to residents. We need our city council to weigh in on important planning decisions, and to help coordinate access to county, state, federal and private funding resources. We also need our city to partner with our local essential service providers to make sure they don't go under.

Case in point: The Governor and the Richmond City Manager have issued emergency orders that if COVID-19-related hardships result in diminished or no rent payments, that can't be grounds for eviction. The spirit of this completely makes sense. However we need the city to be in partnership with both tenants and housing providers to help make it all work. Otherwise we risk a domino effect of hardship and loss. Instead of leaving each separate housing provider on the hook to figure out how to handle this, we need the city to create a process for coordinating timely rental assistance. Without this, housing providers will each have to figure out how to determine need, how and when to collect lost rents (if that will even be possible), and how to pay the mortgage, insurance, utility bills and other expenses without income. At best, this process will be onerous and haphazard. More likely, it will result in foreclosures and housing loss. Without city guidance and support, residents are being put in a very precarious situation.

Much of Richmond's rental housing is provided by mom-and-pops. If tenants are not able to pay rent, many resident housing providers might need the city's support to stay afloat. This could either be in direct rental assistance to tenants or through other hardship interventions. In Berkeley, for example, in conjunction with their urgency ordinance around tenant evictions, the Berkeley city council voted to allocate additional funding for emergency rental assistance and emergency housing. They also provided \$3M for COVID-19 hardship aid to renters, small businesses, and arts organizations. The city is working in tandem with stakeholders to develop criteria for funds allocation. While the amount is just a stopgap, these actions demonstrate Berkeley's understanding that the city plays a vital leadership and partnership role in implementing support for its residents.

Please put this critical housing issue on the council's agenda as soon as possible. We need the Richmond City Council to provide careful consideration on how best to implement the city manager's recent emergency

order 20-20. Please invite all stakeholders to work together to stabilize housing for as many residents as possible. Please leverage the good will Richmond residents have for each other by providing thoughtful coordination and protocols for navigating us through this.

Thank you for your service to our city. Stay well.

Sincerely,

Christina Redse
Richmond resident & AURHP member

Sabrina Lundy

From: Gloria Scoggins <glscogg@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 3:24 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment- Richmond's Emergency Eviction Control Order 20-20

City Council Members,

Please facilitate the process for COVID 19 financial duress petitions and evaluate closely whether the City Manager's order creates extreme vulnerability for housing providers.

This health crisis is unprecedented, and difficult for anyone to predict ultimate outcomes within Richmond's communities and the housing business.

Please do not allow the Rent Control Department to navigate through this challenging time without City Council and community input. Emergency Eviction Control Order 20-20 clearly specifies protections will be put in place to prevent financial hardship and potential displacement for tenants due to COVID-19.

This crisis is going to require a multi-faceted approach and not a quick fix while navigating uncertainty, and possibly creating extreme vulnerability for housing providers.

Thanks for providing an opportunity for the public to submit emails for consideration regarding this matter. Please consider amendments to the City Managers order, including language to ensure homeowners and housing providers have equal protection and support during this uncertain time.

This is going to be a very difficult time for everyone.

Gloria Scoggins

Sabrina Lundy

From: Stan Niedzwiedz <niedz5@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 3:32 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: emergency order 20 20

My name is Stan Niedzwiedz and I am small housing provider in Richmond. Currently I and my wife are retired and rental income is sole income for us.

Our hearts go out to all tenants who suffered from the virus, including sickness, loss of income or job loss.

In my particular case, I just received call from a great family who rent our house. All 3 of them worked for Marriott and all have been furloughed.

They were concerned about not being able to pay the rent on time. I assured them they won't lose the roof over their head. I know they are honest, hard working family and I trust them.

I don't know if I'll receive more calls like that. We, as small housing providers are not immune to this disaster either.

I urge council members to adopt simple procedures of verifications of tenants need for deferred rent under order 20 20. If all tenants claim this hardship just by stating so, and if this situation is prolonged, it will lead to many small owners going out of business. We have bills to pay, State and City should step up to help. I suggest immediate suspension of rent board fees and business licenses for affected landlords.

I.e property taxes are due in the next few days, and the rents won't be coming.

Sewer increases are proposed too, and it took rent board 3 years to approve first "fair return" application.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Rosmarie Levy <rosmarielevy@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 9:41 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Richmond Resolution No 20-20

Dear Honorable Richmond City Council Members:

Covid-19 is here and is affecting everyone, regardless of, race, gender, and religious beliefs. We are all in it and we all need to work together in a fair and equitable way to help each other stay afloat during this difficult period. That is the correct thing to do.

However, the action that the Richmond City Manager took on March 17th falls short of being equitable or fair. While it does address the needs of tenants, it completely ignores the needs of building owners -- the housing providers who are saddled with a myriad of financial obligations, including mortgage payments, City and Rent Board fees, and property taxes, not to mention repair and maintenance costs.

We urge you to act responsibly and equitably as representatives of ALL residents and tax payers, and include language in consideration of the owners needs who under the current proposed Order has been entirely ignored.

In order to effectively shield tenants from potential evictions, consideration must be given to the financial obligations of the housing providers, particularly in cases where mortgages are high and where rents have been arbitrarily frozen at ridiculously low levels by the Richmond Rent Board.

Sincerely,
Ephraim & Rosmarie Levy

Sabrina Lundy

From: TARNEL ABBOTT <tarnelabbott@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 9:08 AM
To: City Clerk Dept; irene.perdomo@ci.richmond.ca.us; Laura Snideman
Subject: Open forum City Council 3/24/20

3/24/20

To: Richmond City Council, Richmond City Manager Laura Snideman

City Council Meeting March 24, 2020

Agenda Item: Open Forum:
I am a Richmond Resident

1. **Health and Safety** I urge you to *immediately* deploy portable toilets and hand washing stations to locations where homeless people gather until such time as the State has mobilized housing. These should be located at Civic Center parking lots and in vicinity of GRIP, Catholic Charities, the Richmond Rescue Mission, intersections of Greenway/streets..
2. **Library Essential Services:** here remains a digital divide in our community and in an age of misinformation and fear there has never been more need for library services. Please mobilize any Librarians who are able/willing to work to perform these essential services to the public while working safely and/or remotely:

Telephone Reference: Librarians are trained to help people find accurate information, direct people to resources, provide reader's advisory in all media (e books for example) etc. Librarians can help calm and educate children, youth (and everyone else!) through recorded read a-louds and story times which could be broadcast on KCRT or via recoded telephone ("dial a story)" services. There are many other tasks that can and should be done during closure.

Thank you,

Tarnel Abbott, Librarian
MLIS, (Masters degree Library & Information Studies) UC Berkeley,
30 years of service, 22 years at Richmond Public Library,

Sabrina Lundy

From: Leisa Johnson <leisa_johnson@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 11:20 AM
To: City Clerk Dept; Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Demnlus Johnson; Eduardo Martinez; Jael Myrick; Melvin Willis; Ben Choi
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Attorney's Office; City Attorney's Office
Subject: March 24th City Council Meeting, Open Forum Comment Re: Resolution #20-20
Attachments: 2020-03-17 Special Item 03 Berkeley COVID-19 Relief Fund.pdf; Item 2 Rev Arreguin.pdf

Dear City Clerk — Can you please include this letter and attachments as part of the official record for tonight's City Council meeting?

Dear Mayor Butt and City Councilmembers,

In this unprecedented moment, we are relying on our City's elected officials to provide effective leadership. We need all of you to work closely with our State and Federal representatives as well as our City Manager, department heads, and key stakeholders to figure out how best to support **all of our vulnerable populations**, including renters, home/property owners, small business owners, and landlords (residential & commercial).

Moreover, it is imperative that the **City be responsible for administrating any such relief mechanisms.**

In response to the Governor's Executive Order N-28-20, our City Manager, who is not an elected representative, had the authority to **issue** Resolution #20-20. Unfortunately, this appears to have occurred without any review or input from our Elected Representatives, Key Stakeholders, and the Public.

Moreover, it is unclear if the Richmond Rent Program — a group which has no elected representation and does not even report into the City Manager or City Council — is involved in any way in overseeing it.

Additionally, Resolution #20-20 has clearly been influenced by some person/organization outside of the City of Richmond as much of its language emulates Berkeley's initial draft Urgency Ordinance.

However, unlike Richmond, Berkeley's City Council convened last Tuesday, March 17th, and carefully reviewed and revised their initial draft Urgency Ordinance. In case you are not familiar with their actions, I have attached the relevant documents here for your review.

Berkeley crafted a much more thoughtful & effective Ordinance that:

1. Clarifies that **protections apply to both residential and commercial tenants.**
2. Recognizes that **landlords** who don't receive rent from their tenants may not be able to make their mortgage payments and risk losing rental their property; as such they, too, **are provided protection by allowing them to request a waiver based on hardship.**
3. Berkeley does ***not*** force landlords to be an interest-free lender for up to nine (9) months like Richmond is doing.
 - o Richmond's Resolution #20-20 exempts qualified renters from paying any rent until 6 months after the expiration of the local emergency. That means no rental income from Mar 17 - Nov 30, 2020. And the Governor can extend this, as warranted.

4. Permits the City Manager to develop implementing regulations and the City of Berkeley is developing standards/forms for both tenant qualifications and landlord waiver requests (please see attachment).
 - o **The onerous job of administrating this relief should not fall on landlords, as currently is the case with Richmond Resolution #20-20.**

As per Richmond's Resolution # 20-20

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Laura Snideman, the Director of Emergency Services for the City of Richmond, do hereby issue the following order to become effective immediately, **subject to ratification as soon as practicable by the City Council:***

1) (f):

This Order shall be superseded by a duly enacted Ordinance of the City Council or a further Order by the Director of Emergency Services adopted during the local emergency that expressly superseding this Order.

Based on the above language, it is clear that **Richmond's City Council needs to ratify this order *and* fully has the ability to enact a more thoughtful and effective ordinance** that doesn't discriminate against landlords and looks out for all vulnerable residents in our community, tenants and landlords alike.

As per the 2nd attachment, Berkeley also directed their City Manager to consider creating a tax-exempt special fund of up to \$3M dollars to provide gap resources, to be matched with grants or philanthropic donations, to provide gap assistance to renters, small businesses and arts organizations.

As per AURHP's letter last week (to the Mayor, City Council, City Manager, City Attorney, and City Clerk), we proposed some additional solutions for consideration, including:

- asking the City Council to send a letter to our state & federal representatives and senators and ask for their assistance to address the financial hardships of **all** vulnerable residents, including landlords;
- applying a defined % of any potential stimulus payment from the federal gov't towards rent within a defined time period upon receipt.

As per Richmond Municipal Code 2.20:

(a) Make and issue rules and regulations on matters reasonably related to the **protection of life and property** as affected by such emergency; provided, however, such rules and regulations must be confirmed at the earliest practicable time by the City Council

As per our own RMC, rules and regulations issued in response to an emergency should consider the protection of **both life and property**.

Despite several attempts last week by Richmond residents respectfully asking for Resolution #20-20 to be placed on tonight's agenda, that did not happen. I'm at a loss as to how, as elected leaders, you can dismiss the Public's legitimate concerns and not do everything in your power to 1) publicly address their concerns, and 2) ensure that vulnerable residents are fairly and equally represented in this critical time.

Moreover, I hope that going forward, the City will implement the value lessons learned from how Resolution #20-20 was: a) drafted (from who provided input, who didn't and why); b) reviewed (or lack thereof) by Elected Representatives, Key Stakeholders, and the Public; and c) administered.

Respectfully,
Leisa

Sabrina Lundy

From: Ilona Clark <in70clark@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 2:37 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Fwd: COVIC-19 and economic impacts on housing in Richmond

Esteemed Richmond City Council members,

I have recently read Order 20-20 and am writing to you with my input. I admire the Council's efforts to soften the effects of the current situation on Richmond's residents. I have some questions and issues with the order that I'm hoping you will address.

The order says a renter needs to demonstrate inability to pay rent due to COVID-19. **A list of acceptable documents should be made available to give guidance to community members.**

Medical documents - While we may accept medical information from renters, I do not believe we can ask for them or say that we accept them in a way that might be construed as coercive. Medical privacy laws must be considered. Medical documents must be requested or required by the City

If this crisis continues for more than a few months, many housing providers will be hurting. As you know, most Richmond housing providers are small-timers, and many of us live in our rentals. Many of us are not much better off than our own renters. If we are unable to collect rent, we must have agreements with our banks who will confer similar forbearance to us on mortgage payments.

Interest rates. Since non-paid rents are considered loans per Order 20-20, can interest be applied? if so how much and when? If not, will Richmond refrain from charging interest on late property tax payments and can we expect banks to do the same for late mortgage payments?

Actions you can take:

- Until State and/or Federal government funding is acquired, utilize reserve funds (provided by Richmond Landlords/Property Owners rent program fees) in Richmond Rent Program as well as City funds as a loan for Tenants who document meeting COVID-19-related financial impacts to continue paying their rent. The rent program has a reserve fund with a balance of over \$300,000 according to the latest packet page 38. What are such reserve for if not to help our community through crises such as the present one?
- Richmond should delay property tax payments without penalty as we are expected to accept delays in rent payments without penalty.
- City should support all Richmond residents and taxpayers and immediately reach out to state and federal representatives and senators to seek equal protections for Property Owners of impacted Tenants.
- City should manage (keep record of, if not directly administer) all loans provided by state and/or federal funding to support Order 20-20, protecting all eligible tenants and their housing providers.
- If the federal government ultimately provides one or two stimulus payments, there should be a requirement to use a certain percentage of that towards rent and mortgage payments owed, within 5(?) days of receipt of stimulus payment.

Richmond City Council makes decisions that affect the health and economic stability of all our residents and service providers. We strongly advise the Council to make necessary amendments to Order 20-20 to protect both tenant **and** housing providers. Regulations that are not thought out or poorly implemented are very likely to cause an even deeper systemic crisis in our community.

With my personal best wishes for each of your continued good health,

Ilona Clark, Association of United Richmond Housing Providers

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A mistake that makes you humble is better than an achievement that makes you arrogant

Sabrina Lundy

From: Peter P <peter94706@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 2:45 PM
To: aurhpinfo+owners@googlegroups.com
Cc: Jasuara Castaneda; City Clerk Dept; AURHP
Subject: Re: COVID-19 & housing

Government welfare has a mean test, why not the same for tenants affected by CV19 and can not afford rent?

Peter Pan
Real Estate Broker
Tel: 510-599-8887
Email: peter94706@gmail.com
DRE LICENSE # 01020033,
WE APPRECIATE YOUR REFERRALS!

On Tue, Mar 24, 2020 at 1:13 PM Christina <credse@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear City Clerk: Will you please include the following letter as part of the official record for tonight's City Council meeting? Thank you very much, Christina Redse

Dear Mayor Butt and Members of the Richmond City Council:

As we know, COVID-19 has created great uncertainty for everyone. While we're all doing our best to 'flatten the curve', we are counting on our city's elected officials to provide leadership in this time of crisis. We need our city administrators to help coordinate essential aid for all our residents, sheltered and unsheltered. We also need the city to figure out how to streamline and prioritize necessary assistance to residents who will be unable to pay their bills due to COVID-19-related loss of income. This includes renters, homeowners, housing providers and other small business owners.

We are in a declared state of emergency and we need to protect housing and other vital services for our residents. But how do we implement this? It would be optimal if the city could help coordinate necessary rental and mortgage assistance directly to residents. We need our city council to weigh in on important planning decisions, and to help coordinate access to county, state, federal and private funding resources. We also need our city to partner with our local essential service providers to make sure they don't go under.

Case in point: The Governor and the Richmond City Manager have issued emergency orders that if COVID-19-related hardships result in diminished or no rent payments, that can't be grounds for eviction. The spirit of this completely makes sense. However we need the city to be in partnership with both tenants and housing providers to help make it all work. Otherwise we risk a domino effect of hardship and loss. Instead of leaving each separate housing provider on the hook to figure out how to handle this, we need the city to create a process for coordinating timely rental assistance. Without this, housing providers will each have to figure out how to determine need, how and when to collect lost rents (if that will even be possible), and how to pay the

mortgage, insurance, utility bills and other expenses without income. At best, this process will be onerous and haphazard. More likely, it will result in foreclosures and housing loss. Without city guidance and support, residents are being put in a very precarious situation.

Much of Richmond's rental housing is provided by mom-and-pops. If tenants are not able to pay rent, many resident housing providers might need the city's support to stay afloat. This could either be in direct rental assistance to tenants or through other hardship interventions. In Berkeley, for example, in conjunction with their urgency ordinance around tenant evictions, the Berkeley city council voted to allocate additional funding for emergency rental assistance and emergency housing. They also provided \$3M for COVID-19 hardship aid to renters, small businesses, and arts organizations. The city is working in tandem with stakeholders to develop criteria for funds allocation. While the amount is just a stopgap, these actions demonstrate Berkeley's understanding that the city plays a vital leadership and partnership role in implementing support for its residents.

Please put this critical housing issue on the council's agenda as soon as possible. We need the Richmond City Council to provide careful consideration on how best to implement the city manager's recent emergency order 20-20. Please invite all stakeholders to work together to stabilize housing for as many residents as possible. Please leverage the good will Richmond residents have for each other by providing thoughtful coordination and protocols for navigating us through this.

Thank you for your service to our city. Stay well.

Sincerely,

Christina Redse
Richmond resident & AURHP member

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "AURHP" group.
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To view this discussion on the web visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/aurhpinfo/7BDF7D87-36F2-4FDE-97B8-E287444312BB%40gmail.com>.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Taylor, Briana <briana.taylor2@redcross.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 2:02 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Cc: Genevieve Pastor-Cohen
Subject: City Council Consent Item G1 - Written Comments for 3/24/20 City Council Meeting
Attachments: Richmon Proclamation Talking Points.docx

City Council Consent Item G1

I have attached public comments for tonight's city council meeting. Please share these comments with your Council members and the community. Thank you for honoring the Red Cross. I look forward to seeing you again when we are done with this pandemic.

Respectfully,

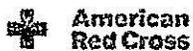
Briana

Briana Taylor | Volunteer | Board Member
American Red Cross Northern California Coastal Region
Regional Disaster Chair
Emergency Management Regional Program Lead
Contra Costa County Leadership Council Co-Chair
(925) 360-3460 | E-mail: briana.taylor2@redcross.org



**Healthy blood
donors needed now!**

Schedule at RedCrossBlood.org





To: The Richmond City Council

Date: March 24, 2020

From: Briana Taylor, Co-chair of the Contra Costa County Red Cross Leadership Council

RE: Proclamation Declaring March as Red Cross Month

City Council Consent Item G1

Mayor, City Council Members and Richmond residents,

Thank you for the opportunity to say a few words even though we are not in front of you. What a difference a year makes when so many of us were at the council meeting last year to receive this proclamation! Your continued support of the American Red Cross and our volunteers, many who are part of this community is so important.

The American Red Cross is supporting our government partners and communities during COVID 19. Responding to this crisis is a team effort. We all know that house fires and disasters won't stop during the COVID-19 pandemic, which means our humanitarian mission is as important now as ever.

Last year we responded to 34 home fires right here in Richmond. We held a special Sound the Alarm event in Parchester Village installing 191 free 10-year smoke alarms in 53 homes and helping residents create fire escape plans. During this pandemic we continue to provide emergency help to our community affected by home fires.

But the most important message I want to share with the community tonight is the urgent need for blood donations. As of March 23, about 7,000 Red Cross blood drives have been canceled across the country due to coronavirus concerns, resulting in more than 200,000 fewer blood donations. We need healthy individuals to schedule an appointment to give blood in the days and weeks ahead to help patients counting on lifesaving blood throughout this pandemic.

We understand that people have concerns right now about all aspects of public health but want to stress that donating blood is a safe process and people should not hesitate to give. Giving blood is considered an essential community service. As part of our nation's critical infrastructure, healthy individuals can still donate in areas that have issued shelter in place declarations. Red Cross is implementing the have highest standards of safety and infection control. We are also spacing beds, to follow social



Page 2

distancing practices between blood donors and are staggering donor appointments further apart to reduce the number of people at our centers at any one time.

As a community, this is a time where we must take care of one another including those most vulnerable among us. If you are healthy and feeling well, please make an appointment to donate this week by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org) or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Thank you! Our community is depending on all of us.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Joan Binalinbing <jbinalinbing@bacr.org>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 2:41 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment - Alcohol Awareness Month Proclamation (Item 6-2)

Hello,

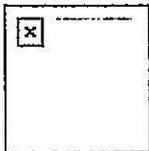
Below is what I'd like to submit for public comment:

As a coordinator for an alcohol and prevention awareness program for youth, I am happy to see local officials acknowledge the importance that alcohol can have on the community, especially its youth. With the declaration of April as Alcohol Awareness month, I hope it brings more attention to how embedded the influence of alcohol availability can be within one's life. I hope this can also bring attention to the importance of local control when it comes to alcohol availability/retail. In fact, my youth and I have been working on a resolution we hope the council has a chance to consider passing in accordance with Alcohol Awareness month! As someone who not only works with alcohol prevention and awareness, but has also been a Richmond resident for the past 20 years, I am happy to see my city making strides towards a healthier and safer Richmond community.

Best,

Joan T Binalinbing
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers
Program Coordinator
Discovering the Reality of Our Community
P: (510) 559-3083

The BACR mission is to promote healthy development of individuals, families and communities.



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Sabrina Lundy

From: Jacquelyne Vera <jvera@bacr.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 2:47 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment (6-2)

Hello,

My name is Jacquelyne and I am the alcohol policy coordinator for West County. My coalition works to prevent underage drinking in West County. We meet every third Wednesday of the month at 11175 San Pablo Ave in El Cerrito. The community are welcomed to attend our meetings and join the coalition. My coalition supports the proclamation to make April Alcohol Awareness month.

Best,

Jacquelyne Marlene Espejo Vera
Alcohol Coalition Coordinator
Bay Area Community Resources
11175 San Pablo Ave
El Cerrito, CA 94530
jvera@bacr.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Cordell Hindler [mailto:cordellhindler@ymail.com]

Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2020 9:58 AM

To: City Clerk Dept

Subject: G-4 Boards and Commissions update

hello Pamela, i have an Update in Regarding the Boards and Commissions, i have spoken with the Teacher over at Salesian High and he is interested in hearing about the Youth Council, so i am meeting with them in early April

Sincerely
Cordell

Sabrina Lundy

From: Cordell Hindler <cordellhindler@ymail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2020 11:04 AM
To: City Clerk Dept; City Clerk Dept
Subject: G-5 update to address pay Differentials

hello Pamela, i have a suggestion in regarding the Pay Differentials, i would recommend that Koff & Associates to work with HR and the unions

Sincerely
Cordell