

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, July 28, 2020

The Richmond City Council Evening Open Session was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Thomas K. Butt via teleconference.

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) ADVISORY

Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Contra Costa County and Governor Gavin Newsom have issued multiple orders requiring sheltering in place, social distancing, and reduction of person-to-person contact. Accordingly, Governor Gavin Newsom has issued executive orders that allow cities to hold public meetings via teleconferencing. Both <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/> and <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/3914/Richmond-Coronavirus-Info> provide updated coronavirus information.

DUE TO THE SHELTER IN PLACE ORDERS, attendance at the City of Richmond City Council meeting was limited to Councilmembers, essential City of Richmond staff, and members of the news media. Public comment was confined to items appearing on the agenda and was limited to the methods provided below. Consistent with Executive Order N-29-20, this meeting utilized teleconferencing only. The following provides information on how the public participated in the meeting.

The public was able to view the meeting from home on KCRT – Comcast Channel 28 or AT&T Uverse Channel 99, or live-streamed online at <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/3178/KCRT-Live>.

Written public comments were received via email and eComment. Comments received by 3:00 p.m. on July 28, 2020, were put into the record and considered before Council action and were submitted by email to cityclerkdept@ci.richmond.ca.us. Comments received via email during the meeting and up until the public comment period on the relevant agenda item closed, were read into the record. Comments were also received via telephone during the public comment period.

Attached herewith all written public comments received.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Ben Choi, Demnlus Johnson III, Eduardo Martinez, Jael Myrick, Melvin Willis, Vice Mayor Bates and Mayor Thomas K. Butt. **Absent:** None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The city clerk announced that the purpose of the Open Session was for the City Council to hear public comments on the following items to be discussed in Closed Session:

CITY COUNCIL

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION (paragraph (1) of Subdivision [d] of Government Code Section 54956.9):

One case

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS
(Government Code Section 54957.6):

Agency Representatives: Jack Hughes

Employee organizations:

1. SEIU Local 1021 Full Time Unit
2. SEIU Local 1021 Part Time Unit
3. IFPTE Local 21 Mid-Level Management Unit
4. IFPTE Local 21 Executive Management Unit
5. Richmond Police Officers Association RPOA
6. Richmond Police Management Association RPMA
7. IAFF Local 188
8. Richmond Fire Management Association RFMA

CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY
NEGOTIATOR (Government Code Section 54956.8):

Property: Terminal 3

Agency negotiators: Laura Snideman and Jim Matzorkis

Negotiating parties: Terminal 3 Partners and Silverado
Contractors and Argent Materials

Under negotiations: price and terms of payment

Jim Hanson gave comments regarding Terminal 3 negotiations.

The Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 5:05 p.m.
Closed Session adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Mayor Butt via teleconference.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Choi, Johnson III, Martinez, Myrick, Willis, Vice Mayor Bates, and Mayor Butt. **Absent:** None.

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

AGENDA REVIEW

Items H-4 and H-8 were removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion at the end of the agenda. Item J-2 was continued to the September 8, 2020, City Council meeting. Item K-5 was withdrawn from the agenda.

REPORT FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY ON FINAL DECISIONS MADE DURING CLOSED SESSION

Acting City Attorney Rachel Sommovilla reported that the city council authorized a city attorney to join in the petition filed in the League of California Cities et al versus Federal Communications Commission (FCC) et al, which is case number 20-71765, in the 9th Circuit with all voting in favor with council members Johnson and Myrick abstaining. The petition seeks judicial review of the FCC declaratory ruling captioned, as in the matter of implementation of state and local government's obligation to approve certain wireless facility modification requests under Section 6409A of the Spectrum Act of 2012.

REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Laura Snideman reported that Contra Costa County requested the use of the parking lot on Nevin Avenue between 24th and 25th Street for a COVID-19 drive through testing site. Ms. Snideman also reported that Contra Costa County could possibly purchase the Marriot Hotel in Hilltop for use as a homeless shelter or affordable housing.

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals submitted the following comments via email or telephone:

Diego Garcia gave comments regarding the need for safe and fair treatment of the men and women who serve in the military.

Yen Do, Union Local 1021 Field Representative, stated that Local 1021 workers have not received a cost of living increase in five years and that the city's reserves be used to support and give raises to its members.

Elsa Stevens congratulated Chief French on her appointment as permanent police chief.

Vice Mayor Bates complimented the City Manager's Office staff for working diligently regarding the proposed air travel over Richmond and assisting a business that was closing in Hilltop.

Councilmember Martinez gave comments regarding white nationalism and sexism in the military.

CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

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

***H-1.** Authorized the city manager to sign PG&E's license agreement to provide an indoor Community Resource Center in the City of Richmond during PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoff events.

***H-2.** Announced recent resignation from City of Richmond boards, commissions, and committees; and announced vacancies as of July 22, 2020, and ask that interested individuals send applications to the City Clerk.

H-3. Adopted **Resolution No. 78-20**, to approve the amendment to the constructions task authorization for the installation of water capture facility (full-trash capture device) on Bayview Avenue not to exceed \$2,285,614 (Project cost of \$1,987,490 and 15% contingency of \$298,123.5) in order to meet project deadline, April, 2021, as required by CALTRANS.

***H-4.** The matter to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract directly to the lowest responsive bidder from a list of prequalified contractors for the sanitary sewer pipeline repairs as listed in the 2018-19 Risk Assessment Analysis (RAA) Clean-up Proposal Project list in an amount not to exceed \$374,000 (Project cost of \$340,000 plus 10% contingency of \$34,000) was presented by Public Works Director, Yader

Bermudez, and Attorney Everett Jenkins. The following individuals gave comments via telephone: Garrett Dillon, Laura Pagano, and Leisa Johnson. A motion by Councilmember Myrick, seconded by Councilmember Johnson III, adopted **Resolution No. 79-20**, by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Choi, Johnson III, Martinez, Myrick, Willis, and Vice Mayor Bates. **Noes:** Mayor Butt. **Absent:** None. **Abstain:** None.

***H-5.** Adopted **Resolution No. 80-20**, approving the Landscape Maintenance Agreement and authorizing the City Manager to enter into said agreement with the California Department of Transportation for the maintenance of landscaping within the Caltrans easement, adjacent to the Miraflores Sustainable Greenbelt project.

***H-6.** Adopted **Resolution No. 81-20**, to accept and appropriate \$280,208 of Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant funds and authorize the City Manager or their designee to execute a fund transfer agreement with the California Department of Transportation for grant funds and execute contracts with project partners for the Richmond Greenway Gap Closure and Connectivity Study.

***H-7.** Adopted **Resolution No. 82-20**, to amend the Port of Richmond FMC Tariff No. 3 reflecting a 2% increase in tariff rates as approved by the Executive Committee of the California Association of Port Authorities (CAPA).

(11:33 p.m. - A motion made by Councilmember Myrick, seconded by Councilmember Willis, suspended the rules and extended the meeting to complete Item H-8, passed by the unanimous vote of the City Council).

H-8. The matter to adopt a resolution declaring a fiscal emergency due to the City's longstanding structural budget imbalance and the financial impacts of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic was presented by Human Resources Director, Allison Picard. The following individuals gave comments via telephone: Luis Padilla, Germain Gomez, and Tom Phelps. The city council requested staff to look into the dysfunction in the Fire Department. A motion by Councilmember Myrick, seconded by Councilmember Choi, adopted **Resolution No. 83-20**, by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

***H-9.** Received the monthly report on Point Molate activities for the month of April 2020.

***H-10.** Adopted **Resolution No. 84-20**, to accept and appropriate the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program (CESF) from the Department of Justice (DOJ) funds in the amount of \$221,800.

***H-11.** Adopted **Resolution No. 85-20**, to accept and appropriate the Department of Justice (DOJ) funds in the amount of \$229,259.

***H-12.** Approved a contract for the continuation of STAND! For Families Free of Violence services to support those victimized by domestic abuse. The contract between the city and STAND! FOR Families Free of Violence will begin July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$47,567.

***H-13.** Approved a contract for the continuation of Community Violence Solutions (CVS) services to support those victimized by sexual abuse. The contract between the city and Community Violence Solutions will begin July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$94,611.00.

***H-14.** Approved proposed contracts with two existing vendors currently used by the Police Department to conduct background investigations (Moreland Investigations and IJX James Anthony Carrol Investigations) for a total contract amount not to exceed \$24,500 per vendor, with the term of each contract for two years until June 30, 2022.

***H-15.** Authorized the City Manager to modify the adopted Fiscal Year 2020-21 position control, as necessary, and within the budgeted savings realized from approved vacancy savings.

CITY OF RICHMOND CONSENT CALENDAR
RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO POLICY DECISIONS ON
ISSUES THAT PERTAIN TO OTHER JURISDICTIONS

I-1. Adopted **Resolution No. 86-20**, in support of justice for Vanessa Guillén, US Army Specialist.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

J-1. The matter to hold a public hearing and adopt a resolution authorizing the City of Richmond to levy special assessments against certain properties having unpaid invoices related to administrative citations, nuisance abatement costs, and foreclosure ordinance fines pursuant to Richmond Municipal Code Chapters 2.63, 6.38, 9.22 and 11.76 was presented by Eva Mann, Code Enforcement Superintendent. Mayor Butt declared the public hearing open. Cherie Lee gave comments. Mayor Butt closed the public hearing. A motion by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember Choi adopted **Resolution No. 87-20**, by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

J-2. Continued to the September 8, 2020, City Council meeting the matter to introduce an ordinance amending section 15.04.104.020, Definitions, section 15.04.201.020, Land Use Regulations, section 15.04.201.030.A, Accessory Building Height, section 15.04.201.050.B, Accessory Building Height, section 15.04.202.020, Land Use Regulations, section 15.04.607.040, Calculation of Parking Requirements, and section 15.04.610.030, Accessory Short-Term Rentals ("Home-Shares") and repealing section 15.04.610.020, Accessory Dwelling Units, and adopting section 15.04.610.020, Accessory Dwelling Units and Junior Accessory Dwelling Units of the Richmond Municipal Code Regarding Accessory Dwelling Units and Junior Accessory Dwelling Units.

J-3. The matter to introduce an ordinance (first reading) amending Richmond Municipal Code Chapter 6.02 (Richmond Building Code) to incorporate Emergency Building Standards Appendices X and O, as adopted by the State of California for Emergency Housing Buildings and Facilities, with local amendments to address minimum fire and life safety measures was presented by Planning Director, Lina Velasco and Planner, Emily Carroll, who presented a PowerPoint, which highlighted the following: amendments to the building code; proposed language; and application of standards for emergency buildings. Mayor Butt

declared the public hearing open. There were no public speakers. Mayor Butt closed the public hearing. A motion by Councilmember Myrick, seconded by Councilmember Johnson III, introduced said ordinance, by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

J-4. Continued to the September 8, 2020, meeting the matter to introduce an ordinance amending Sections 15.04.610.060, 15.04.803.140, 15.04.201.020, 15.04.203.020, 15.04.204.020 of Chapter 15.04, Zoning and Subdivisions Regulations of the Richmond Municipal Code and the Zoning Map.

STUDY AND ACTION SESSION

K-1. The matter to review the draft measure for the November 3, 2020 ballot which would amend the City's business tax rate structure to authorize the City to tax businesses based on a range from 0.075% to 1.395% of gross receipts instead of charging based on the number of employees and either: (1) adopt a resolution placing the measure on the November 3, 2020 ballot; or (2) provide direction to staff on further revisions to the draft measure and direct staff to schedule a special meeting for Council to consider placing the measure on the November 3, 2020 ballot was presented by Acting Deputy City Manager, LaShonda White, and Revenue Manager, Antonio Banuelos, who presented a PowerPoint, which highlighted the following: gross receipts overview; financial impact; new revenue generated; cost to implement; proposed ballot language; current business license model; gross receipts model/chart; revenue assumptions; ordinance changes; business community outreach/feedback; next steps and important dates. Discussion ensued. The following individuals gave comments via telephone or e-mail: Peter Masiak, Lio Saeturn, Angelica Howay, Jill Perry, Laura Mangels, James Lee, Katrinka Ruk, Mike Parker, Sean Stalbaum, Elsa Stevens, Paul Ibanez, Alex Zobel, Mike Vasilas, Ilona Clark, Hakim Johnson, Gabriel Haaland, Laura Mangels, Ana Gonzales, Harry Baker, Gayle McLaughlin, Jane Courant, Lissandra, Christina Redse, and Fred Zimmerman. Further discussion ensued. A motion was made by Councilmember Martinez, seconded by Councilmember Willis to adopt the resolution with the stipulation to move towards the more progressive tax rate using the Berkeley model more in line with gross receipt tax rates in surrounding cities. Councilmember Martinez withdrew his first motion. A motion by Councilmember Martinez, seconded by Councilmember Myrick, to bring back the matter at a special meeting next week, with a progressive schedule based on the Berkeley model with rates that that are similar to Berkeley's, but in line with the economics of Richmond, passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Choi, Martinez, Myrick, Willis, and Mayor Butt. **Noes:** Vice Mayor Bates. **Absent:** None. **Abstain:** Councilmember Johnson III.

K-2. The city council received a status report on the Fiscal Year 2020-21 adopted budget, overtime details, professional services details, and the Richmond Housing Authority's budget. The matter was presented by Acting Deputy City Manager, LaShonda White, and Finance Director, Belinda Brown, who presented a PowerPoint, which highlighted the following: Overtime reductions; FY 2020-21 adopted budget; Professional Services Budget; and Richmond Housing Authority budget. A more in depth, detailed report was planned for a future city council meeting.

K-3. The matter to receive a presentation from the Police Department regarding the current and projected status of police

services administered by the department was presented by Chief Bisa French, Captain Louie Tirona, Captain Tim Simmons, Captain Al Walle, who presented a PowerPoint presentation, which highlighted the following: Police Department Structure; Staffing Challenges History; Department Re-Organization; Administrative Division - Personnel & Training; Communications; Records and Property/Evidence Unit; Information Technology; Staffing Comparisons; Patrol Division; Patrol Staffing Comparison; Team Deployment; Community Problem Solving; Current Challenges; Investigations Bureau Staffing Levels; Homicide Unit; Robbery/Assault Unit; Property Crimes Unit; Domestic & Sexual Violence Unit; Special Investigations Section; 8 Can't Wait. Ben Therriault gave comments via telephone. The City Council requested a report on the closure rate on cases in the past year.

K-4. The matter to receive a presentation from the Richmond Youth Council and adopt a resolution in support of the Richmond Youth Council recommendations to increase anti-racism programs and projects in the community, public safety and the West Contra Costa Unified School District was presented by Staff Liaison to the City Council, Trina Jackson, Youth Council Chair, Ashley Davis, and members of the Youth Council. Laura Mangels gave a comment via e-mail. A motion by Councilmember Johnson III, seconded by Councilmember Willis, adopted **Resolution No. 88-20**, by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

K-5. Withdrew the matter to discuss and provide direction to staff regarding a request from Enterprise Rental Car to add a truck rental division to the existing car rental operation at 3080 Hilltop Mall Road.

ORDINANCES

L-1. The matter to introduce an ordinance to establish the wages, salaries, and compensation for the classification specifications of: Police Chief (salary range 5.7 \$13,572-\$20,833/month), Assistant Police Chief (salary range 5.5 \$12,338-\$19,640/month), Deputy City Clerk (salary range 052H \$6,238-\$7,555), Information Technology Manager (salary range 071D \$10,020-\$12,183), Network and Systems Security Officer (salary range 070E \$9,674-\$11,761), Cable Television Manager (salary range 055 \$6,638-\$8,069), and Police Records and Property Manager (salary range 064 \$7,684-\$9,322); and approve a resolution amending the Position Classification Plan to revise the classification title of Assistant City Clerk to Deputy City Clerk, and to add the new classification specifications of Assistant Police Chief, Information Technology Manager, Network and Systems Security Officer, Cable Television Manager, and Police Records and Property Manager was presented by Interim Deputy City Manager, LaShonda White and Interim Human Resources Director, Allison Picard. Luis Padilla gave comments via telephone. Discussion ensued. A motion was made by Councilmember Myrick, seconded by Councilmember Johnson III to approve the item. A substitute motion made by Vice Mayor Bates, seconded by Councilmember Martinez, to hold the matter over for three months, in order to receive a full fiscal analysis of the anticipated revenue to the city, failed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmember Martinez and Vice Mayor Bates. **Noes:** Councilmembers Choi, Johnson III, Myrick, Willis, and Mayor Butt. **Absent:** None. **Abstain:** None. The original motion passed, the ordinance received first reading, and **Resolution No. 89-20**, was adopted by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Choi, Johnson III, Myrick, and Willis. **Noes:**

Councilmember Martinez, Vice Mayor Bates, and Mayor Butt.
Absent: None. **Abstain:** None.

(11:00 p.m. - A motion made by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember Choi, extended the meeting for 30 minutes, with Councilmember Martinez voting no).

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

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:47 p.m., in memory of Zarrie Allen, to meet again on Wednesday, August 5, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor

Sabrina Lundy

From: Carol Hegstrom <carolhegstrom@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 10:21 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: public comment: Special Mtg RHA: item E-1

My name is Carol Hegstrom and I serve as chair of the Housing Advisory Commission for the City of Richmond. I urge the board to approve the RHA budget. No one is happy to see a deficit budget in Richmond right now. However, it's important to look at this budget in a historical context. The current RHA is not the corrupt, bloated organization we had under Tim Jones' tenure. Currently, RHA is a very tight ship, making good headway toward no longer being dependent on the City of Richmond. Executive Director Nannette Beacham has worked tirelessly to bring RHA into compliance with the PHARS agreement while caring for residents with a skeleton staff and minimal cost. The budget deficit may be distasteful but I believe we should applaud what she has done and support her efforts to continue to move forward during these difficult times by approving her projected budget.

Sincerely,

Carol Hegstrom, Chair
Housing Advisory Commission

Sabrina Lundy

From: Cordell Hindler <cordellhindler@ymail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 9:25 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

hello Sabrina, i have some comments to go into the Record.

1. as far as H-2 is concerned, i have spoken with the Teacher at Salesian High and he is interested to hear about the Youth Council
2. i do not like the idea of having Street Sweeping signs going into the Annexes, i would have the high school students take pictures of street signs in the Park Plaza and Eastshore Councils to pass flyers to the neighbors reminding them to move their cars before 8:00 am
3. here is an update on my Special projects, it is coming along wonderful and i will be happy to share with the council as soon as possible

sincerely
Cordell



July 27, 2020

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Richmond City Council
440 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA 94804
E-mail: cityclerkdept@ci.richmond.ca.us

Subject: July 28, 2020 Agenda Report re: Consent Calendar Item H-4 - Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract Directly to the Lowest Responsive Bidder from a List of Prequalified Contractors for the Sanitary Sewer Pipeline Repairs as Listed in the 2018-19 Risk Assessment Analysis (RAA) Clean-up Proposal Project List in an Amount not to Exceed \$374,000

To the City of Richmond City Council:

Veolia Water West Operating Services, Inc. ("Veolia") has received notification that Yader Bermudez, the City of Richmond's Public Works Director, has placed a "Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract Directly to the Lowest Responsive Bidder from a List of Prequalified Contractors for the Sanitary Sewer Pipeline Repairs as Listed in the 2018-19 Risk Assessment Analysis (RAA) Clean-up Proposal Project List in an Amount not to Exceed \$374,000" (the "Resolution") as item H-4 on the consent agenda for the next regular meeting of the Richmond City Council to be held on Tuesday, July 28, 2020. (See the enclosed Agenda Report.) Veolia opposes the Resolution for several reasons, as detailed herein, including (i) the intentional breach of contract that would follow adoption of the City Staff's recommendation to "execute a contract directly to the lowest bidder" and not use Veolia as its project manager for the work in question, and (ii) the work at issue has already been bid and the City failed to act to move the work forward after the City Staff's failed attempt to provide this scope of work directly to Bay Hawk, Inc. as debated at the July 7, 2020 Richmond City Council meeting.

The City's Contractual Obligation to Veolia

Generally, the City and Veolia have entered into a written contract whereby Veolia was engaged to perform capital improvements and to operate, maintain and manage the City of Richmond Wastewater Treatment Facility (the "Contract"). In 2018, pursuant to Amendment 5 of the Contract, which served, in part, to clarify the scope of Veolia's services related to the City's Sanitary Collection System and Storm Water Collection System (together, the "Collection System(s)"), the City restated its commitment that Veolia shall be "the City's exclusive contractor and program manager for Capital Improvements for the Facility and Collection

System.” Amendment 5 further clarifies that Veolia’s Collection System commitments include the Risk Assessment Analysis (“RAA”) described in paragraphs 23-25 and 28 of the 2018 Baykeeper Settlement Agreement.¹ Amendment 1 to the Contract further confirms that Veolia “shall serve as construction program manager for all Capital Improvement work, including conducting the competitive bidding process.”

The City’s Staff recommends the City “execute a contract directly” with the future low bidder despite this work being sewer line rehabilitation work contemplated in Amendments 1 & 5, the 2018 Baykeeper Settlement Agreement, and the City’s budget. Accordingly, should the City ultimately adopt the Resolution, such adoption would be an anticipatory and material breach of the Contract. In that circumstance, Veolia is entitled to, and will, pursue all contractual and legal remedies at its disposal to (i) enforce the terms of the Contract, and (ii) prevent “the lowest responsive bidder” from interfering with Veolia’s economic advantage and contractual rights.

The Work at Issue has Already Been Bid and the City Staff Failed to Move it Forward Despite its Strenuous Arguments Regarding Expediency at the July 7 Council Meeting

As part of the Richmond City Council’s Consent Agenda for the July 7, 2020 meeting the City Staff included a “Resolution Awarding Contract to Bay Hawk Construction for the Pipeline Repairs as Listed in the Baykeeper FY 2017/18 Risk Assessment Analysis” which resolution was discussed and defeated during the July 7, 2020 Council meeting. Notably, that work, referred to as the “Makeup Work” included a contract price amount “not to exceed \$373,560 (Project cost of \$339,650 plus 10% contingency of \$33,960).”² (See enclosed Staff Report on the July 7, 2020 resolution item.)

Critically, during the course of the lengthy discussion where the City Attorney and outside counsel were provided approximately 25 minutes of speaking time (as compared to 4 minutes for the two Veolia representatives forced to call-in as members of the public), the need for immediate action to meet a July 31, 2020 deadline was repeatedly emphasized to underscore the need for the Council to adopt the City Staff’s resolution that night. However, despite the resolution being denied, the City Staff has failed to commence work during the past three weeks despite both Veolia and W.R. Forde standing ready to do so.

As noted in Veolia’s submission to this Council on July 6, 2020, Veolia and W.R. Forde have been ready, willing and able to perform the Makeup Work since mid-June. Veolia and W.R. Forde were well aware of the July 31, 2020 deadline necessary for reporting to Baykeeper regarding its status. As discussed in that letter, Veolia sent multiple emails to Yader Bermudez beginning in mid-June 2020 repeatedly asking for the City’s direction to move forward with this work in light of the upcoming target deadline, but the City Staff failed to respond these inquiries. (See enclosed Veolia letter dated July 6, 2020.) The issue then proceeded to this Council on July 7, 2020.

¹ Additionally, the City’s own 2019-2024 Five-Year Capital Improvement budget, adopted June 25, 2019, identifies sewer line rehabilitation as a Capital Improvement Project.

² By comparison, the Resolution before this Council on July 28 prices the potential contract at “an amount not to exceed \$374,000 (Project cost of \$340,000 plus 10% contingency of \$34,000)”. To be clear, this is the same project with the same price tag as the defeated resolution of July 7, 2020.

Since this Council rejected the original resolution, the City has failed to move the work forward despite its claims of urgency and exigent circumstances, instead delaying the work with an ill-advised decision to rebid the entire package. Following the decision, Veolia reconfirmed its – and W.R. Forde’s – availability and willingness to proceed with the Makeup Work in as expeditious manner as possible. (See enclosed Veolia letter dated July 9, 2020.) Despite this, the City Staff refused to act, leaving this work languishing for the past three weeks.

Instead, as before, the City Staff recommends in this Resolution that the City breach or otherwise circumvent its contractual obligations with Veolia by executing a contract directly with the lowest responsive bidder in a process that will circumvent Veolia completely. This recommendation makes no sense. Bids have been solicited and received for this exact work, and a low bidder has been identified. Moreover, that low bidder is currently in the field performing work under the current 2019/20 RAA contract and is in the best position to incorporate the “Makeup Work” into its current scope and ensure the work is completed quickly.

During the July 28, 2020 session, the Richmond City Council is likely to hear a litany of allegations as to why Veolia’s performance history justifies this drastic step. Even if there were merit to allegations that Veolia’s performance was somehow to blame, which Veolia denies, the Contract also requires that the City provide Veolia with both (i) appropriate notice, and (ii) an opportunity to cure the alleged defect. The Contract also explicitly states that as long as Veolia diligently takes steps to correct an alleged default within 60 days of receiving written notice of the default from the City, there is no default as long as Veolia continues its attempts to correct the issue. Veolia has consistently and diligently complied with all efforts to address any issues raised by the City in regard to Veolia’s performance of work – whether those issues were merited or not – and it would therefore be a breach of contract for the City to take the drastic action of cutting Veolia out of the procurement process and contractually-mandated role as the project manager for these types of projects.

Additionally, any arguments related to performance issues belie the City’s counsel’s pound-the-table assertions that timing was everything when the City Staff failed to take any action to move this work forward both before and after the July 7 Council meeting. That failure is unjustified and inexcusable and calls into question whether the City Staff is being completely forthright during these repeated attempts to have this misguided resolution adopted.

Based on the above, the City Staff’s current Resolution is erroneous, unnecessary, and detrimental to the City’s interest. At the conclusion of the July 7, 2020 Council meeting, the issue was timely completion of the work at issue. Now that the timing argument is no longer convenient to the City Staff, it will likely be ignored, but the Council should not forget that it was, just three weeks ago, a major arrow in the City Staff’s quiver – one that was apparently way off the mark. Accordingly, the Richmond City Council should not only reject the current Resolution, but it should further order the City Staff to move this work forward within the established framework and with the current low bidder in order to avoid the potential downsides of failing to complete work in accordance with any Baykeeper deadline. Veolia objects to any assertion or insinuation that it is at fault for the current delay to this work and will not bear responsibility for the City’s delays to this point.

Conclusion

In summary, the City Staff's misguided recommendation in the Resolution, if adopted, will likely lead to undesirable outcomes. If adopted, Veolia will be forced to take all appropriate contractual and legal action against the City to prevent it from pursuing this course of action. Veolia therefore requests that the City Council (i) take the Resolution off of the Consent portion of the Agenda for the upcoming July 28, 2020 City Council meeting, (ii) permit discussion and debate about its merits, and (iii) vote "no" on it. Veolia and W.R. Forde have been standing ready to move forward with this work for almost two months. The City Staff's failure to authorize Veolia to commence performance has delayed the project and runs counter to the previously expressed urgency to complete this work before July 31, 2020. As such, the City Staff is responsible for any liability, including additional costs or penalties resulting from these delays. Therefore, Veolia requests the opportunity to be heard on this issue at the July 28, 2020 City Council meeting.

Finally, as the City Council is aware, Veolia and the City have a mediation scheduled for September 21, 2020, during which time the issues addressed herein, and many others, will be discussed with the hope of achieving a global resolution on all counts. With that mediation on the horizon, Veolia calls upon the City Council to avoid drastic action that could further harm the relationship between the parties.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Tackett
Senior Vice President
Municipal & Commercial Business
West & Central Regions
VEOLIA NORTH AMERICA

Cell +1 630 812 9441
700 E. Butterfield Rd., Ste. 201/ Lombard, IL 60148
joseph.tackett@veolia.com
www.veolianorthamerica.com

Enclosures: As stated.

CC: Scott M. Pearsall, Esq.
Garrett E. Dillon, Esq.
Tom Butt, Mayor (tom.butt@intres.com)
Nathaniel Bates, Vice Mayor (natbates@comcast.net)
Ben Choi, Councilmember (ben_choi@ci.richmond.ca.us)
Eduardo Martinez, Councilmember (eduardo_martinez@ci.richmond.ca.us)
Demnlus Johnson, Councilmember (demnlus_johnson@ci.richmond.ca.us)
Jael Myrick, Councilmember (jael_myrick@ci.richmond.ca.us)

Melvin Willis, Councilmember (melvin_willis@ci.richmond.ca.us)
Laura Snideman, City Manager (laura_snideman@ci.richmond.ca.us)

Sabrina Lundy

From: Pagano, Laura <laura.pagano@veolia.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 11:00 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: public comments --agenda item H4
Attachments: Veolia City Council Letter 7.28.2020.pdf

Enclosed herewith please see Veolia Water West Operating Services, Inc. comment letter regarding the "Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract directly to the Lowest Responsive Bidder from a List of Prequalified Contractors for the Sanitary Sewer Pipeline Repairs as Listed in the 2018-19 Risk Assessment Analysis (RAA) Clean-up Proposal Project List in an Amount not to Exceed \$374,0000" that is currently on the Consent portion of the Agenda for the July 28, 2020, Regular Meeting of the Richmond City Council. Veolia opposes the Resolution for several reasons, including:

- The same breach of contract issues which were raised during the July 7, 2020 Council Meeting – Veolia is the sole and exclusive program manager for this type of work and the City Staff is proposing to break its obligation, which would be an the intentional breach of contract;
- Even though completion of the work has been deemed urgent by City Staff and Veolia has repeated communicated that it stood ready to execute the work, City Staff ignored Veolia and instead undertook a time-intensive process to re-bid the work; and
- The scheduled mediation is less than 2 months away, and the City should not to further inflame the tensions by adopting this resolution until this issue – and other similar issues – have the chance to be addressed at the mediation.

Best regards, --Laura

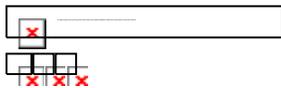
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Laura Pagano, J.D., PMP
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Municipal & Commercial Business
VEOLIA NORTH AMERICA

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+1 510 412 2001
/ cell

+1 510 388 4936
601 Canal Blvd./ Richmond, CA 94804
laura.pagano@veolia.com
www.veolianorthamerica.com





July 27, 2020

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Richmond City Council
440 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA 94804
E-mail: cityclerkdept@ci.richmond.ca.us

Subject: July 28, 2020 Agenda Report re: Consent Calendar Item H-4 - Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract Directly to the Lowest Responsive Bidder from a List of Prequalified Contractors for the Sanitary Sewer Pipeline Repairs as Listed in the 2018-19 Risk Assessment Analysis (RAA) Clean-up Proposal Project List in an Amount not to Exceed \$374,000

To the City of Richmond City Council:

Veolia Water West Operating Services, Inc. ("Veolia") has received notification that Yader Bermudez, the City of Richmond's Public Works Director, has placed a "Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract Directly to the Lowest Responsive Bidder from a List of Prequalified Contractors for the Sanitary Sewer Pipeline Repairs as Listed in the 2018-19 Risk Assessment Analysis (RAA) Clean-up Proposal Project List in an Amount not to Exceed \$374,000" (the "Resolution") as item H-4 on the consent agenda for the next regular meeting of the Richmond City Council to be held on Tuesday, July 28, 2020. (See the enclosed Agenda Report.) Veolia opposes the Resolution for several reasons, as detailed herein, including (i) the intentional breach of contract that would follow adoption of the City Staff's recommendation to "execute a contract directly to the lowest bidder" and not use Veolia as its project manager for the work in question, and (ii) the work at issue has already been bid and the City failed to act to move the work forward after the City Staff's failed attempt to provide this scope of work directly to Bay Hawk, Inc. as debated at the July 7, 2020 Richmond City Council meeting.

The City's Contractual Obligation to Veolia

Generally, the City and Veolia have entered into a written contract whereby Veolia was engaged to perform capital improvements and to operate, maintain and manage the City of Richmond Wastewater Treatment Facility (the "Contract"). In 2018, pursuant to Amendment 5 of the Contract, which served, in part, to clarify the scope of Veolia's services related to the City's Sanitary Collection System and Storm Water Collection System (together, the "Collection System(s)"), the City restated its commitment that Veolia shall be "the City's exclusive contractor and program manager for Capital Improvements for the Facility and Collection

System.” Amendment 5 further clarifies that Veolia’s Collection System commitments include the Risk Assessment Analysis (“RAA”) described in paragraphs 23-25 and 28 of the 2018 Baykeeper Settlement Agreement.¹ Amendment 1 to the Contract further confirms that Veolia “shall serve as construction program manager for all Capital Improvement work, including conducting the competitive bidding process.”

The City’s Staff recommends the City “execute a contract directly” with the future low bidder despite this work being sewer line rehabilitation work contemplated in Amendments 1 & 5, the 2018 Baykeeper Settlement Agreement, and the City’s budget. Accordingly, should the City ultimately adopt the Resolution, such adoption would be an anticipatory and material breach of the Contract. In that circumstance, Veolia is entitled to, and will, pursue all contractual and legal remedies at its disposal to (i) enforce the terms of the Contract, and (ii) prevent “the lowest responsive bidder” from interfering with Veolia’s economic advantage and contractual rights.

The Work at Issue has Already Been Bid and the City Staff Failed to Move it Forward Despite its Strenuous Arguments Regarding Expediency at the July 7 Council Meeting

As part of the Richmond City Council’s Consent Agenda for the July 7, 2020 meeting the City Staff included a “Resolution Awarding Contract to Bay Hawk Construction for the Pipeline Repairs as Listed in the Baykeeper FY 2017/18 Risk Assessment Analysis” which resolution was discussed and defeated during the July 7, 2020 Council meeting. Notably, that work, referred to as the “Makeup Work” included a contract price amount “not to exceed \$373,560 (Project cost of \$339,650 plus 10% contingency of \$33,960).”² (See enclosed Staff Report on the July 7, 2020 resolution item.)

Critically, during the course of the lengthy discussion where the City Attorney and outside counsel were provided approximately 25 minutes of speaking time (as compared to 4 minutes for the two Veolia representatives forced to call-in as members of the public), the need for immediate action to meet a July 31, 2020 deadline was repeatedly emphasized to underscore the need for the Council to adopt the City Staff’s resolution that night. However, despite the resolution being denied, the City Staff has failed to commence work during the past three weeks despite both Veolia and W.R. Forde standing ready to do so.

As noted in Veolia’s submission to this Council on July 6, 2020, Veolia and W.R. Forde have been ready, willing and able to perform the Makeup Work since mid-June. Veolia and W.R. Forde were well aware of the July 31, 2020 deadline necessary for reporting to Baykeeper regarding its status. As discussed in that letter, Veolia sent multiple emails to Yader Bermudez beginning in mid-June 2020 repeatedly asking for the City’s direction to move forward with this work in light of the upcoming target deadline, but the City Staff failed to respond these inquiries. (See enclosed Veolia letter dated July 6, 2020.) The issue then proceeded to this Council on July 7, 2020.

¹ Additionally, the City’s own 2019-2024 Five-Year Capital Improvement budget, adopted June 25, 2019, identifies sewer line rehabilitation as a Capital Improvement Project.

² By comparison, the Resolution before this Council on July 28 prices the potential contract at “an amount not to exceed \$374,000 (Project cost of \$340,000 plus 10% contingency of \$34,000)”. To be clear, this is the same project with the same price tag as the defeated resolution of July 7, 2020.

Since this Council rejected the original resolution, the City has failed to move the work forward despite its claims of urgency and exigent circumstances, instead delaying the work with an ill-advised decision to rebid the entire package. Following the decision, Veolia reconfirmed its – and W.R. Forde’s – availability and willingness to proceed with the Makeup Work in as expeditious manner as possible. (See enclosed Veolia letter dated July 9, 2020.) Despite this, the City Staff refused to act, leaving this work languishing for the past three weeks.

Instead, as before, the City Staff recommends in this Resolution that the City breach or otherwise circumvent its contractual obligations with Veolia by executing a contract directly with the lowest responsive bidder in a process that will circumvent Veolia completely. This recommendation makes no sense. Bids have been solicited and received for this exact work, and a low bidder has been identified. Moreover, that low bidder is currently in the field performing work under the current 2019/20 RAA contract and is in the best position to incorporate the “Makeup Work” into its current scope and ensure the work is completed quickly.

During the July 28, 2020 session, the Richmond City Council is likely to hear a litany of allegations as to why Veolia’s performance history justifies this drastic step. Even if there were merit to allegations that Veolia’s performance was somehow to blame, which Veolia denies, the Contract also requires that the City provide Veolia with both (i) appropriate notice, and (ii) an opportunity to cure the alleged defect. The Contract also explicitly states that as long as Veolia diligently takes steps to correct an alleged default within 60 days of receiving written notice of the default from the City, there is no default as long as Veolia continues its attempts to correct the issue. Veolia has consistently and diligently complied with all efforts to address any issues raised by the City in regard to Veolia’s performance of work – whether those issues were merited or not – and it would therefore be a breach of contract for the City to take the drastic action of cutting Veolia out of the procurement process and contractually-mandated role as the project manager for these types of projects.

Additionally, any arguments related to performance issues belie the City’s counsel’s pound-the-table assertions that timing was everything when the City Staff failed to take any action to move this work forward both before and after the July 7 Council meeting. That failure is unjustified and inexcusable and calls into question whether the City Staff is being completely forthright during these repeated attempts to have this misguided resolution adopted.

Based on the above, the City Staff’s current Resolution is erroneous, unnecessary, and detrimental to the City’s interest. At the conclusion of the July 7, 2020 Council meeting, the issue was timely completion of the work at issue. Now that the timing argument is no longer convenient to the City Staff, it will likely be ignored, but the Council should not forget that it was, just three weeks ago, a major arrow in the City Staff’s quiver – one that was apparently way off the mark. Accordingly, the Richmond City Council should not only reject the current Resolution, but it should further order the City Staff to move this work forward within the established framework and with the current low bidder in order to avoid the potential downsides of failing to complete work in accordance with any Baykeeper deadline. Veolia objects to any assertion or insinuation that it is at fault for the current delay to this work and will not bear responsibility for the City’s delays to this point.

Conclusion

In summary, the City Staff's misguided recommendation in the Resolution, if adopted, will likely lead to undesirable outcomes. If adopted, Veolia will be forced to take all appropriate contractual and legal action against the City to prevent it from pursuing this course of action. Veolia therefore requests that the City Council (i) take the Resolution off of the Consent portion of the Agenda for the upcoming July 28, 2020 City Council meeting, (ii) permit discussion and debate about its merits, and (iii) vote "no" on it. Veolia and W.R. Forde have been standing ready to move forward with this work for almost two months. The City Staff's failure to authorize Veolia to commence performance has delayed the project and runs counter to the previously expressed urgency to complete this work before July 31, 2020. As such, the City Staff is responsible for any liability, including additional costs or penalties resulting from these delays. Therefore, Veolia requests the opportunity to be heard on this issue at the July 28, 2020 City Council meeting.

Finally, as the City Council is aware, Veolia and the City have a mediation scheduled for September 21, 2020, during which time the issues addressed herein, and many others, will be discussed with the hope of achieving a global resolution on all counts. With that mediation on the horizon, Veolia calls upon the City Council to avoid drastic action that could further harm the relationship between the parties.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Tackett
Senior Vice President
Municipal & Commercial Business
West & Central Regions
VEOLIA NORTH AMERICA

Cell +1 630 812 9441
700 E. Butterfield Rd., Ste. 201/ Lombard, IL 60148
joseph.tackett@veolia.com
www.veolianorthamerica.com

Enclosures: As stated.

CC: Scott M. Pearsall, Esq.
Garrett E. Dillon, Esq.
Tom Butt, Mayor (tom.butt@intres.com)
Nathaniel Bates, Vice Mayor (natbates@comcast.net)
Ben Choi, Councilmember (ben_choi@ci.richmond.ca.us)
Eduardo Martinez, Councilmember (eduardo_martinez@ci.richmond.ca.us)
Demnlus Johnson, Councilmember (demnlus_johnson@ci.richmond.ca.us)
Jael Myrick, Councilmember (jael_myrick@ci.richmond.ca.us)

Melvin Willis, Councilmember (melvin_willis@ci.richmond.ca.us)
Laura Snideman, City Manager (laura_snideman@ci.richmond.ca.us)

Sabrina Lundy

From: Cordell Hindler <cordellhindler@ymail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 9:36 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: I-1. ADOPT a resolution in support of justice for Vanessa Guillén, US Army Specialist

hello Sabrina, i have a comment to share.

the reason that i am in support of Justice for Vanessa Guillien, is because speaking from someone who has experience growing up in a military family, my grandfather did serve in the Army in the 40's

so in conclusion i want the council to ADOPT the Resolution as presented

Sincerely
Cordell

Sabrina Lundy

From: Ada Cao <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 10:46 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

I respectfully request that you defer changing Richmond's business tax structure until:

1. the entire business community has had adequate time to review the economic impact and provide input;
2. City Staff looks at cities other than Oakland and San Francisco that are more comparable to what we provide in Richmond;
3. the City Council creates a committee to thoroughly review these issues prior to committing to an expensive ballot measure;
4. the pandemic crisis is behind us and all state, county, and city emergency orders have been lifted; and
5. our City Manager has demonstrated that Richmond businesses are on the path to economic recovery.

While a progressive business tax structure may sound good in theory, effective, balanced policy and legislation can only occur when all key stakeholders are engaged and have a seat at the table, and when this process is not rushed but thoughtfully and collaboratively administered.

Indeed, Richmond's current draft ordinance is based on Oakland's model, yet the City of Oakland has determined that they need more time to review the economic impact and determine fair rate increases. As such, they REMOVED the ordinance from the November ballot and created a blue ribbon committee to review it.

While we understand the City is facing a structural deficit, increasing the tax burden on small businesses at this time will only encourage businesses to leave, or force them to close their doors for good. The end result will be an even greater structural deficit for Richmond and the decay of our essential small business community.

Yours sincerely,

Ada Cao

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Please reply to Ada Cao at adapremier@gmail.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Ade Akanni <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 5:40 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

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3. the City Council creates a committee to thoroughly review these issues prior to committing to an expensive ballot measure;
4. the pandemic crisis is behind us and all state, county, and city emergency orders have been lifted; and
5. our City Manager has demonstrated that Richmond businesses are on the path to economic recovery.

While a progressive business tax structure may sound good in theory, effective, balanced policy and legislation can only occur when all key stakeholders are engaged and have a seat at the table, and when this process is not rushed but thoughtfully and collaboratively administered.

Indeed, Richmond's current draft ordinance is based on Oakland's model, yet the City of Oakland has determined that they need more time to review the economic impact and determine fair rate increases. As such, they REMOVED the ordinance from the November ballot and created a blue ribbon committee to review it.

While we understand the City is facing a structural deficit, increasing the tax burden on small businesses at this time will only encourage businesses to leave, or force them to close their doors for good. The end result will be an even greater structural deficit for Richmond and the decay of our essential small business community.

Yours sincerely,

Ade Akanni

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Please reply to Ade Akanni at adedigba@gmail.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Al Engel <AOEngel@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 12:08 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public comments- Agenda item#K-1 Gross Receipts Ballot Measure

Members of the City Council and City Manager,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address you on behalf of North Richmond Properties, Inc and its tenants. We have owned commercial and office property in Richmond since the mid 1980's. We are opposed to the proposed Gross Receipts Tax Measure K-1 for many reasons. For one, we believe that this is a rushed effort on the cities part to narrow the gap to balance a budget without truly taking into consideration the ramifications this measure could have on all businesses in Richmond. We understand the need to implement funding for various city entities but we feel that in haste you will do more damage to the cities revenue by forcing long standing Richmond businesses to decide to move their businesses out of Richmond city limits which in turn will hurt Richmond. There should be a mutual cohesiveness between the City of Richmond and its businesses rather than a ill timed money grab during one of the most devastating pandemics in history. We have had to reduce rents for our tenants as of right now, how will they afford recovering from the pandemic with this on the horizon. If you lose businesses in Richmond due to this measure it could lower property values especially property owners that lease to businesses, who will want to rent those spaces with this measure in place, a neighboring city without this type of measure will look more advantageous to their bottom line. Our fees last year were roughly \$400, under the new measure our fees would increase from \$30K to \$40K, that is a 10,000% increase!!! Wow, I want to repeat that it is a 10,000% increase!! In closing you are forcing businesses like ourselves that have been in Richmond for years to rethink if its viable to stay in Richmond and that is not something we thought we would have to deal with during these very trying times and that is very sad.

Sincerely,

Al Engel
President
North Richmond Properties, Inc.
510-233-0458

Sabrina Lundy

From: Alan Hu <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2020 5:05 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

I respectfully request that you defer changing Richmond's business tax structure until:

1. the entire business community has had adequate time to review the economic impact and provide input;
2. City Staff looks at cities other than Oakland and San Francisco that are more comparable to what we provide in Richmond;
3. the City Council creates a committee to thoroughly review these issues prior to committing to an expensive ballot measure;
4. the pandemic crisis is behind us and all state, county, and city emergency orders have been lifted; and
5. our City Manager has demonstrated that Richmond businesses are on the path to economic recovery.

While a progressive business tax structure may sound good in theory, effective, balanced policy and legislation can only occur when all key stakeholders are engaged and have a seat at the table, and when this process is not rushed but thoughtfully and collaboratively administered.

Indeed, Richmond's current draft ordinance is based on Oakland's model, yet the City of Oakland has determined that they need more time to review the economic impact and determine fair rate increases. As such, they REMOVED the ordinance from the November ballot and created a blue ribbon committee to review it.

While we understand the City is facing a structural deficit, increasing the tax burden on small businesses at this time will only encourage businesses to leave, or force them to close their doors for good. The end result will be an even greater structural deficit for Richmond and the decay of our essential small business community.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Hu

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Please reply to Alan Hu at alanxhu@yahoo.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Alicia Gallo <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 11:42 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1: More time for community input & drafting the measure needed

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing health & safety guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another change in compliance will burden will be too much to handle.

Although the new gross tax structure may not negatively impact Richmond's small, mom & pop businesses, the rushed ballot drafting and City Council process without providing timely and transparent community input is cause for great concern.

I respectfully request that you defer changing Richmond's business tax structure until:

1. The entire business community has had adequate time to review the economic impact and provide input
2. City Staff looks at cities other than Oakland and San Francisco that are more comparable to what we provide in Richmond;
3. City Council creates a committee to thoroughly review these issues prior to committing to an expensive ballot measure;
4. The pandemic crisis is behind us and all state, county, and city emergency orders have been lifted; and
5. City Manager has demonstrated that Richmond businesses are on the path to economic recovery AND establishes clear guidelines/tools by which businesses can remain in compliance with tax regulations

Balanced policy and legislation can only occur when all key stakeholders are engaged and have a seat at the table, and when this process is not rushed but thoughtfully and collaboratively administered.

While I understand the City is facing a structural deficit, radically altering and possibly increasing the tax burden on small businesses at this time will only make retaining and attracting businesses more difficult. Ultimately the residents, business community, and City finances will suffer.

Sincerely,

Alicia Gallo

community member

This email was sent by Alicia Gallo via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Alicia provided an email address (gallo087@gmail.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Alicia Gallo at gallo087@gmail.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Alix Mazuet <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 8:06 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

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2. City Staff looks at cities other than Oakland and San Francisco that are more comparable to what we provide in Richmond;
3. the City Council creates a committee to thoroughly review these issues prior to committing to an expensive ballot measure;
4. the pandemic crisis is behind us and all state, county, and city emergency orders have been lifted;
- and 5. our City Manager has demonstrated that Richmond businesses are on the path to economic recovery.

While a progressive business tax structure may sound good in theory, effective, balanced policy and legislation can only occur when all key stakeholders are engaged and have a seat at the table, and when this process is not rushed but thoughtfully and collaboratively administered.

Indeed, Richmond's current draft ordinance is based on Oakland's model, yet the City of Oakland has determined that they need more time to review the economic impact and determine fair rate increases. As such, they REMOVED the ordinance from the November ballot and created a blue ribbon committee to review it.

While we understand the City is facing a structural deficit, increasing the tax burden on small businesses at this time will only encourage businesses to leave, or force them to close their doors for good. The end result will be an even greater structural deficit for Richmond and the decay of our essential small business community.

Yours sincerely,
Alix Mazuet

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Please reply to Alix Mazuet at alix.mazuet@gmail.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: alvina wong <alv.wong@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 2:20 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Support for #K-1

Dear Councilmembers,

I'm writing in support of Agenda K-1 on tonight's meeting. I would like to urge the city council to take into further consideration updating Richmond's Business Tax. The proposed update to the business tax provides an equitable progressive structure for the people of Richmond to continue to be a vital part of where they live and work. These uncertain times require bold leadership and I hope you will put this on the november ballot for Richmond voters to support.

Thank you for your time,
Alvina Wong

Alvina Wong 黃曉茵
cell 手機: 510- 467- 0359

Sabrina Lundy

From: Angela Yong <topestates@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 8:51 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please do Not move forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure. I am sole proprietor and pays state and fed tax on commission with no health , sick leave. It is also double taxation , make it hard for us barely surviving.

As you are aware, businesses are facing difficult times during the pandemic and it is disturbing that the City is considering increasing taxes while many struggle to pay staff, rent, and bills. This will hurt our local businesses and community even more and worsen the unemployment crisis.

An overhaul of the business tax structure should be discussed thoroughly with the Richmond business community as it will have overwhelming impacts on our local economy. This is not something that should be rushed in a week's time and based on a neighboring municipalities work. All who will be impacted should be included in all discussions.

While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Angela Yong
5371 Country View Dr
El Sobrante, CA 94803
topestates@gmail.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Ann Marie Cullen <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2020 5:38 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

I respectfully request that you defer changing Richmond's business tax structure until:

1. the entire business community has had adequate time to review the economic impact and provide input;
2. City Staff looks at cities other than Oakland and San Francisco that are more comparable to what we provide in Richmond;
3. the City Council creates a committee to thoroughly review these issues prior to committing to an expensive ballot measure;
4. the pandemic crisis is behind us and all state, county, and city emergency orders have been lifted; and
5. our City Manager has demonstrated that Richmond businesses are on the path to economic recovery.

While a progressive business tax structure may sound good in theory, effective, balanced policy and legislation can only occur when all key stakeholders are engaged and have a seat at the table, and when this process is not rushed but thoughtfully and collaboratively administered.

Indeed, Richmond's current draft ordinance is based on Oakland's model, yet the City of Oakland has determined that they need more time to review the economic impact and determine fair rate increases. As such, they REMOVED the ordinance from the November ballot and created a blue ribbon committee to review it.

While we understand the City is facing a structural deficit, increasing the tax burden on small businesses at this time will only encourage businesses to leave, or force them to close their doors for good. The end result will be an even greater structural deficit for Richmond and the decay of our essential small business community.

Yours sincerely,

Ann Marie Cullen

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Please reply to Ann Marie Cullen at amcamc1107@yahoo.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Annie Zeng <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 2:39 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

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Yours sincerely,

Annie Zeng

This email was sent by Annie Zeng via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Annie provided an email address (azengz2004@yahoo.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Annie Zeng at azengz2004@yahoo.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Brad Staba <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2020 9:50 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

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Yours sincerely,

Brad Staba

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Please reply to Brad Staba at brad@raymondspizzeria.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Brett Moitoza <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 11:17 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

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Yours sincerely,

Brett Moitoza

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Please reply to Brett Moitoza at bmoitoza@plantreclamation.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Brian Boyd <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 9:53 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

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Yours sincerely,

Brian Boyd

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Please reply to Brian Boyd at bboydconnect@hotmail.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Bruce Hill <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 10:11 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

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4. the pandemic crisis is behind us and all state, county, and city emergency orders have been lifted;
- and 5. our City Manager has demonstrated that Richmond businesses are on the path to economic recovery.

While a progressive business tax structure may sound good in theory, effective, balanced policy and legislation can only occur when all key stakeholders are engaged and have a seat at the table, and when this process is not rushed but thoughtfully and collaboratively administered.

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Yours sincerely,
Bruce Hill

This email was sent by Bruce Hill via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Bruce provided an email address (Bruce.Hill@gmail.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Bruce Hill at Bruce.Hill@gmail.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: CARYLON DOPP <user@votervoice.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 11:30 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

As you are aware, businesses are facing difficult times during the pandemic and it is disturbing that the City is considering increasing taxes while many struggle to pay staff, rent, and bills. This will hurt our local businesses and community even more and worsen the unemployment crisis.

An overhaul of the business tax structure should be discussed thoroughly with the Richmond business community as it will have overwhelming impacts on our local economy. This is not something that should be rushed in a week's time and based on a neighboring municipalities work. All who will be impacted should be included in all discussions.

While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

CARYLON DOPP
2816 Goularte Dr
Pinole, CA 94564
carylondopp@yahoo.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Cathy Mu <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2020 1:09 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

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Yours sincerely,

Cathy Mu

This email was sent by Cathy Mu via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Cathy provided an email address (cathymucpa@gmail.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Cathy Mu at cathymucpa@gmail.com.

To learn more about Do Gooder visit

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Chengzhi Zhou <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 9:42 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council and City Manager:

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Yours sincerely,

Chengzhi Zhou

This email was sent by Chengzhi Zhou via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Chengzhi provided an email address (robert.c.zhou@gmail.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Chengzhi Zhou at robert.c.zhou@gmail.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Christin Redse <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 11:37 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

I respectfully request that you defer changing Richmond's business tax structure until:

1. the entire business community has had adequate time to review the economic impact and provide input;
2. City Staff looks at cities other than Oakland and San Francisco that are more comparable to what we provide in Richmond;
3. the City Council creates a committee to thoroughly review these issues prior to committing to an expensive ballot measure;
4. the pandemic crisis is behind us and all state, county, and city emergency orders have been lifted; and
5. our City Manager has demonstrated that Richmond businesses are on the path to economic recovery.

While a progressive business tax structure may sound good in theory, effective, balanced policy and legislation can only occur when all key stakeholders are engaged and have a seat at the table, and when this process is not rushed but thoughtfully and collaboratively administered.

Indeed, Richmond's current draft ordinance is based on Oakland's model, yet the City of Oakland has determined that they need more time to review the economic impact and determine fair rate increases. As such, they REMOVED the ordinance from the November ballot and created a blue ribbon committee to review it.

While we understand the City is facing a structural deficit, increasing the tax burden on small businesses at this time will only encourage businesses to leave, or force them to close their doors for good. The end result will be an even greater structural deficit for Richmond and the decay of our essential small business community.

Yours sincerely,

Christin Redse

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Please reply to Christin Redse at credse@gmail.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Clio Soiffer <jakesoiffer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 12:50 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: public comments – agenda item # K-1

Hi,

I am a resident and tenant in the East Bay who cares about preserving working-class communities of color in Richmond and supporting our local small businesses, especially in immigrant and refugee communities that have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic and are less likely to be receiving federal or state aid right now.

In Richmond, we have all seen as big developers continue to build more luxury buildings that only serve the wealthy and lead to ballooning rents for everyone else. Crucial community services and jobs have been limited, and more and more families are pushed out of Richmond and the broader Bay Area.

Without the proposed amendments, Richmond's vibrant people and rich culture will be lost in the face of rapid gentrification and big corporate chain stores and landlords that do not bring wealth back into the community. Please take one step towards preserving what took generations to build in Richmond by supporting the Gross Receipts Tax!

Best,
Clio Soiffer

Sabrina Lundy

From: Katrinka Ruk <kpruk@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:15 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Nathaniel Bates; City Clerk Dept; Eduardo Martinez; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis; Demnlus Johnson; Laura Snideman
Cc: LaShonda White; Antonio Banuelos; James Atencio; Trina Jackson; James Lee; markhughesiacc@gmail.com; kconnelly@eblcmail.org
Subject: Public comments – Agenda item #K-1 Gross Receipts Ballot Measure
Attachments: Organizations statement 07.26.20.docx



THE INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION
OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY



July 26, 2020

To: Members of the City Council, City Manager

Re: Transparency on proposed Business Tax Ballot Measure

Dear Council Members, on behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write today to request greater transparency regarding your proposed ballot measure to restructure Richmond's business license tax and ask that the City defer changing the business tax structure, create a committee to examine the economic impact this change will have, and, allow the entire business community adequate time to review the impact and participate in the review process .

The business license tax is ill-timed during the current pandemic where many Richmond businesses are still reeling from layoffs, business downturns, an increased focus on obtaining financial support to maintain their businesses and can ill-afford an increase in taxes.

During these challenging and uncertain times, the proposal to restructure the business license tax in a mere **3 business days** is causing confusion and anxiety. While a progressive business tax structure in which small businesses pay a lower rate than larger ones is sound public policy, the details are complex and require significantly more analysis and engagement than can be done in this timeframe. The city of Oakland decided not to put theirs on the November 2020 ballot and instead are focused on selecting a committee to review the ordinance over a two-year period. In addition, when San Francisco transitioned from a flat tax to a progressive tax in 2012 the authors spent two years convening the community to create a revenue-neutral proposal that received wide support from business and labor.

In its current form this proposal does not contain enough information about rates and apportionment for most businesses to even determine its impacts. Any projected increase in revenue is based on 2019 numbers for a pre-COVID economy that no longer exists.

Whereas the Richmond ballot measure is based on the Oakland model, a comparison should be done with other comparable cities, noting most surrounding cities do not have a tax based on revenue but based on number of employees.

Rushing this complex proposal is a missed opportunity to incentivize the types of businesses Richmond wants to attract and to enact policies that will help get banks and grocery stores into underserved neighborhoods. Richmond can achieve better outcomes for small businesses, equity, and the broader economic ecosystem with a robust community engagement process and analysis.

To ensure transparency, the City Council should follow Oakland and San Francisco's lead to create a committee to thoroughly review these issues prior to committing to an expensive ballot measure during this pandemic crisis with state, county, and city emergency orders still in place and Richmond businesses far from an economic recovery.

With regards,

Council of Business and Industries

Richmond Chamber of Commerce

Industrial Association of Contra Costa County

East Bay Leadership Council

/

Respectfully,

Katrinka Ruk
Executive Director
Council of Business & Industries
510)260-4820 cell
www.councilofindustries.org

Sabrina Lundy

From: darryl kloze <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 10:49 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

I respectfully request that you defer changing Richmond's business tax structure until:

1. the entire business community has had adequate time to review the economic impact and provide input;
2. City Staff looks at cities other than Oakland and San Francisco that are more comparable to what we provide in Richmond;
3. the City Council creates a committee to thoroughly review these issues prior to committing to an expensive ballot measure;
4. the pandemic crisis is behind us and all state, county, and city emergency orders have been lifted; and
5. our City Manager has demonstrated that Richmond businesses are on the path to economic recovery.

While a progressive business tax structure may sound good in theory, effective, balanced policy and legislation can only occur when all key stakeholders are engaged and have a seat at the table, and when this process is not rushed but thoughtfully and collaboratively administered.

Indeed, Richmond's current draft ordinance is based on Oakland's model, yet the City of Oakland has determined that they need more time to review the economic impact and determine fair rate increases. As such, they REMOVED the ordinance from the November ballot and created a blue ribbon committee to review it.

While we understand the City is facing a structural deficit, increasing the tax burden on small businesses at this time will only encourage businesses to leave, or force them to close their doors for good. The end result will be an even greater structural deficit for Richmond and the decay of our essential small business community.

Yours sincerely,

darryl klose

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Please reply to darryl klose at legitone2@yahoo.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: David Gong <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2020 9:57 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

I respectfully request that you defer changing Richmond's business tax structure until:

1. the entire business community has had adequate time to review the economic impact and provide input;
2. City Staff looks at cities other than Oakland and San Francisco that are more comparable to what we provide in Richmond;
3. the City Council creates a committee to thoroughly review these issues prior to committing to an expensive ballot measure;
4. the pandemic crisis is behind us and all state, county, and city emergency orders have been lifted; and
5. our City Manager has demonstrated that Richmond businesses are on the path to economic recovery.

While a progressive business tax structure may sound good in theory, effective, balanced policy and legislation can only occur when all key stakeholders are engaged and have a seat at the table, and when this process is not rushed but thoughtfully and collaboratively administered.

Indeed, Richmond's current draft ordinance is based on Oakland's model, yet the City of Oakland has determined that they need more time to review the economic impact and determine fair rate increases. As such, they REMOVED the ordinance from the November ballot and created a blue ribbon committee to review it.

While we understand the City is facing a structural deficit, increasing the tax burden on small businesses at this time will only encourage businesses to leave, or force them to close their doors for good. The end result will be an even greater structural deficit for Richmond and the decay of our essential small business community.

Yours sincerely,

David Gong

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Please reply to David Gong at davidygong888@gmail.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Denise K Gianni <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2020 8:46 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

I adamantly request that you defer even THINKING of changing Richmond's business tax structure until:

1. the entire business community has had adequate time to review the economic impact and provide input;
2. City Staff looks at cities other than Oakland and San Francisco that are more comparable to what we provide in Richmond;
3. the City Council creates a committee, including citizens and Richmond business owners, to thoroughly review these issues prior to committing to an expensive ballot measure;
4. the pandemic crisis is behind us and all state, county, and city emergency orders have been lifted; and
5. our City Manager has demonstrated that Richmond businesses are on the path to economic recovery.

While a progressive business tax structure may sound good in theory, effective, balanced policy and legislation can only occur when all key stakeholders are engaged and have a seat at the table, and when this process is not rushed but thoughtfully and collaboratively administered.

Indeed, Richmond's current draft ordinance is based on Oakland's model, yet the City of Oakland has determined that they need more time to review the economic impact and determine fair rate increases. As such, they REMOVED the ordinance from the November ballot and created a blue ribbon committee to review it.

While we understand the City is facing a structural deficit, because of your ineptness and incompetence, increasing the tax burden on small businesses at this time will only encourage businesses to leave, or force them to close their doors for good. The end result will be an even greater structural deficit for Richmond and the decay of our essential small business community.

Denise Gianni

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Please reply to Denise K Gianni at libertyletters@comcast.net.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Donald Doodokyan <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2020 7:32 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

I respectfully request that you defer changing Richmond's business tax structure until:

1. the entire business community has had adequate time to review the economic impact and provide input;
2. City Staff looks at cities other than Oakland and San Francisco that are more comparable to what we provide in Richmond;
3. the City Council creates a committee to thoroughly review these issues prior to committing to an expensive ballot measure;
4. the pandemic crisis is behind us and all state, county, and city emergency orders have been lifted; and
5. our City Manager has demonstrated that Richmond businesses are on the path to economic recovery.

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While we understand the City is facing a structural deficit, increasing the tax burden on small businesses at this time will only encourage businesses to leave, or force them to close their doors for good. The end result will be an even greater structural deficit for Richmond and the decay of our essential small business community.

Yours sincerely,

Donald Doodokyan

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Please reply to Donald Doodokyan at ddoodokyan@brenntag.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Doug Boyum <dougboyum@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 11:21 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: "Public comments – Agenda item #K-1 Gross Receipts Ballot Measure".

To whom it may concern,

As a local city business, we reject the Gross Receipts Ballot Measure, as it will put a financial hardship on our small business and may force our business to close shop.

Due to all the additional hidden cost while operating under a global pandemic, another fee on local business is unfair and unwise.

- City of Richmond should not put forth a ballot measure, but should form a committee and include businesses to review how such a change in calculating business license tax will impact businesses.
- This is not right time to increase business tax given the current COVID19 pandemic impact on businesses
- This draft ordinance is based on City of Oakland model – Oakland pulled their ballot measure and established a blue-ribbon committee to review the economic impact- Richmond needs to do the same
- Richmond posted first draft 07/21 without any discussion with businesses.
- Richmond did not do an economic or financial impact analysis to see impact on current businesses
- Richmond posted an amended draft on 07/28 – different than the first one, combined business classes resulting in recalculating potential impacts
- Business community only has 3 business days to review the changed rates before this goes to council on 07/28
- The draft ordinance, resolution and presentation by staff is fraught with errors. For example the Resolution which the ballot measure would be based on lists this as a “Transfer Tax” when it is a general tax. In the draft ordinance there is a referral to sections that are not in the ordinance - 7.04.320 to calculate a “Master Certificate” for businesses with multiple activities and 7.04.310 sales between related entities, etc. The Rate Chart has an error in a base rate for retail sales/wholesale sales/grocer. The staff presentation has the wrong rates, and, the wrong ballot measure language. Etc.
- The ballot measure implies that specific services will be enhanced – 911 support, children and youth programs, pothole and street repair, when this is a general tax and money would go into the General Fund, not earmarked for specific programs/projects.

Thank You,

Doug A. Boyum, Superintendent
Golden State Steel & Stair Inc.
(510) 376-0290 cell



HARDER MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS, INC.

♦ P.O. Box 5118 Portland, OR 97208 ♦ 503/281-1112 ♦ Fax 503/287-5284
♦ harder@harder.com ♦ www.harder.com
♦ OR 00074 ♦ WA HARDEMC340LF ♦ CA 277745 ♦ AZ 105309, 291833, 109201, 105305
♦ UT 278083-5551 ♦ NV 39644 ♦ NM 54101 ♦ AK CONE35395 ♦ HI CT-34008

July, 28, 2020

Richmond City Council
450 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA 94804

RE: Public Comments – Agenda items #K-1 Gross Receipts Ballot Measure

Dear Richmond City Council:

I am writing you regarding the Gross Receipts ballot measure that is being proposed. This tax would amount to a 3000% increase over what we paid for our Business License last year. It would be even higher, but our Gross Receipts have been dramatically impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. It is amazing to think of significantly increasing business taxes in this environment.

We do work all over the West Coast and Mountain West regions. Our margins are not that high and a decrease of .5% to 1% would have a large impact. This proposed tax would make projects in the city of Richmond no longer competitive compared to other municipalities, and we would be unlikely to take on large projects unless we were able to pass these costs on to our clients. At our peak over the last couple years we have employed around 500 local union workers.

Finally, here in Oregon we passed a similar Gross Receipts tax that went into effect January 1, 2020. We have already seen costs snowball up the supply chain as each successive vendor applies it to their activity. It clearly leads to inflation of all different kinds of goods and at a time when consumers are least equipped to absorb them.

I think that the tax as it is described is ill-conceived and will have negative economic consequences for both business and consumers in the city of Richmond.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dusty Baker", written over a horizontal line.

Dusty Baker
Chief Financial Officer

Sabrina Lundy

From: Emily Zhao <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 10:30 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

I respectfully request that you defer changing Richmond's business tax structure until:

1. the entire business community has had adequate time to review the economic impact and provide input;
2. City Staff looks at cities other than Oakland and San Francisco that are more comparable to what we provide in Richmond;
3. the City Council creates a committee to thoroughly review these issues prior to committing to an expensive ballot measure;
4. the pandemic crisis is behind us and all state, county, and city emergency orders have been lifted; and
5. our City Manager has demonstrated that Richmond businesses are on the path to economic recovery.

While a progressive business tax structure may sound good in theory, effective, balanced policy and legislation can only occur when all key stakeholders are engaged and have a seat at the table, and when this process is not rushed but thoughtfully and collaboratively administered.

Indeed, Richmond's current draft ordinance is based on Oakland's model, yet the City of Oakland has determined that they need more time to review the economic impact and determine fair rate increases. As such, they REMOVED the ordinance from the November ballot and created a blue ribbon committee to review it.

While we understand the City is facing a structural deficit, increasing the tax burden on small businesses at this time will only encourage businesses to leave, or force them to close their doors for good. The end result will be an even greater structural deficit for Richmond and the decay of our essential small business community.

Yours sincerely,

Emily Zhao

This email was sent by Emily Zhao via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Emily provided an email address (cyz_huang@yahoo.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Emily Zhao at cyz_huang@yahoo.com.

To learn more about Do Gooder visit

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Erick Gutierrez Prado <11197egg@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 10:18 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public comments - Agenda Item K-1

2 out of every 3 of Richmond's residents support a progressive tax. We support a progressive tax because we know that the wealthiest individuals living in one of the most high-priced housing markets in the world are also responsible for the continued support and investment in our community.

Gross receipts taxes represent a structural change that will set up Richmond for decades to come with a more sensible, equitable, and modern tax code.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Fenny Lin <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 3:06 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

I respectfully request that you defer changing Richmond's business tax structure until:

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Yours sincerely,

Fenny Lin

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Please reply to Fenny Lin at lhfnewbegin@gmail.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Fred Arm <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 10:55 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

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Please reply to Fred Arm at fr33dom1@att.net.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Gay Timmons <gayt@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 12:04 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public comments - Agenda item #K-1 Gross Receipts Ballot Measure

City Council:

I have owned and run a small business in Richmond for 6 years. I seriously object to the concept of Fees based on Gross Revenue.

As preface to this, let me share that I have worked on various advisory committees to State of Calif. government where fees were established so I have some experience.

It is unfair on the face of it simply because you have no way of knowing the net revenues - which may be very specific to an industry. New businesses would be penalized (and therefore not interested in getting licensed in Richmond) due to this sort of approach.

There are some other ways the City can save money

- Offer a license that is good for 2 years (cutting work and time down and increasing cash flow)
- Accept funds via ACH and Zelle to avoid CC fees.

Thank you -

Gay Timmons

1312 S. 50th St., Richmond, CA 94804

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Save the planet. Look good doing it. www.ohohorganic.com



Sabrina Lundy

From: George wu <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 10:47 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

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Yours sincerely,

George wu

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Please reply to George wu at okwujingyu@gmail.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Giselle Redondo <giselle.spre@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 1:32 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

As you are aware, businesses are facing difficult times during the pandemic and it is disturbing that the City is considering increasing taxes while many struggle to pay staff, rent, and bills. This will hurt our local businesses and community even more and worsen the unemployment crisis.

An overhaul of the business tax structure should be discussed thoroughly with the Richmond business community as it will have overwhelming impacts on our local economy. This is not something that should be rushed in a week's time and based on a neighboring municipalities work. All who will be impacted should be included in all discussions.

While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Giselle Redondo
311 Carlston St
Richmond, CA 94805
giselle.spre@gmail.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Gonzalo Ochoa <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2020 6:14 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

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Yours sincerely,

Gonzalo Ochoa

This email was sent by Gonzalo Ochoa via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Gonzalo provided an email address (gotires@gmail.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Gonzalo Ochoa at gotires@gmail.com.

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July 27, 2020

Dear Mayor Butt and fellow Council members,

It has just come to my attention that City Staff has prepared, and done voter polling, for proposals to increase Business Licensing, transfer taxes, and a tax on vacant properties. Having not heard that there were changes in the works, I have not had much time to review: here are my impressions.

As a property owner and landlord, I am most concerned with the Gross Adjusted tax/fee for business. Our small businesses are struggling through an economic crisis of such magnitude as not seen since the Great Depression. Most were ill prepared for the first lockdown due to this pandemic and the second wave is on the way. To increase cost currently seems shortsighted at best, and completely counter intuitive. One of the questions in polling had respondents agreeing that attracting and retaining business in the City is of great concern. This will have exactly the opposite effect. Businesses are struggling to find ways to stay afloat and keep employees with the help of PPP money. Adding any extra financial burden is akin to being kicked when your down. Small property owners provide square footage for small business to operate within a community. Increasing their cost to do business will push rents up, adding a second tax on small businesses already on life support. What does this mean? More bankruptcies, failures and the loss of jobs in the community. Add to that the increase in vacancies of both residential and commercial properties will reduce gross incomes and completely derail the intended goal: to raise revenue, possibly for years to come.

The second item that I noticed in polling is that the questions asked that received the most positive response were related to children, education, vital services: all quality of life issues. I agree, these are all important issues. I did not read that any of these items were specifically earmarked for those programs: all money goes to the general fund.

I also found that the business classifications were interesting. Most were classified individually, but rental properties, cannabis, and firearms are of the same class and taxed at much higher rates.

Our property taxes are increased by 150% for special assessments and ad valorem taxes, and we completely appreciate the services we receive, and we are willing to support them. We do feel however, that the rates proposed are very high compared to other industries. We are prepared to pay our fair share, but this is inequitable.

In ending I'd like to say that while the Business Tax rates should be reviewed and revised, this is the wrong bill at the wrong time. We don't need to throw more water on a sinking Business Community.

I urge the Council to not place this on the November ballot. It should be postponed, reviewed, and include all the affected parties before doing so. Let's just get through this pandemic and see who's left for the recovery.

With best regards,

Guy Corrie

Rest LLC

Sabrina Lundy

From: Haiyang Li <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 10:16 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

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Yours sincerely,
Haiyang Li

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Sabrina Lundy

From: heather mervine <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 9:33 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

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Yours sincerely,

heather mervine

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Huixiong Dai <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 11:23 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
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Huixiong Dai

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Ilona Clark <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 11:59 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
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This email was sent by Ilona Clark via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Ilona provided an email address (in70@comcast.net) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Ilona Clark at in70@comcast.net.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: ilyas ebra <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2020 1:10 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

I respectfully request that you defer changing Richmond's business tax structure until:

1. the entire business community has had adequate time to review the economic impact and provide input;
2. City Staff looks at cities other than Oakland and San Francisco that are more comparable to what we provide in Richmond;
3. the City Council creates a committee to thoroughly review these issues prior to committing to an expensive ballot measure;
4. the pandemic crisis is behind us and all state, county, and city emergency orders have been lifted; and
5. our City Manager has demonstrated that Richmond businesses are on the path to economic recovery.

While a progressive business tax structure may sound good in theory, effective, balanced policy and legislation can only occur when all key stakeholders are engaged and have a seat at the table, and when this process is not rushed but thoughtfully and collaboratively administered.

Indeed, Richmond's current draft ordinance is based on Oakland's model, yet the City of Oakland has determined that they need more time to review the economic impact and determine fair rate increases. As such, they REMOVED the ordinance from the November ballot and created a blue ribbon committee to review it.

While we understand the City is facing a structural deficit, increasing the tax burden on small businesses at this time will only encourage businesses to leave, or force them to close their doors for good. The end result will be an even greater structural deficit for Richmond and the decay of our essential small business community.

Yours sincerely,

ilyas ebrahimi

This email was sent by ilyas ebra via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however ilyas provided an email address (ilyassohrab2@yahoo.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to ilyas ebra at ilyassohrab2@yahoo.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Jack Burns, Jr <user@votervoice.net>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 12:36 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

As you are aware, businesses are facing difficult times during the pandemic and it is disturbing that the City is considering increasing taxes while many struggle to pay staff, rent, and bills. This will hurt our local businesses and community even more and worsen the unemployment crisis.

An overhaul of the business tax structure should be discussed thoroughly with the Richmond business community as it will have overwhelming impacts on our local economy. This is not something that should be rushed in a week's time and based on a neighboring municipalities work. All who will be impacted should be included in all discussions.

While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jack Burns
4634 Green Valley Rd
Fairfield, CA 94534
jackburnsjr@icloud.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Jackie Robinson <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 12:54 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

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While we understand the City is facing a structural deficit, increasing the tax burden on small businesses at this time will only encourage businesses to leave, or force them to close their doors for good. The end result will be an even greater structural deficit for Richmond and the decay of our essential small business community.

Yours sincerely,

Jackie Robinson

This email was sent by Jackie Robinson via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Jackie provided an email address (jackbusy@yahoo.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Jackie Robinson at jackbusy@yahoo.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Jacob Cordova <jacob@sequoia-re.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 8:47 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

As you are aware, businesses are facing difficult times during the pandemic and it is disturbing that the City is considering increasing taxes while many struggle to pay staff, rent, and bills. This will hurt our local businesses and community even more and worsen the unemployment crisis.

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While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jacob Cordova
2006 Northshore Dr
Richmond, CA 94804
jacob@sequoia-re.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Jen Kong <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 9:43 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

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Yours sincerely,

Jen Kong

This email was sent by Jen Kong via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Jen provided an email address (jentse@hotmail.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Jen Kong at jentse@hotmail.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Jennifer Criddle <criddlejennifer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 9:59 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

As you are aware, businesses are facing difficult times during the pandemic and it is disturbing that the City is considering increasing taxes while many struggle to pay staff, rent, and bills. This will hurt our local businesses and community even more and worsen the unemployment crisis.

An overhaul of the business tax structure should be discussed thoroughly with the Richmond business community as it will have overwhelming impacts on our local economy. This is not something that should be rushed in a week's time and based on a neighboring municipalities work. All who will be impacted should be included in all discussions.

While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Criddle
5855 Horton St
Emeryville, CA 94608
criddlejennifer@gmail.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Jessica Davis <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2020 8:41 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

Though this was an email drafted by another it is on point and I agree with all points made within. Please consider deferral of the small business tax. During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

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it.

While we understand the City is facing a structural deficit, increasing the tax burden on small businesses at this time will only encourage businesses to leave, or force them to close their doors for good. The end result will be an even greater structural deficit for Richmond and the decay of our essential small business community.

Yours sincerely,

Jessica Davis

This email was sent by Jessica Davis via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Jessica provided an email address (jessica.mckim@gmail.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Jessica Davis at jessica.mckim@gmail.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Joe Fisher <user@votervoice.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 2:17 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

As you are aware, businesses are facing difficult times during the pandemic and it is disturbing that the City is considering increasing taxes while many struggle to pay staff, rent, and bills. This will hurt our local businesses and community even more and worsen the unemployment crisis.

An overhaul of the business tax structure should be discussed thoroughly with the Richmond business community as it will have overwhelming impacts on our local economy. This is not something that should be rushed in a week's time and based on a neighboring municipalities work. All who will be impacted should be included in all discussions.

While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Joe Fisher
212 S 17th St
Richmond, CA 94804
jlfisher180@yahoo.com



July 27, 2020

Mayor T. Butt

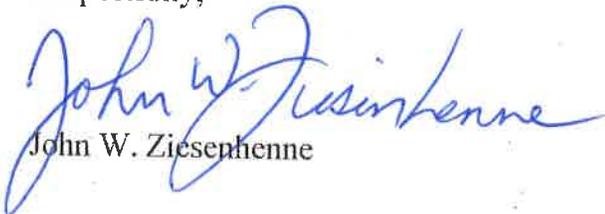
Richmond City Council Members,

In this deadly time of the COVID-19 Pandemic, where businesses are closed, employees are laid off, and unemployment is at an all-time high in our country's history - the leaders of our beloved City of Richmond should not even be thinking about a tax increase for our business community, which also means a tax increase for our residents - who will ultimately be paying it.

As leaders of our community – the City Council should be promoting ideas that support local businesses, such as local hiring, tax relief, tax credits, lowering City fees in the Planning Dept. for two years, and a one-year relief of reduced Business License fees for Richmond Businesses. As experts weigh-in, we can expect the need for business support to continue for the next 24 months. It is important that the City Council assist in any way that they can so that businesses can resume and tax generation will improve.

In a terrible time in our country and city's history, as Richmond's leaders, it is your responsibility to support our local businesses that support local residents and employs Richmond residents. Please remove the idea of increasing taxes in this terrible pandemic time period from the Council's agenda for the foreseeable future.

Respectfully,


John W. Ziesenhenn

Sabrina Lundy

From: Jordan Burns <user@votervoice.net>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 1:37 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

As you are aware, businesses are facing difficult times during the pandemic and it is disturbing that the City is considering increasing taxes while many struggle to pay staff, rent, and bills. This will hurt our local businesses and community even more and worsen the unemployment crisis.

An overhaul of the business tax structure should be discussed thoroughly with the Richmond business community as it will have overwhelming impacts on our local economy. This is not something that should be rushed in a week's time and based on a neighboring municipalities work. All who will be impacted should be included in all discussions.

While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jordan Burns
3223 Blume Dr
San Pablo, CA 94806
jordanburns306@yahoo.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Kathlene Carney <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 2:00 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

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While we understand the City is facing a structural deficit, increasing the tax burden on small businesses at this time will only encourage businesses to leave, or force them to close their doors for good. The end result will be an even greater structural deficit for Richmond and the decay of our essential small business community.

Yours sincerely,

Kathlene Carney

This email was sent by Kathlene Carney via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Kathlene provided an email address (carneypr@comcast.net) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Kathlene Carney at carneypr@comcast.net.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Kathy Koller <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 10:21 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

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Yours sincerely,

Kathy Koller

This email was sent by Kathy Koller via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Kathy provided an email address (kathykoller23@gmail.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Kathy Koller at kathykoller23@gmail.com.

To learn more about Do Gooder visit

https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.dogooder.co&c=E,1,VREk_eqKqYVVcZ-4YlwCAHDpWaK1ccMnU0eDrdvhiL9e-rvCxPuDoJncRo51eCW0970G7_jezzQ1qDEpdw8UfNZ83BhWuPpa9ru4xa04ZjtuQQI,&typo=1

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Kathy Vasilas <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 11:04 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

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4. the pandemic crisis is behind us and all state, county, and city emergency orders have been lifted; and
5. our City Manager has demonstrated that Richmond businesses are on the path to economic recovery.

While a progressive business tax structure may sound good in theory, effective, balanced policy and legislation can only occur when all key stakeholders are engaged and have a seat at the table, and when this process is not rushed but thoughtfully and collaboratively administered.

Indeed, Richmond's current draft ordinance is based on Oakland's model, yet the City of Oakland has determined that they need more time to review the economic impact and determine fair rate increases. As such, they REMOVED the ordinance from the November ballot and created a blue ribbon committee to review it.

While we understand the City is facing a structural deficit, increasing the tax burden on small businesses at this time will only encourage businesses to leave, or force them to close their doors for good. The end result will be an even greater structural deficit for Richmond and the decay of our essential small business community.

Yours sincerely,

Kathy Vasilas

This email was sent by Kathy Vasilas via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Kathy provided an email address (kvasilas@yahoo.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Kathy Vasilas at kvasilas@yahoo.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Katrinka Ruk <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 11:14 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

I respectfully request that you defer changing Richmond's business tax structure until:

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2. City Staff looks at cities other than Oakland and San Francisco that are more comparable to what we provide in Richmond;
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Yours sincerely,

Katrinka Ruk

Council of Business & Industries

This email was sent by Katrinka Ruk via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Katrinka provided an email address (kpruk@sbcglobal.net) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Katrinka Ruk at kpruk@sbcglobal.net.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: K Tisdell <katisdell@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 10:13 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Open Forum for public comments – not on the agenda July 28, 2020

Mayor & City Council Members,

My name is Kevin Tisdell, VP of SEIU 1021 Richmond Chapter and I am urging the Richmond City Council to support the Lift Up Richmond plan that puts the gross receipt tax measure on the November ballot.

A progressive gross receipts tax will help address Richmond's on-going structural budget deficit and move the City toward a more sustainable future.

Richmond's current payroll tax, that charges businesses for every employee has been rejected by most cities because it is a "job killer". A progressive business tax based on gross receipts will encourage small business growth while also providing the services our communities need to thrive.

Thank you for your time.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Kim Walz <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 8:34 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

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Yours sincerely,

Kim Walz

This email was sent by Kim Walz via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Kim provided an email address (mikewalz@aol.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Kim Walz at mikewalz@aol.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Kimberly Paternoster <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 7:21 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

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While we understand the City is facing a structural deficit, increasing the tax burden on small businesses at this time will only encourage businesses to leave, or force them to close their doors for good. The end result will be an even greater structural deficit for Richmond and the decay of our essential small business community.

I am a member of the Richmond business community as well as a homeowner. If you all continue to come after us (businesses as well as homeowners), I can guarantee you I will get on the fast track out of here, and no longer own a business nor a home in Richmond. Get it together, and find somewhere else to sponge money from (like the pensions and the union).

Yours sincerely,

Kimberly Paternoster

This email was sent by Kimberly Paternoster via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Kimberly provided an email address (kim@wickedcode.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Kimberly Paternoster at kim@wickedcode.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Koo Chan <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 10:02 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

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Yours sincerely,

Koo Chan

This email was sent by Koo Chan via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Koo provided an email address (mailankoo@gmail.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Koo Chan at mailankoo@gmail.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Lanny Clark <lanny@greatratesbylanny.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 12:55 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

As you are aware, businesses are facing difficult times during the pandemic and it is disturbing that the City is considering increasing taxes while many struggle to pay staff, rent, and bills. This will hurt our local businesses and community even more and worsen the unemployment crisis.

An overhaul of the business tax structure should be discussed thoroughly with the Richmond business community as it will have overwhelming impacts on our local economy. This is not something that should be rushed in a week's time and based on a neighboring municipalities work. All who will be impacted should be included in all discussions.

While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lanny Clark
115 Skelly
Hercules, CA 94547
lanny@greatratesbylanny.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Laura Clark <reteamclark@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 12:54 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

As you are aware, businesses are facing difficult times during the pandemic and it is disturbing that the City is considering increasing taxes while many struggle to pay staff, rent, and bills. This will hurt our local businesses and community even more and worsen the unemployment crisis.

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While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Laura Clark
115 Skelly
Hercules, CA 94547
reteamclark@gmail.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Li Ling <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 9:50 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

I respectfully request that you defer changing Richmond's business tax structure until:

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2. City Staff looks at cities other than Oakland and San Francisco that are more comparable to what we provide in Richmond;
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4. the pandemic crisis is behind us and all state, county, and city emergency orders have been lifted; and
5. our City Manager has demonstrated that Richmond businesses are on the path to economic recovery.

While a progressive business tax structure may sound good in theory, effective, balanced policy and legislation can only occur when all key stakeholders are engaged and have a seat at the table, and when this process is not rushed but thoughtfully and collaboratively administered.

Indeed, Richmond's current draft ordinance is based on Oakland's model, yet the City of Oakland has determined that they need more time to review the economic impact and determine fair rate increases. As such, they REMOVED the ordinance from the November ballot and created a blue ribbon committee to review it.

While we understand the City is facing a structural deficit, increasing the tax burden on small businesses at this time will only encourage businesses to leave, or force them to close their doors for good. The end result will be an even greater structural deficit for Richmond and the decay of our essential small business community.

Yours sincerely,

Li Ling

This email was sent by Li Ling via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Li provided an email address (li_ling721@hotmail.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Li Ling at li_ling721@hotmail.com.

To learn more about Do Gooder visit

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Li Long <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 9:51 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

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Yours sincerely,

Li Long

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Sabrina Lundy

From: linda clem <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 6:25 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

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Yours sincerely,

linda clem

This email was sent by linda clem via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however linda provided an email address (lindaclem@hotmail.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to linda clem at lindaclem@hotmail.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Linda Kalin <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 10:04 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

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1. the entire business community has had adequate time to review the economic impact and provide input; 2. City Staff looks at cities other than Oakland and San Francisco that are more comparable to what we provide in Richmond; 3. the City Council creates a committee to thoroughly review these issues prior to committing to an expensive ballot measure; 4. the pandemic crisis is behind us and all state, county, and city emergency orders have been lifted; and 5. our City Manager has demonstrated that Richmond businesses are on the path to economic recovery.

While a progressive business tax structure may sound good in theory, effective, balanced policy and legislation can only occur when all key stakeholders are engaged and have a seat at the table, and when this process is not rushed but thoughtfully and collaboratively administered.

Indeed, Richmond's current draft ordinance is based on Oakland's model, yet the City of Oakland has determined that they need more time to review the economic impact and determine fair rate increases. As such, they REMOVED the ordinance from the November ballot and created a blue ribbon committee to review it.

While we understand the City is facing a structural deficit, increasing the tax burden on small businesses at this time will only encourage businesses to leave, or force them to close their doors for good. The end result will be an even greater structural deficit for Richmond and the decay of our essential small business community.

Yours sincerely,
Linda Kalin

This email was sent by Linda Kalin via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Linda provided an email address (linda_kalin@sbcglobal.net) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Linda Kalin at linda_kalin@sbcglobal.net.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Lucien Sung <luciensung@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 12:44 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

As you are aware, businesses are facing difficult times during the pandemic and it is disturbing that the City is considering increasing taxes while many struggle to pay staff, rent, and bills. This will hurt our local businesses and community even more and worsen the unemployment crisis.

An overhaul of the business tax structure should be discussed thoroughly with the Richmond business community as it will have overwhelming impacts on our local economy. This is not something that should be rushed in a week's time and based on a neighboring municipalities work. All who will be impacted should be included in all discussions.

While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lucien Sung
1800 Mesa Buena Ave
San Pablo, CA 94806
luciensung@comcast.net

Sabrina Lundy

From: lucy wu <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 10:08 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

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Yours sincerely,

lucy wu

This email was sent by lucy wu via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however lucy provided an email address (lucy.wu.office@gmail.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to lucy wu at lucy.wu.office@gmail.com.

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[SePJJXryWwnhZQ3FAeM7I1nAlepmSuky6l_x2_RfnkS3eb8ehdg3eDNdmzQ5crA5P1NHi_PLbcsKKoIDTMXjqzRP&typo=1](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.dogooder.co&c=E,1,_9rjclJemr7POhwR5Jf9ySRG9T4wL0zQ7W-)

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Luke Blacklidge <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 9:20 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council and City Manager:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

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Yours sincerely,

Luke Blacklidge

This email was sent by Luke Blacklidge via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Luke provided an email address (lblacklidge@earthlink.net) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Luke Blacklidge at lblacklidge@earthlink.net.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Man Yip <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 10:32 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

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Yours sincerely,

Man Yip

This email was sent by Man Yip via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Man provided an email address (manyuyip999@gmail.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Man Yip at manyuyip999@gmail.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Margaret Stearns <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 10:18 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

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Yours sincerely,

Margaret Stearns

This email was sent by Margaret Stearns via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Margaret provided an email address (mypoland@gmail.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Margaret Stearns at mypoland@gmail.com.

To learn more about Do Gooder visit

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Sabrina Lundy

From: MARIA HARO <user@votervoice.net>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 3:51 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

As you are aware, businesses are facing difficult times during the pandemic and it is disturbing that the City is considering increasing taxes while many struggle to pay staff, rent, and bills. This will hurt our local businesses and community even more and worsen the unemployment crisis.

An overhaul of the business tax structure should be discussed thoroughly with the Richmond business community as it will have overwhelming impacts on our local economy. This is not something that should be rushed in a week's time and based on a neighboring municipalities work. All who will be impacted should be included in all discussions.

While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

MARIA HARO
4832 Skyhawk Dr
El Sobrante, CA 94803
GHARO333@LIVE.COM

Sabrina Lundy

From: Mariama Gebeyehou <AgentMariama@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 12:53 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

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I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mariama Gebeyehou
121 Stanley Ct
Hercules, CA 94547
AgentMariama@gmail.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: martha egan <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 4:25 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

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Yours sincerely,

martha egan

This email was sent by martha egan via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however martha provided an email address (marthaegan@gmail.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to martha egan at marthaegan@gmail.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: MARY Mcginley <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 9:59 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

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Yours sincerely,

MARY Mcginley

This email was sent by MARY Mcginley via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however MARY provided an email address (catherine_mcginley@yahoo.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to MARY Mcginley at catherine_mcginley@yahoo.com.

To learn more about Do Gooder visit

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Mary Orfali <mary@maryorfali.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 8:17 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

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I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Orfali
304 Seaview Dr
Richmond, CA 94801
mary@maryorfali.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: MARY WARBURTON <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2020 8:51 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

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Yours sincerely,

MARY WARBURTON

This email was sent by MARY WARBURTON via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however MARY provided an email address (luvanimals82@gmail.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to MARY WARBURTON at luvanimals82@gmail.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: MaryLouise Clarke <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 9:51 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

I respectfully request that you defer changing Richmond's business tax structure until:

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2. Richmond City Staff looks at cities other than Oakland and San Francisco, that are more comparable to what we have in Richmond;
3. the City Council creates a committee to thoroughly review these issues prior to committing to an expensive ballot measure;
4. the pandemic crisis is behind us and all state, county, and city emergency orders have been lifted; and
5. our City Manager can demonstrate

that Richmond businesses are on the path to economic recovery.

While a progressive business tax structure may sound good in theory, effective, balanced policy and legislation can only occur when all key stakeholders are engaged and have a seat at the table, and when this process is not rushed but thoughtfully and collaboratively administered.

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it.

While we understand the City is facing a structural deficit, increasing the tax burden on small businesses at this time will only encourage businesses to leave, or force them to close their doors for good. The end result will be an even greater structural deficit for Richmond and the decay of our essential small business community.

Yours sincerely,

MaryLouise Clarke

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Please reply to MaryLouise Clarke at mlcatca@gmail.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Matthew Painter <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 10:26 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

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Yours sincerely,

Matthew Painter

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Please reply to Matthew Painter at matt@thepaintersplace.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Sheena Babbini <office_mgr@michaelbondi.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 12:44 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public comments – Agenda item #K-1 Gross Receipts Ballot Measure

This is NOT the time to add financial burdens on businesses that are still able to actually survive at this time.

We would be going from \$550 a year to over \$3000 a year for business license (over 500% increase)

If fees do increase, they should be based on profitability, not gross sales.

If fees increase at such a high rate – coupled with the uncertainty of things at this time due to covid– we would have to weigh our options and would consider moving the business out of Richmond.

If fees increase – additional services that should be provided to businesses : Free garbage pick
up Better police service

Michael Bondi Metal Design, Inc.
2801 Giant Rd. Unit I
Richmond, CA 94806
510-236-2607

Sabrina Lundy

From: Michael Bondi <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 11:27 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

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- and 5. our City Manager has demonstrated that Richmond businesses are on the path to economic recovery.

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Yours sincerely,
Michael Bondi

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Please reply to Michael Bondi at michael@michaelbondi.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Michael Hughey <mike@hugheyhomes.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 11:13 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

As you are aware, businesses are facing difficult times during the pandemic and it is disturbing that the City is considering increasing taxes while many struggle to pay staff, rent, and bills. This will hurt our local businesses and community even more and worsen the unemployment crisis.

An overhaul of the business tax structure should be discussed thoroughly with the Richmond business community as it will have overwhelming impacts on our local economy. This is not something that should be rushed in a week's time and based on a neighboring municipalities work. All who will be impacted should be included in all discussions.

While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Hughey
PO Box 1580
El Cerrito, CA 94530
mike@hugheyhomes.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Michael Walz <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 8:37 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

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Yours sincerely,

Michael Walz

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Please reply to Michael Walz at mwwal2@aol.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Michelle Chan <michellechansf@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 11:02 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public comments - Agenda Item K-1

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I am strongly supportive of adopting a gross receipts tax instead of a payroll tax. This is a job-supporting, fair and sorely needed solution to help address Richmond's budget problems. We simply can't close the budget gap by cutting and cutting -- indeed we've done that so much of that over the years that there is very little left to cut.

I've been a Richmond homeowner and resident for 18 years now, and we need need structural, longer-term solutions to our budget. Adopting a gross receipts tax, along with a progressive taxation approach for landlords -- which shifts a greater burden onto corporate landlords -- is a fair, responsible, and long-sighted solution that will benefit all residents who rely on city services.

Thank you for your consideration,
Michelle Chan

Sabrina Lundy

From: Mike Vasilas <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 10:19 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

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Yours sincerely,

Mike Vasilas

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Please reply to Mike Vasilas at mvasilas@yahoo.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Min Liang <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 11:32 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

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Yours sincerely,

Min Liang

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Please reply to Min Liang at gxnnlm2239@gmail.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Nancy Li <user@votervoice.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 11:20 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

As you are aware, businesses are facing difficult times during the pandemic and it is disturbing that the City is considering increasing taxes while many struggle to pay staff, rent, and bills. This will hurt our local businesses and community even more and worsen the unemployment crisis.

An overhaul of the business tax structure should be discussed thoroughly with the Richmond business community as it will have overwhelming impacts on our local economy. This is not something that should be rushed in a week's time and based on a neighboring municipalities work. All who will be impacted should be included in all discussions.

While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nancy Li
157 Park Pl
Richmond, CA 94801
nancyli67@yahoo.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Nathan Clark <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2020 5:10 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

Small businesses are having enough problems these days, without your making it worse! What are you thinking?

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

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Yours sincerely,

Nathan Clark

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Please reply to Nathan Clark at anyclark@comcast.net.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Nelly Rickert <nellyrickert2@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 12:44 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

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While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nelly Rickert
PO Box 70188
Richmond, CA 94807
nellyrickert2@gmail.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Norma La Bat <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 5:35 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

I respectfully request that you defer changing Richmond's business tax structure until:

1. the entire business community has had adequate time to review the economic impact and provide input;
2. City Staff looks at cities other than Oakland and San Francisco that are more comparable to what we provide in Richmond;
3. the City Council creates a committee to thoroughly review these issues prior to committing to an expensive ballot measure;
4. the pandemic crisis is behind us and all state, county, and city emergency orders have been lifted; and
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Yours sincerely,

Norma La Bat

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Please reply to Norma La Bat at njlabat@comcast.net.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Oscar Garcia <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:32 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

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Yours sincerely,

Oscar Garcia

This email was sent by Oscar Garcia via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Oscar provided an email address (oscarg2@gmail.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Oscar Garcia at oscarg2@gmail.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Pat Prendiville <user@votervoice.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 8:44 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

As you are aware, businesses are facing difficult times during the pandemic and it is disturbing that the City is considering increasing taxes while many struggle to pay staff, rent, and bills. This will hurt our local businesses and community even more and worsen the unemployment crisis.

An overhaul of the business tax structure should be discussed thoroughly with the Richmond business community as it will have overwhelming impacts on our local economy. This is not something that should be rushed in a week's time and based on a neighboring municipalities work. All who will be impacted should be included in all discussions.

While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Pat Prendiville
215 Seacliff Way
Richmond, CA 94801
pprendivil@aol.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Paul Triplett <user@voterveice.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 1:57 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

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While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Paul Triplett
2620 Star Tree Ct
Martinez, CA 94553
phtriplett@aol.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Peter J Pan <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 9:24 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

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Yours sincerely,

Peter J Pan

This email was sent by Peter J Pan via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Peter J provided an email address (peter94706@gmail.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Peter J Pan at peter94706@gmail.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Phil Ledesma <ledesmahomes@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 12:46 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

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While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Phil Ledesma
2821 Gonzaga Ave
Richmond, CA 94806
ledesmahomes@gmail.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Philip Rosenthal <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 9:03 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

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Yours sincerely,

Philip Rosenthal

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Please reply to Philip Rosenthal at philiprosenthal@gmail.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Phoebe Kuong <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 8:55 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

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Yours sincerely,

Phoebe Kuong

This email was sent by Phoebe Kuong via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Phoebe provided an email address (kuong1628@gmail.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Phoebe Kuong at kuong1628@gmail.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: PJ Singh <pj@sfbiztech.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 5:05 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public comments – Agenda item #K-1 Gross Receipts Ballot Measure

Hello Mr. Mayor and Council members,

Given there has been little to no input from the business community in Richmond, it is unfair for you to push the Gross Receipts Business Tax Ballot Measure to increase business license tax amid Coronavirus Pandemic. Everyone in the business community is struggling to keep afloat during these uncertain times. This is the wrong time to consider this measure. You, the Richmond leaders, should be introducing measures to help protect businesses and housing providers of Richmond. Speaking of Richmond housing providers, haven't you punished them enough with increasing rent control fees along with regulations by creating Rent Control System? Did you even review how much taxpayers' money, which can be used to fund much needed services by city, is going into funding the Richmond Rent Control Office before coming up with Gross Receipts Business Tax Ballot Measure? I believe this measure will only help distract potential businesses as well as drive existing businesses away from Richmond.

Thank you for your Time.

PJ Singh

Sabrina Lundy

From: Qinghua Li <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 4:09 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

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Yours sincerely,

Qinghua Li

This email was sent by Qinghua Li via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Qinghua provided an email address (li_qing_hua@yahoo.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Qinghua Li at li_qing_hua@yahoo.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Ray Burciaga <ray@rayburciaga.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 10:40 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

As you are aware, businesses are facing difficult times during the pandemic and it is disturbing that the City is considering increasing taxes while many struggle to pay staff, rent, and bills. This will hurt our local businesses and community even more and worsen the unemployment crisis.

An overhaul of the business tax structure should be discussed thoroughly with the Richmond business community as it will have overwhelming impacts on our local economy. This is not something that should be rushed in a week's time and based on a neighboring municipalities work. All who will be impacted should be included in all discussions.

While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ray Burciaga
108 Scotts Chute Ct
El Sobrante, CA 94803
ray@rayburciaga.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Rhoda Thilmony <rhodathilmony3@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 11:43 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

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I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rhoda Thilmony
606 Terra California Dr Apt 3
Walnut Creek, CA 94595
rhodathilmony3@gmail.com

Sabrina Lundy

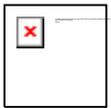
From: Rob Lightner <rob@eastbrotherbeer.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 11:44 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public comments – Agenda item #K-1 Gross Receipts Ballot Measure

I would like to register my opposition to placing the Gross Receipts measure on this November's ballot - for the following reasons:

1. The rates will result in increased burdens on businesses in Richmond, in some cases orders of magnitude higher than we currently pay
2. The measure contains classes of business that are difficult to understand, and therefore to calculate just how much of an increase it will be
3. The business community in Richmond does not seem to have been consulted in development of this plan

We understand the need to find sources of revenue for critical community services in Richmond during this time, but this is a very bad time to be raising taxes on businesses, many of whom (like us) have been severely impacted by the pandemic. At minimum, there should be more time allocated to discussions with the business community, and analyses to ensure equitability so that one class of business is not disproportionately affected by any increase.

Regards,
Rob Lightner
Co-founder



Rob Lightner
East Brother Beer Company
415.608.2462 | rob@eastbrotherbeer.com | www.eastbrotherbeer.com1001
Canal Blvd, #C-2, Richmond, CA 94804



Sabrina Lundy

From: Robert Welch <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 3:02 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

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Yours sincerely,

Robert Welch

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Please reply to Robert Welch at rgwelch@yahoo.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Ruihua Han <gracehan999@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 10:21 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

As you are aware, businesses are facing difficult times during the pandemic and it is disturbing that the City is considering increasing taxes while many struggle to pay staff, rent, and bills. This will hurt our local businesses and community even more and worsen the unemployment crisis.

An overhaul of the business tax structure should be discussed thoroughly with the Richmond business community as it will have overwhelming impacts on our local economy. This is not something that should be rushed in a week's time and based on a neighboring municipalities work. All who will be impacted should be included in all discussions.

While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ruihua Han
1317 Mariposa St
Richmond, CA 94804
gracehan999@gmail.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Sandra Davenport <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 9:43 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

I respectfully request that you defer changing Richmond's business tax structure until:

1. the entire business community has had adequate time to review the economic impact and provide input;
2. City Staff looks at cities other than Oakland and San Francisco that are more comparable to what we provide in Richmond;
3. the City Council creates a committee to thoroughly review these issues prior to committing to an expensive ballot measure;
4. the pandemic crisis is behind us and all state, county, and city emergency orders have been lifted; and
5. our City Manager has demonstrated that Richmond businesses are on the path to economic recovery.

While a progressive business tax structure may sound good in theory, effective, balanced policy and legislation can only occur when all key stakeholders are engaged and have a seat at the table, and when this process is not rushed but thoughtfully and collaboratively administered.

Why are you following Oakland? Can't you do your own work and your own research? Richmond is NOT Oakland. How lazy of you all!!!!

Indeed, Richmond's current draft ordinance is based on Oakland's model, yet the City of Oakland has determined that they need more time to review the economic impact and determine fair rate increases. As such, they REMOVED the ordinance from the November ballot and created a blue ribbon committee to review it.

While we understand the City is facing a structural deficit, increasing the tax burden on small businesses at this time will only encourage businesses to leave, or force them to close their doors for good. The end result will be an even greater structural deficit for Richmond and the decay of our essential small business community.

Everyone who lives here and shops here will pay more. Of COURSE prices will have to go up to cover. This is a low income community. Please don't continue to make it hard to live here!

The real joke is on the landlords. They get taxes as businesses but may not even receive rents for another year! Good going Richmond. NOT.

Yours sincerely,

Sandra Davenport

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Please reply to Sandra Davenport at st.davenport@yahoo.com.

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9DcXpXcOXjjKdWQshsQtrVwlJRMKuPX82SpsRjNYnc3RQ,,&typo=1

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Sandra Tarbet <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 9:57 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. As you all know, many of our local Richmond small businesses are hanging on for dear life to prevent staying afloat and not closing. How can you possibly add another financial burden, that of a gross receipts tax, at this time? The businesses have to pass this expense on to their customers, or take the loss themselves. And as you know, since landlords are included in this gross receipts tax, some landlords aren't even receiving rent! At the present time, July 22, Richmond has the highest Covid rate in all of Contra Costa County. We have a massive health issue here. And you're putting in a tax while so many folks are sick?

I respectfully request that you defer changing Richmond's business tax structure until:

1. the entire business community has had adequate time to review the economic impact and provide input;
2. City Staff looks at cities other than Oakland and San Francisco that are more comparable to what we provide in Richmond;
3. the City Council creates a committee to thoroughly review these issues prior to committing to an expensive ballot measure;
4. the pandemic crisis is behind us and all state, county, and city emergency orders have been lifted; and
5. our City Manager has demonstrated that Richmond businesses are on the path to economic recovery.

While a progressive business tax structure may sound good in theory, effective, balanced policy and legislation can only occur when all key stakeholders are engaged and have a seat at the table, and when this process is not rushed but thoughtfully and collaboratively administered.

Indeed, Richmond's current draft ordinance is based on Oakland's model, yet the City of Oakland has determined that they need more time to review the economic impact and determine fair rate increases. As

such, they REMOVED the ordinance from the November ballot and created a blue ribbon committee to review it.

While we understand the City is facing a structural deficit, increasing the tax burden on small businesses at this time will only encourage businesses to leave, or force them to close their doors for good. The end result will be an even greater structural deficit for Richmond and the decay of our essential small business community.

Yours sincerely,

Sandra Tarbet

This email was sent by Sandra Tarbet via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Sandra provided an email address (sandy@trial-law.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Sandra Tarbet at sandy@trial-law.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: saratheiss@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 2:56 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public comments - Agenda Item K-1

Dear City Council members,

I support a progress gross receipts tax. Small businesses should pay less and large businesses more, including landlords. There is no magic wand to fix the current economic crisis, and I appreciate that the council is looking into all possibilities. I urge you to put in place a more progressive gross receipts tax asap.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Sara Theiss
Richmond residence

Sabrina Lundy

From: Sheena Babbini <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 11:27 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

I respectfully request that you defer changing Richmond's business tax structure until:

1. the entire business community has had adequate time to review the economic impact and provide input;
2. City Staff looks at cities other than Oakland and San Francisco that are more comparable to what we provide in Richmond;
3. the City Council creates a committee to thoroughly review these issues prior to committing to an expensive ballot measure;
4. the pandemic crisis is behind us and all state, county, and city emergency orders have been lifted; and
5. our City Manager has demonstrated that Richmond businesses are on the path to economic recovery.

While a progressive business tax structure may sound good in theory, effective, balanced policy and legislation can only occur when all key stakeholders are engaged and have a seat at the table, and when this process is not rushed but thoughtfully and collaboratively administered.

Indeed, Richmond's current draft ordinance is based on Oakland's model, yet the City of Oakland has determined that they need more time to review the economic impact and determine fair rate increases. As such, they REMOVED the ordinance from the November ballot and created a blue ribbon committee to review it.

While we understand the City is facing a structural deficit, increasing the tax burden on small businesses at this time will only encourage businesses to leave, or force them to close their doors for good. The end result will be an even greater structural deficit for Richmond and the decay of our essential small business community.

Yours sincerely,

Sheena Babbini

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Please reply to Sheena Babbini at office_mgr@michaelbondi.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: shiyu zhang <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 9:58 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

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- and 5. our City Manager has demonstrated that Richmond businesses are on the path to economic recovery.

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While we understand the City is facing a structural deficit, increasing the tax burden on small businesses at this time will only encourage businesses to leave, or force them to close their doors for good. The end result will be an even greater structural deficit for Richmond and the decay of our essential small business community.

Yours sincerely,
shiyu zhang

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Please reply to shiyu zhang at mark_z99@yahoo.com.

To learn more about Do Gooder visit

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Silvia Martinez <user@votervoice.net>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:12 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

As you are aware, businesses are facing difficult times during the pandemic and it is disturbing that the City is considering increasing taxes while many struggle to pay staff, rent, and bills. This will hurt our local businesses and community even more and worsen the unemployment crisis.

An overhaul of the business tax structure should be discussed thoroughly with the Richmond business community as it will have overwhelming impacts on our local economy. This is not something that should be rushed in a week's time and based on a neighboring municipalities work. All who will be impacted should be included in all discussions.

While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Silvia Martinez
32940 Soquel St
Union City, CA 94587
silviatmartinez@yahoo.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Stacy Engel-Boyum <sunnyside73@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 1:31 PM
To: Sabrina Lundy
Subject: Fw: Public comments- Agenda item #K-1 Gross Receipts Ballot Measure

Sorry this is the most recent comment that I would like recorded, again my apologies

Sincerely,

Stacy

From: Stacy Engel-Boyum
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 12:08 PM
To: City Clerk <cityclerk@cityofconcord.org>
Subject: Public comments- Agenda item #K-1 Gross Receipts Ballot Measure

Members of the City Council and City Manager,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address you on behalf of North Richmond Properties, Inc and its tenants. We have owned commercial and office property in Richmond since the mid 1980's. We are opposed to the proposed Gross Receipts Tax Measure K-1 for many reasons. For one, we believe that this is a rushed effort on the cities part to narrow the gap to balance a budget without truly taking into consideration the ramifications this measure could have on all businesses in Richmond. We understand the need to implement funding for various city entities but we feel that in haste you will do more damage to the cities revenue by forcing long standing Richmond businesses to decide to move their businesses out of Richmond city limits which in turn will hurt Richmond. There should be a mutual cohesiveness between the City of Richmond and its businesses rather than a ill timed money grab during one of the most devastating pandemics in history. We have had to reduce rents for our tenants as of right now, how will they afford recovering from the pandemic with this on the horizon. If you lose businesses in Richmond due to this measure it could lower property values especially property owners that lease to businesses, who will want to rent those spaces with this measure in place, a neighboring city without this type of measure will look more advantageous to their bottom line. Our fees last year were roughly \$400 under this proposed measure our fees would increase from \$30K to \$40K, that is a 10,000% increase!!! Wow, I want to repeat that it is a 10,000% increase!! In closing you are forcing businesses like ourselves that have been in Richmond for years to rethink if its viable to stay in Richmond and

that is not something we thought we would have to deal with during these very trying times and that is very sad.

Sincerely,

Stacy

Stacy Engel-Boyum
Property Manager
North Richmond Properties Inc.
2801 Giant Rd. Bldg A
Richmond, CA 94806
510-233-0458 Office
925-980-0569 Cell
510-233-0704 Fax

Note:

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Thank You.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Stephen Dallura <steved12345678@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 10:41 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

As you are aware, businesses are facing difficult times during the pandemic and it is disturbing that the City is considering increasing taxes while many struggle to pay staff, rent, and bills. This will hurt our local businesses and community even more and worsen the unemployment crisis.

An overhaul of the business tax structure should be discussed thoroughly with the Richmond business community as it will have overwhelming impacts on our local economy. This is not something that should be rushed in a week's time and based on a neighboring municipalities work. All who will be impacted should be included in all discussions.

While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephen Dallura
2833 San Mateo St
Richmond, CA 94804
steved12345678@gmail.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Steve Ongerth <greensyndicalist@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 12:57 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public comments - Agenda Item K-1

I understand that the City Council will be debating whether to put a progressive business tax, called a gross receipt tax, on the November ballot. I support this action!

What's a gross receipts tax?

Richmond currently has a tax on payroll. Payroll taxes create a disincentive to hire, since the business tax rate goes up based on number of employees.

In contrast, a gross receipts tax is a tax on business revenue. This progressive alternative charges small businesses less, while larger businesses with more revenue pay more. This system is used by many California cities.

By switching to a gross receipts tax, the smallest businesses in Richmond would see their taxes reduced from \$238 to \$100. A restaurant with 15 employees and gross receipts totaling \$2,300,000 would see its taxes go up \$377.

Why do we need a gross receipts tax?

As most people know, Richmond struggled to close \$30 million budget gap in the last months, resulting in hiring freezes, furloughs and reduced services.

Especially with tough economic times ahead, we need structural solutions to Richmond's budget problems. Switching from a payroll to a gross receipts tax could raise up to \$8.9 million in addition revenue while promoting job creation.

What about landlords?

A gross receipts tax should be made even more progressive by creating a rate structure which protects small property owners. Currently in Richmond all properties are charged at a flat rate of \$234.10, no matter the number of units.

A progressive model would protect small landlords that are usually more connected to the community, while making sure large landlords pay their fair share and contribute to the City.

Will a ballot measure on gross receipts tax pass?

Current polling shows that 68% of Richmond residents support a progressive business tax. People seem to like the idea of a tax system that will encourage small business growth, while also providing the services our communities need to thrive.

-In Solidarity,
Steve Ongerth

Pronouns - He/Him

Cell & Signal - 510-459-6586

CoFounder, IWW Environmental Union Caucus - <https://ecology.iww.org>

Soap Boxer, Green Syndicalist Box - <https://www.facebook.com/GreenSyndicalistSoapbox/>

Author, Redwood Uprising - <https://judibari.info>

Sabrina Lundy

From: Suren Nayantai <user@votervoice.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 9:17 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

As you are aware, businesses are facing difficult times during the pandemic and it is disturbing that the City is considering increasing taxes while many struggle to pay staff, rent, and bills. This will hurt our local businesses and community even more and worsen the unemployment crisis.

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While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Suren Nayantai
5017 Sweetwood Dr
Richmond, CA 94803
sknayantai@yahoo.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Susan Pricco <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2020 4:59 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

I regularly patronize Richmond businesses. This is a terrible thing to do to them.

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

I respectfully request that you defer changing Richmond's business tax structure until:

1. the entire business community has had adequate time to review the economic impact and provide input;
2. City Staff looks at cities other than Oakland and San Francisco that are more comparable to what we provide in Richmond;
3. the City Council creates a committee to thoroughly review these issues prior to committing to an expensive ballot measure;
4. the pandemic crisis is behind us and all state, county, and city emergency orders have been lifted; and
5. our City Manager has demonstrated that Richmond businesses are on the path to economic recovery.

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Indeed, Richmond's current draft ordinance is based on Oakland's model, yet the City of Oakland has determined that they need more time to review the economic impact and determine fair rate increases. As such, they REMOVED the ordinance from the November ballot and created a blue ribbon committee to review it.

While we understand the City is facing a structural deficit, increasing the tax burden on small businesses at this time will only encourage businesses to leave, or force them to close their doors for good. The end result will be an even greater structural deficit for Richmond and the decay of our essential small business community.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Pricco

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Please reply to Susan Pricco at spricco@comcast.net.

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https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.dogooder.co&c=E,1,-wU0r_VIPvR7wceXNL79XX87wBD-Q16W8KKGkjgeDcnD7bg7I1IHWYriAiobn5s2q8mWGh9bL10PBogvPphfCxlidK947-eICRRieG-Ldo4COd0fw,,&typo=1

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Szymon Bernaciak <Szymon@onlinebindery.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 11:21 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: FW: Public comments – Agenda item #K-1 Gross Receipts Ballot Measure

Please include the attached message in your public comments section during the upcoming Council meeting for consideration.

Thank you!

From: Szymon Bernaciak
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 11:07 AM
To: cityclerkdept@ci.richmond.ca.us
Subject: Public comments – Agenda item #K-1 Gross Receipts Ballot Measure

Dear Council Members,

I would like you to consider further revisions to the draft measure K-1, as I believe that it will punish the businesses trying to work extra hard during this challenging time we are all facing. I believe that it is not the time to consider such changes, as many business owners are currently trying to be able to keep as many families on their payroll as possible, and it can only be achieved through working as many hours as possible, to maximize the money influx as much as possible. I'm writing to you hoping that you will thoroughly evaluate the discussed proposal before passing this resolution. I trust that the council members will consider the long-term implications of such changes, instead of acting based on the present circumstances alone.

I believe that the proposed change would work well when applied to the big companies, not small and medium-sized family-run businesses. Thus, it is my opinion that it would bring nothing but a pay cut for those who need this money the most.

Sincerely,

Ernest Lompa, On Line Bindery President

[On Line Bindery](#)

3950 Bissell Ave, Richmond, CA 94805

P: (510) 234-7707

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Tony Davenport <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2020 8:59 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

I respectfully request that you defer changing Richmond's business tax structure until:

1. the entire business community has had adequate time to review the economic impact and provide input;
2. City Staff looks at cities other than Oakland and San Francisco that are more comparable to what we provide in Richmond;
3. the City Council creates a committee to thoroughly review these issues prior to committing to an expensive ballot measure;
4. the pandemic crisis is behind us and all state, county, and city emergency orders have been lifted; and
5. our City Manager has demonstrated that Richmond businesses are on the path to economic recovery.

While a progressive business tax structure may sound good in theory, effective, balanced policy and legislation can only occur when all key stakeholders are engaged and have a seat at the table, and when this process is not rushed but thoughtfully and collaboratively administered.

Indeed, Richmond's current draft ordinance is based on Oakland's model, yet the City of Oakland has determined that they need more time to review the economic impact and determine fair rate increases. As such, they REMOVED the ordinance from the November ballot and created a blue ribbon committee to review it.

While we understand the City is facing a structural deficit, increasing the tax burden on small businesses at this time will only encourage businesses to leave, or force them to close their doors for good. The end result will be an even greater structural deficit for Richmond and the decay of our essential small business community.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Davenport

This email was sent by Tony Davenport via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Tony provided an email address (goodworksystems@gmail.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Tony Davenport at goodworksystems@gmail.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Tyra Wright <tyra@feagleyrealtors.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 12:49 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

As you are aware, businesses are facing difficult times during the pandemic and it is disturbing that the City is considering increasing taxes while many struggle to pay staff, rent, and bills. This will hurt our local businesses and community even more and worsen the unemployment crisis.

An overhaul of the business tax structure should be discussed thoroughly with the Richmond business community as it will have overwhelming impacts on our local economy. This is not something that should be rushed in a week's time and based on a neighboring municipalities work. All who will be impacted should be included in all discussions.

While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tyra Wright
2522 Edwards Ave
El Cerrito, CA 94530
tyra@feagleyrealtors.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Verdell Simon Tatum <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2020 7:33 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

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Yours sincerely,

Verdell Simon Tatum

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Please reply to Verdell Simon Tatum at verdellsimontatum8@gmail.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Vrinda Koovakkat <realtor.vrinda@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 10:03 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

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I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Vrinda Koovakkat
1317 Canterbury Apt Hercules
Hercules, CA 94547
realtor.vrinda@gmail.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Warren Li <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 9:42 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

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Yours sincerely,

Warren Li

This email was sent by Warren Li via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Warren provided an email address (warrenhli@hotmail.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Warren Li at warrenhli@hotmail.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Weijie Zhang <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 11:22 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

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Yours sincerely,

Weijie Zhang

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Please reply to Weijie Zhang at weijiezd@gmail.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Weikun Guo <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 10:33 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

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Yours sincerely,

Weikun Guo

This email was sent by Weikun Guo via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Weikun provided an email address (weikunguo@yahoo.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Weikun Guo at weikunguo@yahoo.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Wen Lu <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 9:49 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

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Yours sincerely,

Wen Lu

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Please reply to Wen Lu at luwenyu@yahoo.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: william Davis <bill.davisre@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 2:14 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

As you are aware, businesses are facing difficult times during the pandemic and it is disturbing that the City is considering increasing taxes while many struggle to pay staff, rent, and bills. This will hurt our local businesses and community even more and worsen the unemployment crisis.

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While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

william Davis
835 Idlewood Cir
El Sobrante, CA 94803
bill.davisre@gmail.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: w.robinson@naacprichmondca.org
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 9:48 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Cc: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Demnlus Johnson; Ben Choi; Jael Myrick; Eduardo Martinez; Melvin Willis
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA ITEM #K1 - GROSS RECEIPTS BALLOT MEASURE

Greetings Mayor Butt & Council Members:

I am Willie Robinson, President of the Richmond Branch of the NAACP. I write to urge you to NOT move forward, at this time with any decision to place on the November ballot this measure to change the business tax structure. Our review of the matter suggest that on the surface, it will benefit small and micro businesses. However, their will be unintended consequences. This is the primary area of our objections. Without further study into these unknown consequences, the economic impact will be devastating for employment in the very community that suffers the most during major downturns in the economy.

Please consider giving this a much thoughts before moving forward.

Willie J. Robinson,
Branch President

Sabrina Lundy

From: Wing Choi <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 12:20 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

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Yours sincerely,

Wing Choi

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Please reply to Wing Choi at wingchoi845@gmail.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Xiaomei Song <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 9:42 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

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Yours sincerely,
Xiaomei Song

This email was sent by Xiaomei Song via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Xiaomei provided an email address (daisysxm@hotmail.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Xiaomei Song at daisysxm@hotmail.com.

To learn more about Do Gooder visit

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Xiaoqing Xu <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 11:19 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

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Yours sincerely,

Xiaoqing Xu

This email was sent by Xiaoqing Xu via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Xiaoqing provided an email address (chris_xq@yahoo.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Xiaoqing Xu at chris_xq@yahoo.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Xin Ma <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 9:32 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

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Yours sincerely,

Xin Ma

This email was sent by Xin Ma via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Xin provided an email address (attn@hotmail.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Xin Ma at attn@hotmail.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Yan Heim <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 9:48 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

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Yours sincerely,

Yan Heim

This email was sent by Yan Heim via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Yan provided an email address (yh2128@gmail.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Yan Heim at yh2128@gmail.com.

To learn more about Do Gooder visit

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Yazheng Song <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2020 5:42 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

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Yours sincerely,

Yazheng Song

This email was sent by Yazheng Song via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Yazheng provided an email address (baoskie@gmail.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Yazheng Song at baoskie@gmail.com.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Yuanping He <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 9:48 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

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Yours sincerely,

Yuanping He

This email was sent by Yuanping He via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Yuanping provided an email address (yuanping_he@hotmail.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Yuanping He at yuanping_he@hotmail.com.

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[lcq8dtrFSutcjZyY4vkF7MwyYy1FI8TMGw_301gJir9TjzB2cDfbJywn4xjPvKjEXu9lgAli3INC5U3WSFtAeU1U11g4TUZxl,&typo=1](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.dogooder.co&c=E,1,Jg4wspHYzmRF5ZvjZuWR00w0Q-)

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Yun Mei Wang <user@votervoice.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 1:12 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

As you are aware, businesses are facing difficult times during the pandemic and it is disturbing that the City is considering increasing taxes while many struggle to pay staff, rent, and bills. This will hurt our local businesses and community even more and worsen the unemployment crisis.

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While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Yun Mei Wang
2811 Stephen Dr
Richmond, CA 94803
maggie_wang_realtor@yahoo.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: yun ru <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 11:38 AM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

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Yours sincerely,
yun ru

This email was sent by yun ru via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however yun provided an email address (hjin2000@yahoo.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to yun ru at hjin2000@yahoo.com.

To learn more about Do Gooder visit

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Zannis Vasilas <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 10:17 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

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Yours sincerely,

Zannis Vasilas

This email was sent by Zannis Vasilas via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Zannis provided an email address (zvasilas@yahoo.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Zannis Vasilas at zvasilas@yahoo.com.

To learn more about Do Gooder visit

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Cordell Hindler <cordellhindler@ymail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 9:41 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: K-4. RECEIVE a presentation from the Richmond Youth Council and ADOPT a resolution in support of the Richmond Youth Council recommen

hello Sabrina, i have reviewed the Presentation and all i am asking that the City Council to ADOPT the Resolution that the Youth Council has prepared

Sincerely
Cordell

Sabrina Lundy

From: Cordell Hindler <cordellhindler@ymail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 9:55 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: L-1. ORDINANCES

hello Sabrina, i have reviewed the ORDINANCES and i am asking the Council to Approve the Resolution as presented by the human resources department

sincerely
Cordell

Sabrina Lundy

From: Gregory McConnell <gmconn15@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 3:47 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

As you are aware, businesses are facing difficult times during the pandemic and it is disturbing that the City is considering increasing taxes while many struggle to pay staff, rent, and bills. This will hurt our local businesses and community even more and worsen the unemployment crisis.

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I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gregory McConnell
641 27th St
Richmond, CA 94804
gmconn15@gmail.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Jigme Gaeshingsong <jigmerealtor@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 3:06 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

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Sincerely,

Jigme Gaeshingsong
2919 Cindy Ct
Richmond, CA 94803
jigmerealtor@gmail.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Joe Pinguelo <user@votervoice.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 3:16 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

As you are aware, businesses are facing difficult times during the pandemic and it is disturbing that the City is considering increasing taxes while many struggle to pay staff, rent, and bills. This will hurt our local businesses and community even more and worsen the unemployment crisis.

An overhaul of the business tax structure should be discussed thoroughly with the Richmond business community as it will have overwhelming impacts on our local economy. This is not something that should be rushed in a week's time and based on a neighboring municipalities work. All who will be impacted should be included in all discussions.

While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

Most businesses would consider relocating to a neighboring city.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Joe Pinguelo
6369 Arlington Blvd
Richmond, CA 94805
gotsold@yahoo.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Priscilla Regalado <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 4:44 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; No small business tax changes on November ballot!

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. With constantly changing guidelines, a dwindling number of customers, and mounting bills, the addition of yet another financial burden will be too much to handle.

I respectfully request that you defer changing Richmond's business tax structure until:

1. the entire business community has had adequate time to review the economic impact and provide input;
2. City Staff looks at cities other than Oakland and San Francisco that are more comparable to what we provide in Richmond;
3. the City Council creates a committee to thoroughly review these issues prior to committing to an expensive ballot measure;
4. the pandemic crisis is behind us and all state, county, and city emergency orders have been lifted; and
5. our City Manager has demonstrated that Richmond businesses are on the path to economic recovery.

While a progressive business tax structure may sound good in theory, effective, balanced policy and legislation can only occur when all key stakeholders are engaged and have a seat at the table, and when this process is not rushed but thoughtfully and collaboratively administered.

Indeed, Richmond's current draft ordinance is based on Oakland's model, yet the City of Oakland has determined that they need more time to review the economic impact and determine fair rate increases. As such, they REMOVED the ordinance from the November ballot and created a blue ribbon committee to review it.

While we understand the City is facing a structural deficit, increasing the tax burden on small businesses at this time will only encourage businesses to leave, or force them to close their doors for good. The end result will be an even greater structural deficit for Richmond and the decay of our essential small business community.

This email was sent by Priscilla Regalado via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Priscilla provided an email address (p.regalado@sbcglobal.net) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Priscilla Regalado at p.regalado@sbcglobal.net.

To learn more about Do Gooder visit

https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.dogooder.co&c=E,1,8kv72BqtmX76WHS_ZQbXJ9h3QCgi_tv_-3ZbVAW1JGE-mX4xPlyMj1U64_PClq8WdnedHD8XP4xBTba85QY8GeukPuyAnjzjOxKhGjQM-95phfrH6b4,&typo=1

To learn more about web protocol RFC 3834 visit:

https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2ftools.ietf.org%2fhtml%2frfc3834&c=E,1,-n-aQw-OgMv3Ou3nvrDYg0LFAGbn_z2NC3b8LCqxiVrjabQHvfkiNT2Vdq8fNq-S2WHFZEXUM3b0sIVuLxhYJtuJ0rmHGpJc6HI2yihwI40I&typo=1

Sabrina Lundy

From: Sandra Tarbet <sandytarbet@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 6:13 PM
To: City Clerk Dept; Tom Butt - external; Ben Choi; Demnlus Johnson; Nat Bates; Jael Myrick; Melvin Willis; Eduardo Martinez; Laura Snideman
Subject: Public Comments: Agenda Item K-1 Gross Receipts Ballot Measure

To the City Council:

This draft ordinance is based on a model in Oakland. Ironically, Oakland pulled their ballot measure and created a committee to study the economic effects of this measure. Why aren't you doing the same?

You have done no economic analysis! Why is it crucial to "copy" Oakland and San Francisco?

We are neither. If you're going to model after other bay area cities for policies, how about a BROADER scope, such as Concord, Martinez, Antioch, and Vallejo?

It's quite clear that "Lift Up Richmond" is really the unions plus one non profit, who created themselves just for this reason to

create policy to save their jobs! A special interest group is doing the consulting??? Unbelievable.

Our community has been hit very hard by the corona virus and we need to chill out the increased fees and taxes in order

to keep them going!

Sandra Tarbet

Sabrina Lundy

From: Sean Hallinan <shallinan@sunshineconst.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 3:53 PM
To: City Clerk Dept; Tom Butt - external; Ben Choi; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Melvin Willis
Subject: City of Richmond's Proposed Gross Receipts Ballot Measure Agenda Item #K-1

I would like my comments read to the council during the public comment period;

As a business resident of Richmond I have to protest your bogus process in the rush to bring this measure to the City Council for placement on the November ballot. No businesses were polled. No mailers were sent out since the last council meeting when this apparently was brought up by the public sector union PAC "Lift Richmond" as a way to save their salaries and especially their pensions. There was no opportunity for the people affected by this measure to organize. That was clearly the intent, and as such there is a clear constitutional violation here; taxation without representation.

Did you consider that every business that leases space in Richmond will be effectively double taxed by the huge increase in business taxes? Did you know that double taxation will happen because all commercial lease agreements have a tax increase "pass thru" from landlords to tenants? So not only will our tax bill go up 10 fold, so will our rents! So once again tenants will bear a disproportionate amount of the costs of this measure as landlords will only be indirectly affect by tenants leaving due to too high taxes and spaces remaining empty. And during an economically devastating PANDEMIC!! We are a small struggling business that will see a business license tax bill of almost \$30K. That is REAL money, that comes out of the pockets of the hardworking business owners in Richmond. And during a PANDEMIC!!!

You are effectively starting the process that creates blight; high crime, no services and adding to that exorbitant business taxes. And a tax increase with zero increases in services (almost non-existent now) is also a constitutional violation. Is there increased healthcare, crime prevention or infrastructure improvement or will every dollar be allocated to the pension costs, which are now at almost 50% of the City of Richmond's yearly budget? What cuts to pension/salaries have been made in response to the decades of mismanagement? Is this the only way you could find to prop up the failing pension fund? The decades of fiscal mis-management and corruption (junk status bond rating, 200+ layoffs since 2008 when most cities are adding to their workforce, potential bankruptcy and pension costs that are 44% of the budget) have clearly taught you nothing. You cite Oakland as a mentor in this process, however Oakland threw out their similar proposal because they could see the writing on the wall, that cities need industry as well as arts, housing and living wages to remain vibrant. Housing will save Richmond? This is as bad as thinking the lottery will save the schools or casinos are an answer to budget woes. I will spend the money to move my business before I help pay your bloated, mis-managed and over inflated pension costs, especially when the city provides so little as it is. Then where will you be, when we all leave?

Regards,

Sean Hallinan
Sunshine Commercial Construction, Inc.
833 South 19th Street Unit C
Richmond, CA 94804
p 510-620-0595 f 510-620-0593
www.sunshineconst.com



Sabrina Lundy

From: Sean Prendiville <user@votervoice.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 3:29 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

As you are aware, businesses are facing difficult times during the pandemic and it is disturbing that the City is considering increasing taxes while many struggle to pay staff, rent, and bills. This will hurt our local businesses and community even more and worsen the unemployment crisis.

An overhaul of the business tax structure should be discussed thoroughly with the Richmond business community as it will have overwhelming impacts on our local economy. This is not something that should be rushed in a week's time and based on a neighboring municipalities work. All who will be impacted should be included in all discussions.

While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sean Prendiville
3223 Blume Dr
San Pablo, CA 94806
seanjprendiville@aol.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Zhanna Demydova <user@votervoice.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 4:05 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

As you are aware, businesses are facing difficult times during the pandemic and it is disturbing that the City is considering increasing taxes while many struggle to pay staff, rent, and bills. This will hurt our local businesses and community even more and worsen the unemployment crisis.

An overhaul of the business tax structure should be discussed thoroughly with the Richmond business community as it will have overwhelming impacts on our local economy. This is not something that should be rushed in a week's time and based on a neighboring municipalities work. All who will be impacted should be included in all discussions.

While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Zhanna Demydova
453 Dohrmann Ln
Pinole, CA 94564
jdemydova@yahoo.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Zina Hall <user@votervoice.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 3:19 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

As you are aware, businesses are facing difficult times during the pandemic and it is disturbing that the City is considering increasing taxes while many struggle to pay staff, rent, and bills. This will hurt our local businesses and community even more and worsen the unemployment crisis.

An overhaul of the business tax structure should be discussed thoroughly with the Richmond business community as it will have overwhelming impacts on our local economy. This is not something that should be rushed in a week's time and based on a neighboring municipalities work. All who will be impacted should be included in all discussions.

While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Zina Hall
1828 Esmond Ave
Richmond, CA 94801
zinahall1@yahoo.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Dena Nelson <dena.g.nelson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 6:28 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: public comments – agenda item #E-1 (SPECIAL MEETING OF RICHMOND HOUSING AUTHORITY)

Hello,

My name is Dena Nelson and I am a commissioner on the Richmond Housing Authority Advisory Commission. The RHA has shared with us their proposed budget and answered all of our questions about it. The RHA faces many challenges and is not complacent-- Nanette and her team are working diligently to improve public housing in Richmond and we need the Council to support them in all possible ways.

The Advisory Commission voted earlier this month to support the proposed budget and I urge the Council to take a close look and then follow suit. Despite the competing budget issues, Richmond needs to place the highest priority on the housing needs of vulnerable Richmond residents.

Thank you!
Dena Nelson
Richmond, CA

Sabrina Lundy

From: Leisa Johnson <leisa_johnson@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 9:55 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Cc: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Melvin Willis; Ben Choi
Subject: Public Comments - Item H-4 (Veolia), 7/28/2020

Dear City Clerk

I would like to provide oral comment on this item. My phone number is [REDACTED]

I would also like the below comments to be included in the formal written record.

Thank you,
Leisa

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, and City Councilmen -

I pulled this item again this evening because there are still many concerns and new information that I am hoping this council will address.

I have been a consistent voice advocating for our community on several issues, including for customers served by the RMSD and Veolia. Currently, many of us wonder if you are representing us or if you are representing Veolia.

On July 7th, it came to light that Veolia was not doing their job and appropriately managing their subcontractors and their work. Additionally, it was revealed that the subcontractor, Bay Hawk, that was awarded this particular 2018/2019 RAA project did not perform and complete the repair work on 14 of 33 lines and, together with Veolia, invoiced the City as though the work was complete.

Veolia then sent the resulting “Makeup Work” RFP to address these 14 lines to the same two pre-qualified subcontractors that bid on the initial project, including Bay Hawk. And because the other contractor submitted an incomplete bid, Bay Hawk was magically selected to do the very work they didn’t complete the first time.

After discussion, the Council didn’t pass the resolution granting the award to Bay Hawk and the project was ultimately put out for bid to now five pre-qualified contractors, including Bay Hawk.

Here’s the canary in the coal mine — based on a Public Record Act Request, I have found that **the City sent Veolia a Demand Letter on July 2, 2008**. In that letter, the City revealed that a forensic audit and legal review of the contract determined that Veolia had:

- failed to perform contracted work timely and appropriately;
- had charged and been paid for work that was not; and
- had consistently billed for work improperly, resulting in payments that are in excess of that provided for under the Contract.

Veolia had improperly charged the City for profit, costs, expense and for undocumented subcontractor work. Additionally, Veolia had consistently failed to comply with its obligation to competitively bid scopes of work.

Here is a Summary of the Claims:

Veolia has breached the Contract and violate and violated applicable CA law in numerous ways, including but not limited to:

- 1) invoicing for and receiving payment for work not performed;
- 2) submitting improper or marked-up costs;
- 3) improperly billing for profit and overhead;
- 4) billing “contingency” Task Order items without change order, change in scope or explanation;
- 5) failing to perform Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) inspection and cleaning of the City’s sewer systems;
- 6) neglecting to implement a Computer Maintenance Management System (CMMS);
- 7) failing to provide the requisite data for the City’s Geographic Information System (GIS);
- 8) providing misinformation in support of the Master Plan and the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP);
- 9) failing to perform necessary capital improvements;
- 10) performing services without valid licensure, and illegally taking profits during this period;
- 11) violation of the subcontractor bidding process;
- 12) mismanagement and failure to take responsibility for sewer system overflows (SSO); and
- 13) numerous false claims under the California False Claim Act.

As per the Demand Letter, Veolia’s errors and omissions caused the City over **\$11.6M** in breach of contract damages.

Many of those breaches entitled the City to treble damages, meaning an additional **\$14.4M**, not including **an additional \$10,000 penalty per false claim**.

Finally, Veolia’s actions with respect to portions of the Contract rose to the level of fraud which, if proved, would have entitled the City to yet additional damages.

The City’s demand letter called for Veolia to pay the City the sum of \$26M in settlement of those claims. Of note, that demand did not reflect a complete evaluation of the potential damages to the City, because the extent of the damages from certain of Veolia’s failures, while very real, are currently impracticable to calculate.

Based on just the 2018/2019 RAA contract and the resulting Makeup Work, it is clear that many of the same findings of alleged fraud that Veolia was found to have committed in 2008 are still happening 12 years later. Why?

My questions before this council are again:

- 1) When was the last forensic audit done and if it wasn’t in the last year, then I strongly respectfully request one is performed ASAP. Without this, we have know idea if Veolia perhaps owe taxpayers millions of dollars.
- 2) Why are contractors who are alleged to have committed fraudulent activity or consistently underbid in order to win contracts and then submit multiple change orders (as relayed at the July 7th CC meeting) still on the pre-qualified contractor list?
- 3) Why did you extend Veolia’s contract for 5 more years through 2027?
- 4) Why are you not actively putting out an RFP to identify a new facility manager that will not “rob its customers and this City blind”.

I’m asking you - do you represent us, or are you putting Veolia’s interests over that of 67% of Richmond residents and businesses who are served by Veolia and pay taxes?

Thank you,
Leisa

Sabrina Lundy

From: Pamela Christian
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 8:17 PM
To: Sabrina Lundy; Ursula Deloa
Subject: Fwd: my statement on I-1, Tuesday, July 28, 2020

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Eduardo Martinez <richcityservant@gmail.com>
Date: July 28, 2020 at 7:41:05 PM PDT
To: Pamela Christian <pamela_christian@ci.richmond.ca.us>
Subject: my statement on I-1, Tuesday, July 28, 2020

Before Covid-19, Latinos were expected to have a purchasing power topping \$1.7 trillion, according to Selig Center for Economic Growth. I say this because in our society, money is power. But unfortunately, our society also has racism built into the system. That is why a survey conducted by the Military Times found that 22 percent of service members who participated said they have seen signs of white nationalism or racist ideology within the armed forces. Among non-white service members in the poll, incidents of racism and racist ideology increased from 42 percent in 2010 to more than half those surveyed in 2018. I am sure that with the guidance of Mr. Trump the number of incidents is far larger in 2020.

We have seen the ugly head raised recently in the murder and dismemberment of Enrique Roman-Martinez, a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg while camping with fellow soldiers.

Sexism is also another issue that plagues the military. Jaqueline Krulic, a Latinx U.S. Navy veteran talked of the difficulties of moving into roles of leadership. "Male service members made fun of her and her female colleagues, joking that their butts were too big for their uniforms. When they tried to stick up for themselves, they were told they had a bad attitude." But this is just the "lite" aspect of how sexism undermines the trust of female soldiers. Countless examples of sexual harassment have gone unanswered and, in most cases, ruled unsubstantiated. In fact some cases are covered up by the officers in charge. For instance: LaVena Lynn Johnson (July 27, 1985- July 19, 2005) was found dead in her tent while on duty in Iraq. Although the autopsy report and photographs revealed Johnson had a broken nose, black eye, loose teeth, burns from a

corrosive chemical on her genitals and a gunshot wound on the left side of her head though she was righthanded, the Department of Defense ruled her death a suicide. Justice for LaVena is still being pursued at <https://www.facebook.com/lavenajohnson/>

I ask that her name be included in our letter to electeds for justice for Vanessa Guillen. I would want the letter to also include support for Vanessa Guillen's family proposed bill, named “#IAmVanessaGuillen” after a hashtag that encouraged military members to talk about their own sexual harassment and sexual assault experiences. The bill still in its early stages would create a third-party agency to which active-duty service members could report allegations of sexual harassment and sexual assault.

Eduardo

Sabrina Lundy

From: David Sharples <dsharples@calorganize.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 6:31 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comments – agenda item #K-1

Hello my name is Ana Gonzalez, and I am urging the Richmond City Council to modernize the Richmond Business Tax, moving it to a progressive gross receipts tax.

Richmond's current payroll tax, that charges business for every employee has been rejected by most cities because it is a "job killer". A progressive business tax based on gross receipts will encourage small business growth while also providing the services our communities need to thrive.

Communities have dealt with continued cuts in services. City workers have stepped up and given back. It is time for the business community in Richmond to be a part of the solution.

This change will help deal with Richmond's on-going structural budget deficit. For the future of our City please support the Gross Receipts Tax.

Hello my name is Flora Back, and I am urging the Richmond City Council to modernize the Richmond Business Tax, moving it to a progressive gross receipts tax.

The Lift Up Richmond plan creates a progressive rate structure which protects small property owners with large landlords paying their fair share. Currently in Richmond all properties are charged at a flat rate of \$234.10 no matter the number of units.

Communities have dealt with continued cuts in services. City workers have stepped up and given back. It is time we all are part of the solution.

This change will help deal with Richmond's on-going structural budget deficit. For the future of our City please support the Gross Receipts Tax.

Hello my name is Sandra Aldaba, and I am urging the Richmond City Council to modernize the Richmond Business Tax, moving it to a progressive gross receipts tax.

Richmond is a city of small businesses, small landlords and local thriving industries. We cannot allow corporations and large landlords to defeat this crucial legislation.

Communities have dealt with continued cuts in services. City workers have stepped up and given back. It is time we all are part of the solution to Lift Up Richmond. We need a progressive tax rate structure where small properties pay less and larger landlords pay more.

This change will help deal with Richmond's on-going structural budget deficit. For the future of our City please support the Gross Receipts Tax.

Hello my name is Astrid Jerez, and I am urging the Richmond City Council to modernize the Richmond Business Tax, moving it to a progressive gross receipts tax.

Richmond is a city of small businesses and local thriving industries. We cannot allow corporate interest and large landlords to strike down the Lift Up Richmond plan. We must protect small landlords and property owners.

Communities have dealt with continued cuts in services. City workers have stepped up and given back. It is time we all are part of the solution to Lift Up Richmond.

This change will help deal with Richmond's on-going structural budget deficit. For the future of our City please support the Gross Receipts Tax.

Hello my name is Luz Diaz, and I am urging the Richmond City Council to modernize the Richmond Business Tax and support the Lift Up Richmond Plan.

Currently the structure is based on the number of employees rather than the gross receipts of a business. This means there is a disincentive in Richmond for businesses to hire additional employees rather than based on the gross receipts of the business with the looming fear that their taxes will increase when hiring more employees.

Communities have dealt with continued cuts in services. City workers have stepped up and given back. It is time we all are part of the solution to Lift Up Richmond.

This change will help deal with Richmond's on-going structural budget deficit. For the future of our City please support the Gross Receipts Tax.

Hello my name is Jose Murillo, and I am urging the Richmond City Council to modernize the Richmond Business Tax and support the Lift Up Richmond Plan.

The Lift Up Richmond Plan, protects small properties and those with affordable housing, recognizing large landlords must pay their fair share. Currently in Richmond all properties are charged at a rate of \$234.10 per location. We need a progressive tax on rental property so small landlords pay less than big corporate landlords.

Communities have dealt with continued cuts in services. City workers have stepped up and given back. It is time we all are part of the solution to Lift Up Richmond.

This change will help deal with Richmond's on-going structural budget deficit. For the future of our City please support the Gross Receipts Tax.

Hello my name is Asuncion Carmona, and I am urging the Richmond City Council to modernize the Richmond Business Tax and support the Lift Up Richmond Plan.

The Lift Up Richmond Plan, protects small properties and those with affordable housing, recognizing large landlords must pay their fair share. Currently in Richmond all properties are charged at a rate of \$234.10 per location. We need a progressive tax on rental property so small landlords pay less than big corporate landlords.

Communities have dealt with continued cuts in services. City workers have stepped up and given back. It is time we all are part of the solution to Lift Up Richmond.

This change will help deal with Richmond's on-going structural budget deficit. For the future of our City please support the Gross Receipts Tax.

Hello my name is Jose Palma, and I am urging the Richmond City Council to modernize the Richmond Business Tax and support the Lift Up Richmond Plan.

A progressive gross receipts tax will help address Richmond's on-going structural budget deficit and move the City toward a more sustainable future. We must protect small business and property owners and hold corporations accountable to pay their fair share.

Communities have dealt with continued cuts in services. City workers have stepped up and given back. It is time we all are part of the solution to Lift Up Richmond.

This change will help deal with Richmond's on-going structural budget deficit. For the future of our City please support the Gross Receipts Tax.

Hello my name is Juan Lara, and I am urging the Richmond City Council to modernize the Richmond Business Tax and support the Lift Up Richmond Plan.

The Lift Up Richmond Plan, protects vital city services that support programs for the youth, libraries, parks, community centers and emergency response.

Communities have dealt with continued cuts in services. City workers have stepped up and given back. It is time we all are part of the solution to Lift Up Richmond.

This change will help deal with Richmond's on-going structural budget deficit. For the future of our City please support the Gross Receipts Tax.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Angelica Howay
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 6:31 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: public comments - K1

My name is Angelica Howay and I am an SEIU 1021 member. I am urging the Richmond city council to support the Lift Up Richmond plan that puts the gross receipt tax measure on the November ballot.

A progressive gross receipts tax will help address Richmond's on-going structural budget deficit and move the City toward a more sustainable future.

Richmond's current payroll tax, that charges business for every employee, has been rejected by most cities because it is a "job killer". A progressive business tax based on gross receipts will encourage small business growth while also providing the services our communities need to thrive.

The Lift Up Richmond plan creates a rate structure which protects small property owners with large landlords paying their fair share. Currently in Richmond all properties are charged at a flat rate of \$234.10 no matter the number of units.

A progressive model would protect small landlords that are usually more connected to the community while making sure large landlords contribute to the City.

Richmond is a city of small businesses and local thriving industries. We cannot allow corporate interest and large landlords to strike down this crucial legislation.

I have seen the City of Richmon Community Center have their budget cut, resulting in us not being able to provide as many programs as we would like to the members of the community. This has affected me and my neighbors drastically and we can longer bear the burden of continued cuts.

City workers have stepped up and given back, our communities have taken cuts to emergency services, youth programs and street maintenance. It is time for the business community to be a part of the solution to Richmond's economic issues.

Without the proposed amendments to the business tax, neighborhoods like mine will continue to have programs cut across the board. We need to provide a structure for the youth and businesses to grow in Richmond.

Sincerely,
Angelica Howay

Sabrina Lundy

From: Christina <credse@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 6:42 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Ben Choi; Demnlus Johnson; Eduardo Martinez; Jael Myrick; Melvin Willis
Cc: City Clerk Dept; Laura Snideman
Subject: Agenda Item K-1, Gross Receipts Business Tax

Dear Mayor Butt, City Council Members, City Manager and City Clerk:

I joined many Richmond business owners on the Zoom call today regarding the proposed business tax measure. It is completely clear that Richmond needs and deserves a lot more time to consider the impact of such sweeping tax changes. Why would any group be urging our city to rush something like this? Especially without any meaningful engagement of our business community or city-specific research on the potential impact through time. If Richmond businesses relocate or fold as a result of these tax changes, the city could actually end up losing tax revenue.

As others have pointed out, cities who have gone this route spent *years* studying the potential impacts on their cities prior to enacting these kinds of broad-reaching tax changes. That this high-stakes process is being rushed is bad enough, but that it's rushed during an active state of emergency due COVID-19 — it's hard to comprehend.

Please ensure we take the time to study this thoroughly as it relates to Richmond, not some other city. Please take the time to gather input from Richmond business and draw from their experience and expertise. Richmond residents and businesses will be well served by a deliberate and thorough consideration of this kind of far-reaching proposal.

I respectfully request you vote against putting this measure on the November ballot.

Sincerely,
Christina Redse
Richmond CA 94804

Sabrina Lundy

From: Fred Zimmermann <silverblue1000@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 7:13 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

As you are aware, businesses are facing difficult times during the pandemic and it is disturbing that the City is considering increasing taxes while many struggle to pay staff, rent, and bills. This will hurt our local businesses and community even more and worsen the unemployment crisis.

An overhaul of the business tax structure should be discussed thoroughly with the Richmond business community as it will have overwhelming impacts on our local economy. This is not something that should be rushed in a week's time and based on a neighboring municipalities work. All who will be impacted should be included in all discussions.

While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Fred Zimmermann
2042 Cabrillo Ln
Hercules, CA 94547
silverblue1000@gmail.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Gayle McLaughlin <gayledirect@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 6:34 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public comments - Item K-1

PLEASE READ THE BELOW COMMENTS FROM ME ALOUD AT THE COUNCIL MEETING.
UNFORTUNATELY, I CANNOT CALL IN TONIGHT.

Dear Mayor and City Councilmembers,

My name is Gayle McLaughlin. Sorry I cannot call-in tonight, but thank you to the City Clerk's office for reading this.

I urge you to put the gross receipts tax measure on the November ballot. The current business license fee is a flat fee of \$234.10, so businesses small and large pay the same amount no matter how much money they bring in. This isn't fair. Small businesses should pay less, and that is what this measure accomplishes. Under this measure, most businesses under \$250,000 in gross receipts will only pay \$100 which is less than half of what they are paying now. Larger businesses will pay more, which is how it should be. Small businesses should not carry the same tax burden as larger businesses making large profits. For landlord properties, we should protect smaller landlords with the larger landlords paying more. Right now a landlord with a duplex pays the same flat fee as those having a building with 100 units.

In addition, the current structure is a payroll tax which disincentivizes small businesses from adding new employees, since there is an additional amount charged per employee. That is why payroll taxes are often called "job killers" and that is why most cities have rejected this kind of structure.

Please pass this ballot measure with a progressive tax system to protect small businesses and small landlords.

By amending Richmond's business tax structure in this way (using Berkeley's progressive model), we will generate \$8.1 million in additional revenue. This money is sorely needed by our community for valuable services that will allow our youth, seniors and working families to thrive.

Thank you for hearing my comments.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Harry Baker <harrybakeriii@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 6:30 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: public comments - K1

Richmond City Council Members:

My name is Harry Baker. I am a Co-Chair of Contra Costa COPE, the political arm of SEIU Local 1021 in the County. SEIU Local 1021 represents over 400 Richmond City employees.

Our members, and city employees generally, have sacrificed to assist Richmond in resolving its serious budget issues. Our communities have lost critical services, including youth programs. Parks and street maintenance are suffering.

We are asking the City Council to place a gross receipts tax measure on the November ballot.

The business community can and should be a more significant part of the solution to Richmond's economic issues. A progressive business tax based on gross receipts will encourage small business growth while providing the services our communities need to thrive, and will protect small landlords while making sure large landlords contribute their fair share.

Thank you.

Harry Baker, Co-Chair
Contra Costa COPE, SEIU 1021
harrybakeriii@gmail.com
(415) 806-3331

Sabrina Lundy

From: Jane Courant <janecourant@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 6:39 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comments, K-1

I support the Gross Receipts tax measure as a great way for Richmond to increase revenue at this difficult time. The smallest businesses in Richmond would see their taxes reduced and much larger corporations' taxes would rise. Switching from a payroll to a gross receipts tax could raise up to \$8.9 million in additional revenue and create jobs.

Such a tax could be made even more progressive by creating a rate structure which protects small property owners instead of them paying the same flat rate flat rate as much larger landlords, often those who do not live in Richmond.

Current polling so far shows that 68% of Richmond residents support a progressive business tax. Let's do this!

Jane Courant, Richmond

Sent from my iPad

Sabrina Lundy

From: Jill Perry
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 6:31 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comments – agenda item #K-1

Good evening. My name is Jill Perry and I am both a long-time Richmond resident and a city employee. I am urging the Council to support the Lift Up Richmond tax measure for the November ballot. Not only does the current Richmond business license tax generate insufficient revenue, it is also very inequitable, especially when it comes to rental properties. Currently a landlord with one rental unit pays exactly the same as a landlord with hundreds of rental units. The \$238 annual fee currently paid by these big landlords wouldn't even cover the cost of one emergency response to one of their properties. These large corporate landlords are already benefitting from Trump's corporate tax breaks and certainly don't need any additional subsidies from the City of Richmond General Fund made at the expense of small businesses and city workers. These same corporate interests are now opposing the Lift Up Richmond plan because they are afraid that the sweet deal they have exploited for years will go away and they might actually be made to pay their fair share.

They claim that there wasn't sufficient notice to the community that the City was considering placing a Gross Receipt tax measure on the ballot. As you all remember, the Mayor brought this issue up last fall at Council meetings and published a list of revenue ideas and ballot measures that was published on the City agenda. Meetings were called and public discussions were had about the various revenue proposals. We all attended those meetings. The City even voted to poll on these revenue measures last spring. These ideas were vetted for their strength through a poll and the voters embraced the gross receipts model.

This is a progressive tax and smaller businesses, those with gross receipts under \$250,000 will actually pay less than they do now, while the lion's share will be paid by the 400 largest corporations. An example is that a company right now with \$64 Million in gross receipts currently pays \$900 in business license tax in Richmond. This same business under the Lift Up Richmond model would pay \$90,000 per year which is very similar to neighboring cities.

Remember that this **must be** approved by the voters. This doesn't take effect for another year. The council has the ability to adjust it downward if they need to. There is no downside to this.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Laura Mangels <laura.mangels@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 6:31 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: public comments - agenda item K-1

Dear Councilmembers,

I would like to speak in support of the proposed progressive business tax. The current system, which is based on the number of employees, doesn't make sense, and it creates a disincentive for businesses to hire, which means fewer local jobs for Richmond. The new proposal removes a potential barrier to job creation in Richmond. Also, with the new proposed tax structure, which is progressive, small businesses would be protected, while large businesses contribute a greater share. This is important, because we want to protect small, local Richmond-owned businesses from burdensome taxes. Finally, it is critically important that we raise revenue for the city, and this progressive tax is a fair and simple way to achieve that goal. For these reasons--because it helps our city, because it protects small businesses, and because it helps generate jobs--I urge you to also support this proposed tax.

Thank you.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Leisa Johnson <leisa_johnson@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 7:55 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comments - Agenda Item K-1, Gross Receipts Business Tax

Dear City Clerk

I would like to provide oral comment on this item. My phone number is [REDACTED]

I would also like the below comments to be included in the formal written record.

Thank you,
Leisa

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, and City Councilmen -

Good evening.

I am urging the Council to not rush and place this measure on the November ballot.

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many residents and small business owners are in survival mode. If they have not already closed their doors, many small businesses are just hanging on by a thread. The addition of yet another financial burden will be too much for many of them to handle. And when they close their doors or means, that means more employees will likely lose their jobs as well.

While I appreciate the City's last minute attempt to reach out to the business community via a Zoom call this morning, it was very clear from those that participated that all businesses want the city council to DELAY this rushed and harmful ballot measure until there is sufficient time for a proper blue ribbon committee to be formed and all businesses are allowed to participate in reviewing and providing critical input to draft a tax policy that is actually fair, balanced and effective.

During the City's Zoom meeting with the community this morning, City Staff admitted that this was RUSHED policy and that the business community was not provided adequate time to provide input.

The Ordinance still has errors in it, preventing some businesses from even being able to calculate their financial impact.

City Staff even intimated that if a majority council wanted to proceed with putting this on the November ballot, that they could always "correct" tax rates after the fact, if voters approved it.

This is highly irresponsible and with 3 city council seats up for election this November as well, the council will be comprised of new members who may not believe in "correcting" the tax rates after the fact. We've all been here with measure L, where the certain council members made false promises to correct the known flaws and four years later that has never even been discussed let alone come to fruition.

While a progressive business tax structure may sound good in theory, effective, balanced policy and legislation can only occur when all key stakeholders are engaged and have a seat at the table, and when this process is not rushed but thoughtfully and collaboratively administered.

While we understand the City is facing a structural deficit, increasing the tax burden on small businesses at this time will only encourage businesses to leave, or force them to close their doors for good. The end result will be an even greater structural deficit for Richmond and the decay of our essential small business community.

During the City's Zoom meeting this morning, they Here are what just a few businesses estimated the financial impact would be:

One business commented that they will incur a 1,400% increase. Their gross revenue is \$10M but their net profit as a distributor is <1% or <\$100,000. This would wipe out 1/4 of their net profit.

Another business commented that their tax would increase 1,800%;

Another 5,200% plus;

Another 7,800%;

Another 7,400 to 10,000%;

Another 12,000%;

And finally, one businessman commented, "These numbers are being discussed as if they are disconnected from any human concern; 4.9, 3.5 etc. this is money out of the pocket of business which is struggling at this time. These are VERY REAL numbers to those of us directly affected by the proposed tax."

I respectfully request that you defer changing Richmond's business tax structure until:

1. the entire business community has had adequate time to review the economic impact and provide input;
2. City Staff looks at cities other than Oakland and San Francisco that are more comparable to what we provide in Richmond;
3. the City Council creates a committee to thoroughly review these issues prior to committing to an expensive ballot measure;
4. the pandemic crisis is behind us and all state, county, and city emergency orders have been lifted; and
5. our City Manager has demonstrated that Richmond businesses are on the path to economic recovery.

Sabrina Lundy

From: LISSANDRA PEREZ-LOZANO <liss_02_lozano@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 6:41 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: "Public comments – Agenda item #K-1 Gross Receipts Ballot Measure"

Hello,

I would like to speak about the above agenda item.

Business owners and non business owners are all suffering during these times and yet someone in the city decides to propose something to kick us all while we are down. Why don't we look elsewhere for the money that is needed...like in reducing your paychecks as well as your benefits. Is it because the city does not want to be bothered and instead you elect to take from the people who make the city of Richmond, the City of Richmond. Please reconsider what you guys are proposing.

Thank You,
Lissandra

Sabrina Lundy

From: Noel Carvalho <noelcarvalho@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 9:09 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item K-1 - Oppose Gross Receipts Tax Structure

Dear City Clerk Christian,

I would like to request that the Council please reconsider moving forward at this time with the proposed changes to the Business License Tax structure.

As you are aware, businesses are facing difficult times during the pandemic and it is disturbing that the City is considering increasing taxes while many struggle to pay staff, rent, and bills. This will hurt our local businesses and community even more and worsen the unemployment crisis.

An overhaul of the business tax structure should be discussed thoroughly with the Richmond business community as it will have overwhelming impacts on our local economy. This is not something that should be rushed in a week's time and based on a neighboring municipalities work. All who will be impacted should be included in all discussions.

While Richmond is not Oakland, please follow their lead in creating blue ribbon committee that represents all business in the City of Richmond.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Noel Carvalho
1696 Durbin Ln
Fairfield, CA 94534
noelcarvalho@comcast.net

Sabrina Lundy

From: Patrick Lake <campaigns@good.do>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 11:19 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Cc: Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item K-1; Supporting business tax changes on November ballot

Dear Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Clerk:

With the City facing a structural deficit, increasing the tax burden on businesses at this time should be done progressively and as soon as possible, with the least bureaucratic red tape.

Earlier today I spoke to a prospective home buyer whose agent kept steering her to Richmond. I have been hearing that it's hard to find homes for sale anywhere in the bay. It seems like people are hunkering down. I would also expect that well run businesses would have less incentive to move with a recession under way.

A tax of a small percent of gross receipts seems reasonable. After all, if the city can't pay for services that will hurt residents and businesses too. As for some of the objections I read:

There was a comparison to taxes elsewhere that apply to the amount of employees a business has. That doesn't sound smart. I've seen the Bay Area's tech industry compared as an employer of just a small fraction of the amount employed by smokestack industries of the past, like the auto industry, while they consolidate wealth upwards. There's also incentives to pay less for health care by employing few people. The current economy promises layoffs with businesses tightening their belts. That seems like a bad yardstick.

There were objections that gross receipts don't coincide with net profits, especially for some large businesses running on very thin margins. But businesses with enough size to have that complaint use accounting magic to fold profits back in to their expenses. That complaint doesn't impress me. Look at some of the tech giants making billions while paying no taxes. See CNBC article: "Nearly 100 Fortune 500 companies effectively paid no federal taxes in 2018" -- <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/12/16/these-91-fortune-500-companies-didnt-pay-federal-taxes-in-2018.html>

Huge companies paying effectively zero tax included Chevron.

I'm sympathetic to certain business sectors getting hit hard by COVID-19 -- restaurants to name one. They're known for thin margins. In that case I'd support smart modification of tax to account for their real hardships.

I'm sure you're all well aware of the need to maintain tax revenue and don't want to stop business and hurt your own jobs and city. A progressive tax on gross receipts just sounds more reasonable than throwing more expensive, time consuming red tape on top.

Patrick Lake

This email was sent by Patrick Lake via Do Gooder, a website that allows people to contact you regarding issues they consider important. In accordance with web protocol RFC 3834 we have set the FROM field of this email to our generic no-reply address at campaigns@good.do, however Patrick provided an email address (patsatwork@gmail.com) which we included in the REPLY-TO field.

Please reply to Patrick Lake at patsatwork@gmail.com.

To learn more about Do Gooder visit

https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.dogooder.co&c=E,1,q1FINH4afGUIJC0Xeoycp33w-AmYshmA7Gm3n9NXRa4hSzQB-s60M9OzV-jVjNnvVcQMVN8I_7sJEyXnjeRJgnAreLy05e1Kifa7Yqzc1Gkl39SleatqOkWN2kB0&typo=1

To learn more about web protocol RFC 3834 visit:

<https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2ftools.ietf.org%2fhtml%2frfc3834&c=E,1,HPVftZb7H5gB5dkOVLoZxVk32XkVNj6UL3POS4Iuc6Hqf28fBFvKstcZ5wmwqpXILClidNXr4Xy41u9ked7DICorF8VHfnpg1rnxob8aVsDgmnW8,&typo=1>

Sabrina Lundy

From: Paula Cooper <paulacoopertipton@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 8:58 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: public comments - K1

My name is Paula Cooper-Tipton , and I am an SEIU 1021 member. I am urging the Richmond city council to support the Lift Up Richmond plan that puts the gross receipt tax measure on the November ballot.

A progressive gross receipts tax will help address Richmond's on-going structural budget deficit and move the City toward a more sustainable future.

Richmond's current payroll tax, that charges business for every employee, has been rejected by most cities because it is a "job killer". A progressive business tax based on gross receipts will encourage small business growth while also providing the services our communities need to thrive.

The Lift Up Richmond plan creates a rate structure which protects small property owners with large landlords paying their fair share. Currently in Richmond all properties are charged at a flat rate of \$234.10 no matter the number of units.

A progressive model would protect small landlords that are usually more connected to the community while making sure large landlords contribute to the City.

Richmond is a city of small businesses and local thriving industries. We cannot allow corporate interest and large landlords to strike down this crucial legislation.

I have seen cuts to library, recreation programs and after school programs for kids throughout the city. This has affected me and my neighbors drastically and we can longer bear the burden of continued cuts.

City workers have stepped up and given back, our communities have taken cuts to emergency services, youth programs and street maintenance. It is time for the business community to be a part of the solution to Richmond's economic issues.

Without the proposed amendments to the business tax, neighborhoods like mine will continue to have programs cut across the board. We need to provide a structure for the youth and businesses to grow in Richmond.

Sincerely,
Paula Cooper-Tipton

Sent from my iPhone

Sabrina Lundy

From: Peter Masiak <peter.masiak@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 6:26 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: public comments - K1

My name is Peter Masiak, and I am with SEIU 1021. I am urging the Richmond city council to support the Lift Up Richmond plan that puts the gross receipt tax measure on the November ballot.

The Lift up Richmond Coalition has done the work to formulate a modernization to Richmond's tax structure that will support local business and create the infrastructure to support public services. The Lift Up Richmond Coalition brought together a diverse range of groups of community groups and labor; studied eight different tax structures; done a survey of tax rates throughout the region; brought in experts in municipal finance and commissioned public opinion research.

The result is a progressive gross receipts tax will help address Richmond's on-going structural budget deficit and move the City toward a more sustainable future.

Richmond's current payroll tax, that charges business for every employee, has been rejected by most cities because it is a "job killer". A progressive business tax based on gross receipts will encourage small business growth while also providing the services our communities need to thrive.

The Lift Up Richmond plan creates a rate structure which protects small property owners with large landlords paying their fair share. Currently in Richmond all properties are charged at a flat rate of \$234.10 no matter the number of units.

A progressive model would protect small landlords that are usually more connected to the community while making sure large landlords contribute to the City.

Richmond is a city of small businesses and local thriving industries. We cannot allow corporate

interest and large landlords to strike down this crucial legislation.

--

Peter Masiak
Master of Public Policy, 2011
University of California, Berkeley

Sabrina Lundy

From: Sandy Saeteurn <sandy@apen4ej.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 6:29 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment- item # K1



Dear Mayor Butt and City Council Members,

My name is Lio Sandy Saeteurn, and I'm writing on behalf of the Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN). APEN is an environmental justice organization with deep roots in Richmond's Asian immigrant and refugee community. Since 1993, we've built a membership base of Laotian refugees and have fought and won campaigns to make Richmond a healthier, just place where all people can thrive.

That is why APEN is urging the Richmond City Council to modernize the Richmond Business Tax, moving it to a progressive gross receipts tax.

Big developers are continuing to build more luxury housing for the rich, driving up rents for the rest of us, crucial community services and jobs have been limited, and more and more of our families have been pushed out of Richmond.

Without the proposed amendments to the business tax, our city's vibrant people and rich culture will be lost. Please take one step towards preserving what took generations to build in Richmond by supporting the Gross Receipts Tax!

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sincerely,

Lio Sandy Saeteurn
Local Political Coordinator
Asian Pacific Environmental Network

--

Lio Sandy Saeteurn
APEN Local Political Coordinator
510.236.4616 x332

Sabrina Lundy

From: Laura Mangels <laura.mangels@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 6:33 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: public comments - agenda item K-4

Dear council,

I was heartened to see that the youth council are being given an opportunity to present their vision for anti-racist work needed in the City of Richmond. More than any of us, they are in a position to point the way forward to help us work through the institutional racism in which we are all mired. Thank you for listening to our youths, I see this as an encouraging and positive sign for Richmond. I want to encourage you to take their demands seriously and to work closely with them to ensure that their vision comes to fruition without being diluted. While it's important for them to have a voice, it's even more important for them to have a seat at the table, and to have real power in shaping where we go from here.

Sincerely,
Laura Mangels