

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, March 16, 2021

The Richmond City Council Evening Open Session was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Mayor Thomas K. Butt via teleconference.

Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Contra Costa County and Governor Gavin Newsom issued multiple orders requiring sheltering in place, social distancing, and reduction of person-to-person contact. Accordingly, Governor Gavin Newsom issued executive orders that allowed cities to hold public meetings via teleconferencing (Executive Order N-29-20).

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 and livestream online at <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/3178/KCRT-Live>.

*Written public comments were received via email to cityclerkdept@ci.richmond.ca.us. Comments received by 1:00 p.m. on March 16, 2021, were summarized at the meeting, put into the record, and considered before Council action. Comments received via email after 1:00 p.m. and up until the public comment period on the relevant agenda item closed, were put into the record. Public comments were also received via teleconference during the meeting. **Attached herewith all written public comments received.***

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Nathaniel Bates, Eduardo Martinez, Gayle McLaughlin, Vice Mayor Demnlus Johnson III, and Mayor Thomas K. Butt. **Absent:** Councilmember Claudia Jimenez, and Melvin Willis arrived after the roll was called.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The city clerk announced the public comment procedures and 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): ‘

SPRAWDEF et al. vs. City of Richmond
Point Molate Alliance et al. vs. City of Richmond
North Coast Rivers Alliance et al. vs. City of Richmond
Michael Wang vs. the City of Richmond

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

The following individuals gave comments via teleconference:

Pam Stello stated that the proposed Point Molate project should be stopped because it would put the city in financial risk and destroy plants and wildlife on the site.

Deborah Bayer urged the city council not to fight the lawsuit against the Shopoff development, and to work with the community to reassess the safety of the site.

Jeanne Kortz stated the city should not move forward with either the Astra Zeneca or the Point Molate projects due to the detrimental impacts to health and safety.

The Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 4:49 p.m.
Closed Session adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 7:18 p.m. by Mayor Butt via teleconference.

ROLL CALL

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

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

City Clerk Pamela Christian and City Attorney Teresa Stricker, stated conflict of interest on Item I-1 and recused themselves from discussion on the item.

AGENDA REVIEW

Item G-5 was removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion at the end of the agenda. Item 1-4 was continued to the March 23, 2021, City Council meeting. A motion by Councilmember Bates, seconded by Councilmember Martinez to, place an emergency item on the agenda regarding a Disc Golf Program at Hilltop Lake Park, to be heard directly after approval of the Consent Calendar, passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Bates, Jimenez, Martinez, McLaughlin, Willis, and Vice Mayor Johnson III. **Noes:** Mayor Butt. **Absent:** None. **Abstain:** None.

The city clerk announced the public comment procedures published on the agenda.

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

City Attorney Theresa Stricker stated there were no final actions to report.

REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Laura Snideman introduced Congressman Mark DeSaulnier, who provided an update on several matters pertinent to Richmond, which highlighted the following: COVID-19 Rescue bill; Richmond would receive approximately \$21 million; Fossil Fuel footprint transition to renewable energy; and the Infrastructure bill. City Manager Snideman stated the City of Richmond would receive approximately \$20.8 million as part of the COVID-19 Rescue Bill. The first half was anticipated to be received approximately July 2021. Ms. Snideman reported that the Nevin Plaza building had no hot water over a weekend and Facilities Supervisor Jose Urquilla drove to Patterson to pick up the part so the residents were not without water over the weekend. Ms. Snideman also reported that Richmond fire personnel Captain Kennedy and Firefighters Shawn McComb and Chris Silvas assisted in the delivery of a breached baby.

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals gave comments via teleconference:

Deborah Bayer and Tarnel Abbott gave comments against development at the Astra Zeneca site due to hazardous materials at the site.

Andres Soto reported that the Bay Area Air Quality District approved a stronger emissions standard for catalytic cracker units at bay area refineries.

Everth Fuentes gave comments regarding the lack of outreach regarding the proposed Recreational Vehicle Park at Civic Center.

Leisa Johnson gave comments regarding Measure U and the possibility that the measure may need to be reviewed and revised.

Doria Bueller thanked Councilmember McLaughlin and KCRT for the ability to view Zoom Panelists and Attendees on the Zoom screen. Ms. Bueller also stated that the planned project at the Zeneca site should be reversed.

Ben Therriault gave comments regarding issues with current Contra Costa County Sherriff Livingston and announced that he would run as County Sheriff in 2022.

Rob Smith expressed concern over a move to usage of renewable fuels and how the city plans to replace funds currently provided by Chevron to the city.

CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Vice Mayor Johnson III, seconded by Councilmember Willis, the items marked with an (*) were approved by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

***G-1.** Approved (1) a first amendment to an existing legal service agreement with Atchison, Barisone & Condotti for \$255,000, for a total contract amount of \$265,000, for interim assistant city attorney services and (2) an additional appropriation of \$125,000 from the general fund to pay a portion of this first amendment for interim assistant city attorney legal services.

***G-2.** Adopted **Resolution No. 26-21**, for the appointment of three standby officers for each member of the City Council in the event of an enemy attack, state of emergency or local emergency.

***G-3.** Approved the minutes of the February 16, 2021, Regular Meeting of the City Council.

***G-4.** Approved an appointment to the Commission on Aging: appointed Rina Baker, new appointment, seat #1, filling an unexpired term with an expiration date May 19, 2023.

G-5. Continued the matter to approve appointments for the Mayor and Councilmembers to Regional Committees, Ad-Hoc Committees and Liaison Positions for the year of 2021 to March 23, 2021.

***G-6.** Received the Veolia Monthly Operating Report for the month of January 2021.

***G-7.** Adopted Resolution No. 27-21, to adopt the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program; authorized the city manager or their designee to execute the necessary agreements with the State Coastal Conservancy to accept the \$1,000,000 Priority Conservation Area grant for the construction of a 1.25-mile segment of the San Francisco Bay Trail connecting Point Molate Beach Park to the Winehaven Historic District; and appropriated the PCA grant, once awarded and funding agreement is executed.

***G-8.** Approved a contract with Pestmaster Services, Inc. to mitigate rodent infestation and cleaning of bird droppings to increase the appearance and safety at City-owned facilities in an amount not exceed \$100,000 over a three year period.

***G-9.** Approved a three-year contract in the amount of \$32,250 with an additional two-year extension option of \$22,500 with SCI Consulting Group in an amount not to exceed \$54,750 to prepare the Hilltop Assessment Districts Annual Engineer's Report necessary to levy assessments for the 2021-2024 fiscal years. The contract term for three years will be from March 21, 2021 to March 22, 2024.

***G-10.** Approved a three-year contract in the amount of \$23,250 with an additional two-year extension option of \$15,500 with Willdan Financial Services and Associates in an amount not to exceed \$38,750 to prepare the Marina Assessment Districts Annual Engineer's Report necessary to levy assessments for the 2021-2024 fiscal years. The contract term for three years will be from March 21, 2021, to March 22, 2024.

***G-11.** Approved payment of three invoices that are past due to Sunbelt Rentals in an amount not to exceed \$11,487.45 for rental of loader landscaper 4WD tractor.

***G-12.** Adopted **Resolution No. 28-21**, approving Veolia Water to manage and award contracts for the rehabilitation project of the Grit and Aeration Basin at the Richmond Wastewater Treatment Plant to Shimmick Construction Company, Inc. (construction) in the amount of \$42,106,488 (contractor cost of \$33,773,000 plus a 16.5% Veolia mark-up \$5,572,545), plus a 7.5% contingency of \$2,760,943 (\$2,532,975 plus a 9% Veolia mark-up of \$227,968).

***G-13.** Adopted **Resolution No. 29-21**, accepting the SRF loan in the amount of \$50,000,000 from the State Water Board, and appropriated \$50,000,000 of the SRF loan revenues and associated expenditures by amending the FY 2020-21 Water Resource Recovery Division Budget.

***G-14.** Approved a first amendment to a grant funded contract between the City of Richmond and Greater Richmond Interfaith Program to enhance and increase food rescue and food waste prevention initiatives increasing the contract by \$81,250 for a total amount not to exceed \$291,250 with funding sourced from CalRecycle grant and extending the contract term to June 30, 2021.

***G-15.** Adopted **Resolution No. 30-21**, adopt the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Terminal 4 Wharf Removal Project; authorized the city manager or their designee to execute the necessary agreements with the State Coastal Conservancy to accept the total \$4,150,000 in grant funds; and appropriated the grant funds, once awarded and funding agreement is executed.

***G-16.** Approved a contract with Ralph Andersen & Associates for \$80,000 for executive recruitment services for a three-year period from March 16, 2021 to March 15, 2024.

***G-17.** Proclamation declaring March 2021 as Red Cross Month in the City of Richmond.

EMERGENCY ITEM

Councilmembers Bates and Martinez gave an overview of the matter regarding the Disc Golf Program at Hilltop Lake Park. City Manager Snideman stated that the Hilltop neighborhood council approved the program and use of the park. All work had been stopped and the matter would be considered at a Recreation and Parks Committee meeting on April 7, 2021, to be reviewed and determine a recommendation to the City Council. The following individuals gave comments via teleconference: Jack Hamm, Janet Hanwick, Jonathan Braidman, Leisa Johnson, Marlen, Scott Riley, Rose last name unknown, Rob Smith, Geoff last name unknown, Marisa Marquez, Alpha last name unknown, and Floy Andrews. The matter will return to the City Council at a future date after review by the Recreation and Parks Commission discussed it to determine if the disc park use would be allowed. A process for any future park use approvals would also be developed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

H-1. The matter to hold a public hearing to: (1) adopt a resolution repealing and replacing City Council Resolution 125-03 with revised City Guidelines and Procedures for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and adopting the CCTA VMT Methodology for application within Richmond to comply with California Senate Bill 743; and (2) introduce an ordinance (first reading) amending Article 15.04.612 Transportation Demand Management of the Richmond Municipal Code to align with the VMT methodology, to reflect current best practices, new State law requirements, and emerging TDM options as encompassed in the new CCTA VMT methodology was presented by Planning Director Lina Velasco and Charlie Knox from Placeworks. Mayor Butt declared the public hearing open. Lori Lober gave comments via teleconference. Mayor Butt closed the public hearing. A motion by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Vice Mayor Johnson III, adopted Resolution No. 31-21, and introduced first reading of the ordinance, by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

I-1. The matter to approve a salary adjustment to the City Clerk effective March 2, 2021, from \$11,092/month to \$12,201.20/month (a 10% increase) was presented by Human Resources Director, Anil Comelo. A motion by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Vice Mayor Johnson III, approved the item by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

(Items I-2, I-3, and I-4 were discussed together)

A motion made by Councilmember Jimenez, seconded by Councilmember Martinez, to suspend the Council Rules of Procedure and Order, and to hear Items I-2, I-3, and I-4 together, passed by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

I-2. Reconsider, after a two-thirds vote to suspend the Council Rules of Procedure and Order, the direction the City Council gave on February 23, 2021, and direct the city manager to: (1) authorize use of the \$260,000 funding from the County before its June 30, 2021, expiration date and \$300,000 from the City Affordable Housing fund to contract with Housing Consortium of East Bay (HCBE); and (2) authorize the creation of an emergency ad hoc committee consisting of three City Council members. The ad hoc committee, with the support of City staff, and County Supervisor John Gioia and County staff would develop a long-term, sustainable, and well-funded plan for assisting unhoused residents of Richmond with County and City funds beyond the \$560,000 obtained from the County and the Affordable Housing in lieu fund.

I-3. Discuss and provide direction to staff regarding the Safe Parking Program at the Civic Center parking lot on 25th Street and Barrett Avenue.

I-4. Revisit the Council's February 23, 2021, action on the Safe Parking Pilot Program as described in this report, rescind that action and take action as appropriate including, but not limited to, site selection from any of the sites from the February 2 or 23, 2021, Council meetings, use of funds, direction to staff to implement the Safe Parking Pilot Program, authorization for sole

source contracts and execution of any contracts. Note that Council's action on other agenda items at this meeting may essentially have the same effect.

Councilmembers Jimenez and Martinez gave an overview of the matter. Supervisor John Gioia and Contra Costa County Housing & Homeless Services Director Lavonna Martin provided a report regarding the matter. The report highlighted the following: The Civic Center location would be too small to accommodate the RV's located on Rydin Road and Castro Street; the proposal would be to use the approximately \$500,000 in funding and provide more intense services to persons located on Rydin Road to address health, sanitation, and safety issues; the plan was to work with a housing navigator to manage the site and work with the residents to identify more long-term, stable housing; the County shelters in North Richmond and the Bay Area Rescue Mission would reopen early this Summer; the lease with the Courtyard by Marriot was extended through June 30, 2022, and would accommodate 30 to 50 people each month; Contra Costa County also leased the hotel on Cutting and Canal Boulevard for homeless individuals who tested positive for COVID-19; and it was recommended to set up a working group with the City and County to develop a long-term strategy for housing.

*(11:00 p.m. – A motion by Councilmember Jimenez, seconded by Councilmember Martinez, extended the meeting until 11:30 p.m., by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Bates, Jimenez, Martinez, McLaughlin, Willis, and Vice Mayor Johnson III. **Noes:** Mayor Butt. **Absent:** None. **Abstain:** None).*

The following individuals gave comments via teleconference: Leisa Johnson, Ekongkar Singh, Alpa last name unknown, Venise Wagner, Tarnel Abbott, Rob Smith, Cesar Zepeda, Alyssa Smith, and Lorna Murdock. A motion by Councilmember Jimenez, seconded by Councilmember Willis to approve the item, authorize the use of the \$260,000 funding from the County and \$300,000 from the City Affordable Housing fund to contract with Housing Consortium of East Bay; authorize the creation of an emergency ad hoc committee consisting of three City Council members. The ad hoc committee, with the support of City staff, and County Supervisor John Gioia and County staff would develop a long-term, sustainable, and well-funded plan for assisting unhoused residents of Richmond with County and City funds beyond the \$560,000 obtained from the County and the Affordable Housing in lieu fund. The ad hoc committee was directed to work directly with the Homeless Task Force and engage the community in the process in determining long term solutions. A friendly amendment was offered by Councilmember McLaughlin to include the option to explore a safe parking program in a non-residential area. The friendly amendment was accepted. This motion cured and corrected the dispute regarding the action taken by the City Council at the February 23, 2021, meeting. The motion passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Bates, Jimenez, Martinez, McLaughlin, Willis, and Vice Mayor Johnson III. **Noes:** Mayor Butt. **Absent:** None. **Abstain:** None.

*(At approximately 11:30 p.m., a motion by Vice Mayor Johnson III, seconded by Councilmember Bates, to suspend the rules and extend the meeting to discuss item G-5 failed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Bates, McLaughlin, and*

Vice Mayor Johnson III. **Noes:** Councilmembers Jimenez, Martinez, and Mayor Butt. **Abstained:** Councilmember Willis. **Absent:** None.

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

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:32 p.m., to meet again on Tuesday, March 23, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor

From: [Cordell Hindler](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: Public Comments Open Forum
Date: Thursday, March 11, 2021 5:39:37 PM

hello Sabrina, i have a couple of Comments for the Record

1. as far as G-16 is concerned, I am in Full Support of it and as long as the community Participates
2. My Projects is coming along just Exquisitely and i will keep the council informed for May

Sincerely
Cordell

From: janetvw@aol.com
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: Public Comments Open Forum
Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 12:21:07 PM
Attachments: [Talk to city council#1 re DG Course.docx](#)

Dear City Clerk,

I am scheduled to address the City Council this evening. I am attaching a Microsoft Word document for the record; I will base my comments on this document. I will call in.

Please let me know if I need to do anything else. I'm new to this.

Thanks,
Janet Van Wicklen

Objections to a Disc Golf Course at Hilltop Lake Park

Janet Van Wicklen

Hilltop Village Resident

March 16, 2021

Thank you for this opportunity to address you all. I want to speak to the safety and liability risks facing the City of Richmond if the Disc Golf project moves forward. So first some history:

In 2012, Noreen Goodbody was blinded in one eye by a flying golf disc at a Manhattan Beach Park while watching her daughter compete in a race. She endured at least 4 surgeries and ongoing medical problems “caused by the sharp, heavy golf disc slamming into her face.”¹

More than a year later, a 6-year-old boy sustained a life-threatening brain injury at the same park, which was finally closed in 2014.

An attorney² representing Ms. Goodbody sued the city for \$3 million and won.

As he put it, and I think his comments are VERY relevant to our situation:

“It’s like no light bulb went off with anybody. It all sounded like a great idea, but nobody vetted it, nobody cared ... and no one took responsibility.... There is no way that this type of game should be played at a multiuse park. This game should be played on dedicated land like a golf course.”

“There’s a reason you can’t go walking on a golf course in the middle of the day,” he added. “Hopefully, in the future people will realize these things don’t belong in parks where people are walking.”

The Disc Golf proponents are charming salesmen with powerful marketing tactics. Their safety claims sound lovely but clearly do not bear up in fact. They have approached Hilltop Lake Park during the Covid pandemic, a time when the park is unusually empty, and have taken advantage of this unusual situation to aggressively promote this inappropriate project.

¹ Clubandresortbusiness.com

² David Lederer of Lederer & Nojima

When the YMCA and the Making Waves Academy are fully open, our parking lots will be packed full, as they have in the past, and Hilltop Lake Park will again host running teams, Y members jogging and walking and socializing, and more families will again be recreating in our park.

Flying discs have no place in this environment. So please ask yourselves, "Can the city of Richmond afford even one \$3 million dollar law suit? How would you feel if a child were wounded or blinded?"

Please refuse the disc golf project and ensure that they repair the damage they have already done to the park.

Thank you so much for listening!

From: [Lingsie Jensen](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: Public comments - Open Forum and/or public comments agenda item C - proposed Disc Golf Cause at Hilltop Lake Park
Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 12:30:13 PM
Attachments: [City Council Meeting March 16 final.docx](#)

I hereby request permission to appear before the City Council under one of the above agenda items. I attach my presentation.

I understand that you have been informed about my participation by councilman Bates, and that it is not yet clear under which agenda item the presentation should be made.

I will participate in the meeting by Zoom.

I assume that I will join the meeting by clicking on the link provided in your agenda, on page two, and that I will "Raise My Hand" when requested to go on.

Please confirm.

Thank you,
Lingsie Jensen
3400 Richmond Parkway #3321
Richmond, CA 94806

Cell: 510 306 5370

CITY COUNCIL MEETING, MARCH 16, 2021 – PROPOSED DISC GOLF CLUB AT HILLTOP LAKE PARK

Hi. I'm Lingsie Jensen.

I have lived at the Bella Vista Apartments for more than 5 years and am using the Park on a daily basis. On my walks, I encounter many people, elderly people, parents with kids on tow, school children ... most of whom will not be able to *safely* use the Park if this project is approved. And these people will have no place else to go. They are not resourceful people.

If the project is approved, the park will be effectively taken away from the many and given to a small select group of golfers who could easily go to one of the many other courses around.

In the Professional Disc Golf Association's guidelines, it says that "*courses should be in a single use area*" and "*fairways should not cross or be too close to ... any multiuse area where non-players congregate*". None of these guidelines have been observed for this project.

I have heard golfers call our Park "interesting". So, I guess they came, saw and said, wow, wonderful challenging place for *us*. So, let us just do this, quietly, without informing the regular users of the park or the neighbors – or even the City Council. Let's not risk causing a stir till we are done.

This project has shown no compliance with the rules regarding openness and public involvement. And there is no permit from the Planning Commission because – the golfers say – there is no construction. So, they call the building of 14 tees, 36 targets and 8 sets of stairs for "no construction" even though more than 40,000 lbs. of concrete are needed.

The Club has also promised that no foliage would be removed. This is in clear contrast to what is already going on in the Park where heavy equipment has been used to remove trees and bushes and prepare the ground, all per the directions of the Club.

I urge you to vote for an emergency stop of the present construction and to reject the proposal.

A rejection would be in line with the **Mission Statement of the Rec & Parks Commission** which talks about serving the *diversity* of Richmond residents – and in line with the **Richmond General Plan 2030**, where Goal PR5 is to "... develop and expand recreational services ... to best serve **people of all incomes, cultural backgrounds, ages and levels of physical capability.**"

Thank you for your attention.

From: [Rosie Sorenson](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Cc: [Nat Bates](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#)
Subject: Public comments - Open Forum and/or public comments agenda item C
Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 12:22:59 PM

Hi. I'm Rosie Sorenson

I've lived in Richmond for 31 years and have walked around the Hilltop lake park for 25.

I'm speaking tonight to urge you to stop the construction of a Disc Golf Course at the park. And to hold the public hearings that should have been held prior to the course getting approved by agencies other than the City Council.

In fact, I don't understand why the City Council was not informed. The park belongs to the City and its people. Whose idea was it to turn it over to a private company that apparently has a financial interest?

We only learned of these plans by accident on Friday Feb. 26. Why the secrecy, why not hold town meetings? I'll tell you why. Because this course is a disaster. The cities of Pleasant Hill and Martinez have already denied similar plans for similar reasons: danger to animals and people and devastation to their parks' environments.

Councilmen Bates and Martinez very kindly agreed to come for a tour on Saturday so they could see with their own eyes what we're concerned about. To say that they were perturbed is an understatement.

Our engineer has told them and us that the course as currently designed by the developers violates the rules of good course design as laid out by their own Disc Golf Designer's Association. And, further, that part of the course is going to be situated on a steep hill, only 96' away from the backyards of the Overlook homes. We've talked to homeowners up there. They hate this.

To other Council members, I say, please let us give you the same tour so you can see with your own eyes the destruction that is being carried out at our beloved park in your name.

Councilman Bates has my contact information.

Thank you for listening.

From: [TRAC](#)
To: [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Melvin Willis](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Nat Bates](#); [Tom Butt - external](#); [Demnlus Johnson](#)
Cc: [City Clerk Dept](#); [Tawfic Halaby](#); [Lina Velasco](#); [Bruce Brubaker](#)
Subject: Public Comments Agenda Item #G-7: Accept Grant for Point Molate Bay Trail
Date: Sunday, March 14, 2021 1:47:19 PM
Attachments: [sfbt_PtMolate-Richmond.pdf](#)

Mayor Butt and City Councillors,

When you meet Tuesday night, please adopt by Consent, the Agenda Item G-7 resolution accepting a \$1.0 million grant from the State Coastal Conservancy to fund construction of 1.25 miles of San Francisco Bay Trail along the shoreline between Point Molate Beach Park and the northern side of the City's Point Molate property at Stenmark Drive as shown on the attached map. Thank you very much.

Bruce

Bruce Beyaert, TRAC Chair

tracbaytrail@earthlink.net

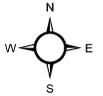
tel. 510-235-2835

<http://www.pointrichmond.com/baytrail/>

<http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/109/TRAC>

Photos: <https://sfbaytrailinrichmond.shutterfly.com/pictures/5> .

San Francisco Bay Trail Pt. Molate - City of Richmond Site Plan



Legend

SF Bay Trail

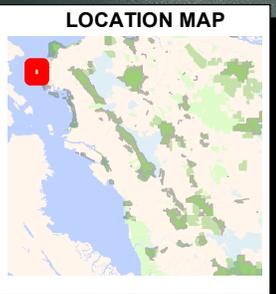
- EBRPD Trail Alignment
- Richmond Trail Alignment
- Proposed
- Schematic
- Under Construction - BATA



Proposed SF Bay Trail (1.25mi - Richmond)

EBRPD Future Easement Area (Chevron)

Proposed SF Bay Trail (1.25 mi. - EBRPD Easement)



From: [Cordell Hindler](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: Public Comment I-1 Council as a whole
Date: Friday, March 12, 2021 7:43:07 PM

hello Sabrina, i think that the Council should Approve the compensation for the city clerk

Sincerely
Cordell

From: [Catherine Edwards](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: Public Comment Agenda 1-2, 1-3,1-4 (March16,2021)
Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 12:39:59 PM

Have people who have owned their homes for at least 10 years ever looked at the prices of those currently on the market? Have you looked at the rents or tried to find an apartment to rent that doesn't have a line of seekers with good credit scores to choose from? I am grateful to have landlords that haven't succumbed to the landlord greed sweeping the area. If I had to move, I, too, would be homeless! I am neither an addict nor do I have mental health issues. I work hard every day. The reason people are homeless is money - not enough to pay for a place to live. Everyone who reads the news should be aware of the economic reasons for that. You don't have to look for other excuses. Mental health and addiction problems also can be found among the housed. They are not the primary cause of homelessness these days, and curing these problems will not automatically allow those who suffer from them to suddenly be able to afford a home. What homeless people need is a home - not an RV camp, not a shelter bed, and not a hotel room - a home. I propose giving people a hand up of 3 months rent and working with landlords to be willing to accommodate them since they probably can't compete on the basis of rental history, credit card scores, and unbroken employment. Yes, give people money! Once they are housed, they could be offered support for what else may be needed, whether job training or help finding employment or treatment for physical, mental or addiction issues, none of which is available to people living on the street, in tents, or in RVs. I further propose that, since this is not just a local problem, that we could try to reach into the overflowing coffers of the state of California and try to get at least some of that largess to boost homelessness funding.

Catherine Edwards

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Eliza beth](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: public Comment: Agenda 1-2,1-3,1-4 (March 16, 2021)
Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 12:32:01 PM

Having no shelter in this wealthy and "modern" nation is hard to believe and yet it is clearly evident every day, in person, on the news, etc. Solutions are complicated and seem quite often very inefficient managed and outrageously expensive. While I have read plenty of opinions from homeowners and people in my area, I haven't observed much information about what those who are living through a homeless situation want or need. What has Richmond done to determine best practices for the people of our city? It seems that "if we build it they will come" isn't the wisest approach.

Thank you for this opportunity to contribute to a very important topic of discussion. Thank you to all who have been and continue to work toward fair and reasonable solutions.

From: [Lorna Murdock](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Agenda items 1-2, 1-3, 1-4 (March 16, 2021)
Date: Sunday, March 14, 2021 1:11:54 PM

Dear City Clerk,
Thank you, for reconsidering the Civic Center Safe Parking Plan to allow proper input from voters.

There are public/private partnership models that can be so much more efficient, cost effective, sustainable, and successful than the Safe Parking Program.

Please consider tried and true solutions like this model used in L.A.:

[https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fflyawayhomes.org&c=E,1,TxKix6D3IMXJ4agiT8i2hyeQnfnrXXPdvU0a42jyR_HFgbP-viduYIwaTdhUMgG5FbXN1J11INXKq9nXoJYIN2oTGaM0GNloiVr7LQNePW_1nbs99UqEwZVcq-eV&typo=1)

[a=https%3a%2f%2fflyawayhomes.org&c=E,1,TxKix6D3IMXJ4agiT8i2hyeQnfnrXXPdvU0a42jyR_HFgbP-viduYIwaTdhUMgG5FbXN1J11INXKq9nXoJYIN2oTGaM0GNloiVr7LQNePW_1nbs99UqEwZVcq-eV&typo=1](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fflyawayhomes.org&c=E,1,TxKix6D3IMXJ4agiT8i2hyeQnfnrXXPdvU0a42jyR_HFgbP-viduYIwaTdhUMgG5FbXN1J11INXKq9nXoJYIN2oTGaM0GNloiVr7LQNePW_1nbs99UqEwZVcq-eV&typo=1)

Perhaps Rubicon Bakery or Veterans Resource Program can be a corollary to The People Concern's role in this L.A. model, to provide wraparound services.

Trust me: As a former 20-year San Franciscan who's sought exile in the East Bay, we need to nip the homelessness issue in the bud. We absolutely do NOT want to turn into the next SF, by allowing the homeless situation to overwhelm us beyond the point of no return!

Sincerely,
Lorna Murdock
Richmond Homeowner
+1-415-264-6384

From: [Savitri Khalsa](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#); [Laura Snideman](#); [Teresa Stricker](#); [Nat Bates](#); [Tom Butt - external](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Demnlus Johnson](#); [Melvin Willis](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Lina Velasco](#); [Michelle Milam](#)
Subject: Public comment agenda items #1-2, 1-3, 1-4
Date: Monday, March 15, 2021 5:32:01 PM
Attachments: [3.16.2021SafeParking.CityCouncil.pdf](#)

Dear Councillors and City Staff,

Please accept, read, and consider this letter regarding 3/16/2021 agenda items 1-2, 1-3, and 1-4.

Thank you,
Savitri Khalsa

March 14, 20201

Dear Richmond City Councillors, City Mayor, City Manager, City Attorney, and City Staff,

Thank you for placing agenda items (I-2, I-3, I-4) relating to the proposed Safe Parking Pilot Program on the city council agenda for March 16, 2021.

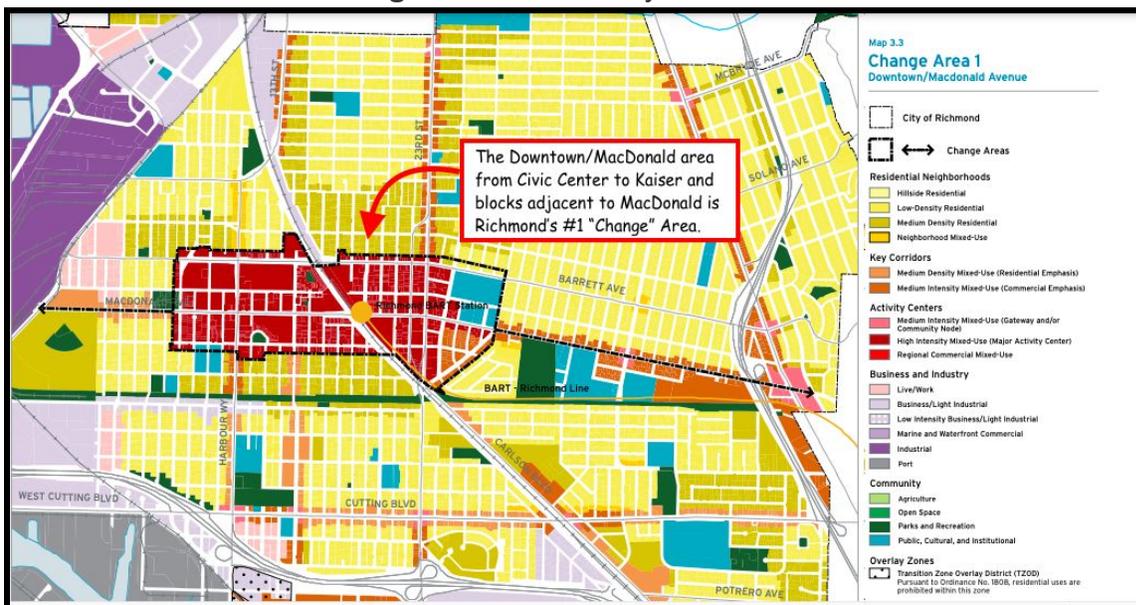
My family and I live in Richmond and DO NOT support the proposed Safe Parking Pilot Program at the Civic Center location. Please reconsider the Feb. 23, 2021 city council directive. I oppose the location of this proposed RV parking program for many reasons.

1. **Stakeholders** The 2.23 proposal developed by city staff did not communicate with key stakeholders, the neighborhoods abutting the Civic Center Plaza. Many neighbors do not support this program. The city must engage residents for these types of initiatives.
2. **The City's 2030 General Plan Ignored** The city of Richmond's success requires individuals to access and invest in our city via business, arts, events, and developments. Placing an unattractive RV park in the middle of the city, the public face, the main thoroughfare, and the Civic Center defeats this very important city goal (Policy LU1.2).

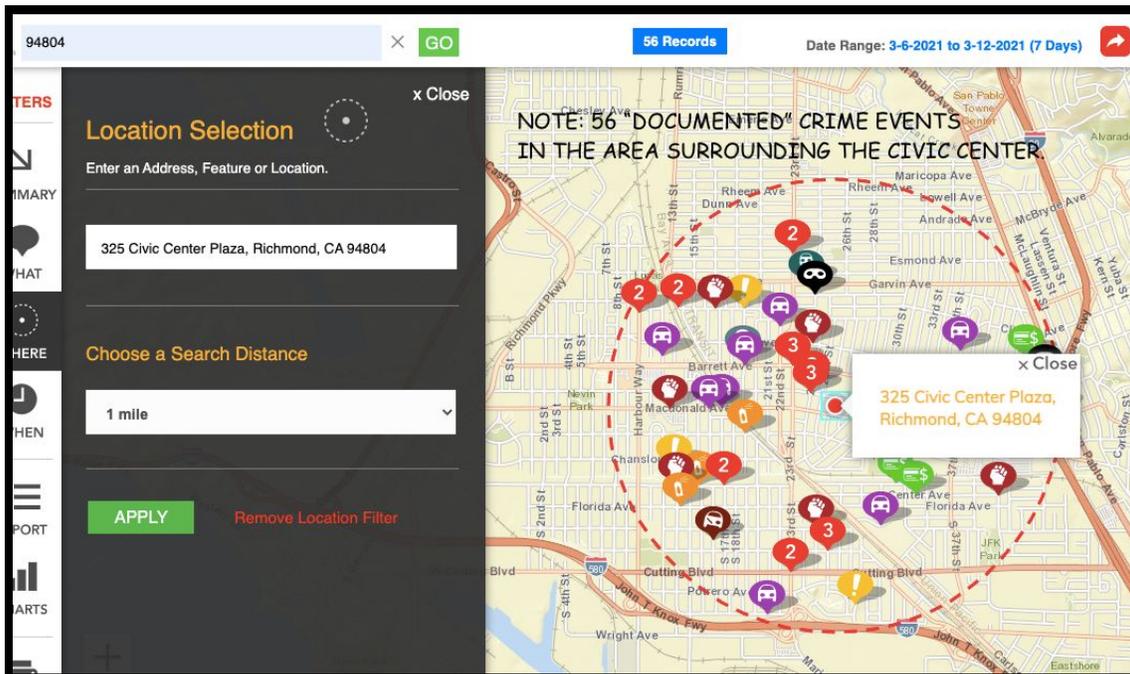
From Richmond's 2030 General Plan -- Policy LU1.2

Downtown and Civic Center Promote the Downtown and Civic Center as a social, cultural and civic destination. Encourage the location and expansion of new and existing entertainment and cultural facilities in the Downtown area. Support improvements to cultural facilities, such as the Civic Auditorium, as catalytic projects for neighborhood revitalization. Support the revitalization of the Civic Center area as a mixed-use district with a range of uses including public facilities, community gathering areas, retail, housing, entertainment and offices. Promote active use of the area at all times of the day and enhance connections to Macdonald Avenue, the Richmond BART Station and surrounding neighborhoods.

Richmond's 2030 General Plan is the basis for land use decisions in the city. From the plan, policies for development within the city guide the City Manager, the Mayor, the City Council and staff. The Downtown/MacDonald Avenue from the Civic Center to Kaiser Medical Center is identified as the **#1 Change Area** for the city.



- City Enforcement Already Lacking near Proposed Site** Central Richmond already has long standing issues that the city has not yet successfully resolved. Despite multiple requests by residents and businesses to enforce municipal code--relating to theft, onstreet parking violations, trash, assaults, public misbehavior (i.e. prostitution, substance abuse) the city has not successfully addressed requests. For example, there were 56 unique crimes recently reported over a 7-day period for just a 1-mile diameter circular area surrounding the Civic Center Library.



- Raise the Bar for Positive Successful Programs** Solving houseless challenges nationally and in the Bay Area in particular is challenging at best. Please revise original ideas for the proposed RV park at Civic Center and collaborate with County Supervisor Goia & staff. I support the creation of an ad hoc committee, **that is led by City Staff, County Supervisor John Gioia and county staff.** Developing a long-term, sustainable, and well-funded plan for assisting unhoused residents of Richmond with State, County, and City funds makes sense. This committee must contain the innate wisdom and experience of Councillor Nat Bates and/or Mayor Tom Butt. It must not be a RPA-led committee if it is to be thoughtful, trusted, and successful.
- Logical Land Use** Additionally, please DO NOT put another encampment on the land adjacent to GRIP. This organization clearly does not have the ability to do more than it already is doing with managing the Hilltop Hotel. This land is a median strip between two very busy roadways and is not suitable for housing.

In closing, please work with our very able City Manager and City Staff. Thank you for your consideration.

Savitri Khalsa

From: ohsquirrel@aol.com
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Agenda 1-2,1-3,1-4 (March 16, 2021)
Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 11:06:28 AM

Public Comment: Agenda 1-2,1-3,1-4 (March 16, 2021)

Dear City Clerk,

Thank you for listening to Richmond neighborhoods and reconsidering the ill-conceived plan to locate a homeless encampment at Civic Center.

It is reassuring that such poorly planned and underdeveloped decisions can be impacted by citizen complaints.

The current plan under consideration holds much more promise and possibilities.

We all agree that homelessness in the Bay Area is concerning. Solutions must be regional, more than local, and must include input and participation from all impacted stakeholders if they have a chance at success.

Sincerely,
Sheree Howe
Richmond Homeowner
510-334-8176

From: [Terence Krista](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: public comments agenda item I-4
Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 2:25:56 PM

The city council's recent vote to place the proposed Safe Park program in a busy parking lot in Richmond's Civic Center completely upends the idea of good governance. First, the surrounding neighborhood was never notified such a move was imminent nor informed how such a placement would impact their community. Second, the Civic Center lot is already in regular use by the surrounding community, including Grace Lutheran church, the Laotian temple Wat Lao Rattanaram, the Richmond Art Center, the Richmond Memorial Auditorium, Nevin Plaza Senior Housing and the Wilson & Kratzer Mortuary. In addition this lot has served as the long time home of the weekly Richmond Farmers Market and currently houses a community hub run by Contra Costa County Health Services for those seeking free Covid-19 testing.

It is my understanding the city recognized 35 possible sites for the Safe Park program, the majority of which were in empty or unused spaces. It is impossible then to understand why the council chose to place Safe Park in a busy parking lot in the middle of a residential neighborhood. This decision was improperly planned, hastily implemented and distressingly short-sighted. The success of any program is based on the goodwill of all parties involved. Unfortunately, the council has left the Civic Center community confused, anxious and feeling completely disenfranchised.

I urge the council to reconsider and revote to place Safe Park in a location where a program devised to help the unhoused does not completely disrupt and inconvenience the entire surrounding community.

Thank you-

Terence Krista