

**RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, November 7, 2023**

Community Services Building  
440 Civic Center Plaza  
Richmond, CA 94804

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**A. OPEN SESSION TO HEAR PUBLIC COMMENT BEFORE CLOSED SESSION**

The Richmond City Council Evening Open Session was called to order at 4:32 p.m. by Mayor Eduardo Martinez.

**B. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Councilmembers Soheila Bana, Doria Robinson, Cesar Zepeda, Vice Mayor Gayle McLaughlin, and Mayor Eduardo Martinez. **Absent:** Councilmembers Claudia Jimenez and Melvin Willis were absent for the entire meeting.

**C. CLOSED SESSION**

**C.1 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Government Code Section 54957.6)**

- Agency Representatives: Sharrone Taylor and Jack Hughes

Employee organizations:

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

**C.2 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION (paragraph (1) of Subdivision [d] of Government Code Section 54956.9)**

- Sotelo v. City of Richmond

**C.3 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) or (3) of Subdivision (d) [as applicable] of Government Code Section 54956.9)**

- Two cases

**C.4 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of Subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9)**

- Two Cases

**D. PUBLIC COMMENT BEFORE CLOSED SESSION (limited to items on the Closed Session agenda only)**

There were no public speakers.

**E. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION**

The Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 4:34 p.m. Closed Session adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

**F. REGULAR MEETING OF THE RICHMOND HOUSING AUTHORITY**

The Regular Meeting of the Richmond Housing Authority Board of Commissioners was called to order at 6:43 p.m. by Chairperson Eduardo Martinez.

**G. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Martinez led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**H. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Commissioners Soheila Bana, Doria Robinson, Cesar Zepeda, Vice Chair Gayle McLaughlin, Chair Eduardo Martinez, and Housing Authority Tenant Commissioner Jaycine Scott. **Absent:** Commissioners Claudia Jimenez and Melvin Willis were absent for the entire meeting.

**I. STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None.

**J. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Interim Richmond Housing Authority (RHA) Executive Director Gabino Arredondo presented a PowerPoint that highlighted the draft RHA Annual Plan and an update for the Nevin Plaza renovation. Mr. Arredondo encouraged the community to review the draft plan published on the city's website and provide public comments prior to the public hearing scheduled for December 19, 2023.

**K. AGENDA REVIEW**

None.

**L. HOUSING AUTHORITY OPEN FORUM**

There were no public speakers.

**M. HOUSING AUTHORITY CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Motion by** Commissioner Zepeda

**Seconded by** Housing Authority Tenant Commissioner Scott

To approve all items on the Housing Authority Consent Calendar.

Ayes (6): Commissioner Bana, Commissioner Robinson, Commissioner Zepeda, Vice Chair McLaughlin, Chair Martinez, and Housing Authority Tenant Commissioner Scott.

Absent (2): Commissioner Jimenez and Commissioner Willis.

Passed (6 to 2)

**M.1 Contract Assignment from David Paul Rosen & Associates (DRA) to NELB Consultants, LLC (NELB)**

ADOPT a resolution assigning the David Paul Rosen & Associates (DRA) contract to NELB Consultants LLC, for an estimated contract reassignment amount of \$170,918.42, with a term ending June 30, 2025 – Richmond Housing Authority (Gabino Arredondo 620-6606).

**Adopted Resolution No. 2191**

**M.2 Housing Authority Meeting Minutes**

APPROVE the minutes of the September 12, 2023, regular meeting of the Richmond Housing Authority - City Clerk's Office (Pamela Christian 510-620-6513).

**M.3 Richmond Housing Authority (RHA) Cost Allocation Plan Approval**

ADOPT a resolution approving the Title 2 Code of Federal Regulations 200 Compliant Version Cost Allocation Plan to be implemented for Richmond Housing Authority (RHA) Budgeting (Fiscal Year 2023-2024) – Richmond Housing Authority/Finance Department (Gabino Arredondo 510-620-6606/Rita Martinez 510-621-1546).

**Adopted Resolution No. 2192**

**N. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

**O. REGULAR MEETING OF THE RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL**

The Regular Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 6:48 p.m. by Mayor Martinez.

**P. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Councilmembers Bana, Robinson, Zepeda, Vice Mayor McLaughlin, and Mayor Martinez. **Absent:** Councilmembers Jimenez and Willis were absent for the entire meeting.

**Q. STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Councilmember Robinson stated a conflict of interest with Item W.4.b (grant awards).

**R. AGENDA REVIEW**

Item Z.1 (Pacific Gas & Electric projects) was withdrawn from the agenda.

Item W.12.e (additional city cameras) was removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion at the end of the agenda.

Item Y.1 (cannabis ordinance) was continued to the November 28, 2023, City Council meeting.

**Motion by** Vice Mayor McLaughlin

**Seconded by** Mayor Martinez

To add an emergency item to the agenda for discussion immediately after the Consent Calendar as follows: DISCUSS and CLARIFY the council's position regarding its recommendation that a Request for Proposals (RFP) process be conducted by Recyclemore.

Ayes (5): Councilmember Bana, Councilmember Robinson, Councilmember Zepeda, Vice Mayor McLaughlin, and Mayor Martinez.

Absent (2): Councilmember Jimenez and Councilmember Willis.

Passed (5 to 2)

Vice Mayor McLaughlin introduced the emergency item. Environmental Manager Samantha Carr presented a PowerPoint that highlighted background information, the city's goals, and timeline. Discussion ensued. The council suggested a Request for Qualifications rather than an RFP. The council expressed concerns regarding the transfer of post-collection trash and increased illegal dumping.

**Motion by** Vice Mayor McLaughlin  
**Seconded by** Councilmember Robinson

To authorize and direct the three Richmond RecycleMore boardmembers to execute their votes for an RFP process to commence for the post-collection process through the RecycleMore board.

Ayes (4): Councilmember Bana, Councilmember Robinson, Vice Mayor McLaughlin, and Mayor Martinez.

Abstained (1): Councilmember Zepeda.

Absent (2): Councilmember Jimenez and Councilmember Willis.

Passed (4 to 3)

**S. REPORT FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY OF FINAL DECISIONS MADE DURING CLOSED SESSION**

Item C.1 (labor negotiations) a status report was given and no reportable action was taken.

Item C.2 (existing litigation) a summary of the status and potential settlement was given. The council gave direction to negotiate a settlement agreement.

Item C.3 (anticipated litigation, significant exposure) one case was discussed and the council gave direction concerning negotiation. There was no reportable action taken. The second case was not discussed.

Item C.4 (anticipated litigation, initiation) neither case was discussed.

**T. REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER (public comment allowed under Open Forum)**

City Manager Shasa Curl deferred her report to the next meeting to allow for the new employee report.

**T.1 NEW EMPLOYEE REPORT - 1st Tuesday**

Interim Director of Human Resources Sharonne Taylor presented a PowerPoint that highlighted new hires for the following departments/divisions: Port; Rent Control; Employment and Training; Police; Planning and Building; Recreation; and Public Works.

**U. REPORTS OF OFFICERS: REFERRALS TO STAFF, AND GENERAL REPORTS (INCLUDING AB 1234 REPORTS)(limited to two minutes per Councilmember)(public comments allowed under Open Forum)**

Councilmember Robinson acknowledged city staff and residents for the Pullman Neighborhood dumpster days cleanup work. Councilmember Robinson invited the community to a meeting to discuss Richmond's historic International Hotel site on November 12, 2023, at the Seaport Missionary Baptist Church.

Councilmember Bana acknowledged the Public Works Department, City Manager's Office, and the Fire Department for collaborating with the West Contra Costa Fire Safe Council, which facilitated its connection to Measure X mitigation resources.

Councilmember Bana announced that the result of that effort would allow 100 acres or more of city-owned properties to receive fuel reduction.

Vice Mayor McLaughlin announced that the Homeless Town Hall recently held in El Sobrante was successful. Vice Mayor McLaughlin advised that work continued for a new Marina Bay farmers market and acknowledged staff and others for their assistance.

Vice Mayor McLaughlin announced that the planning process started for the 2024 Literacy Festival.

Mayor Martinez reported that he and Councilmember Bana attended a ground-breaking for a new Center for Elders' Independence in El Sobrante. Mayor Martinez announced that he hosted the Secretary of Technology and Science from Guatemala and she visited two sites near the Richmond Field Station. Mayor Martinez advised that he participated in the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative that focused on innovation.

## V. OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

**(public comment on items that remain on the Consent Calendar or items not on the agenda - limited to 2 minutes unless otherwise specified - Back and forth dialogue with the Council is prohibited)**

The following individuals gave comments in person:

Al Engel gave comments to alert the city of a ruling by the Superior Court against the City of Oakland Port for allowing coal transportation. Mr. Engel advised that coal would be transported from Oakland through Parchester Village, and there was ongoing litigation for railway interchange construction defects in Richmond. Mr. Engel urged the council and all interested parties to respond within the ten-day deadline.

Don Gosney gave comments regarding former Congressman Richard Pomo's conservative politics. Mr. Gosney expressed concerns that the city's resolution supporting Gaza adopted on October 28, 2023, caused division in the community. Mr. Gosney gave comments against councilmembers interactions with the chanting audience following the adoption of the resolution.

Dorian Reid, Elsa Stevens, and Julia Keen gave comments against a five percent rent increase at the Hilltop Heritage Senior Apartments. Ms. Stevens acknowledged the councilmembers who visited the site. Ms. Keen advised that there was a decrease in amenities at the apartments and that ongoing rent increases would cause homelessness.

Mark Wassberg and Bruce German gave comments regarding the Israel-Hamas war.

Sam Lewis advised that the services and quality of life at the Heritage Park Senior Apartments were reduced or eliminated. Mr. Lewis gave comments against the apartment's management and urged the council for assistance.

Theresa Russell acknowledged Councilmember Zepeda for his efforts to amend the city's resolution supporting Gaza and voting against it at the October 28, 2023, City Council meeting. Ms. Russell expressed concerns that the resolution caused divisiveness in the community. Ms. Russell urged the council to mend the rifts and make the community feel secure.

Wesley Alexander gave comments to advocate for businesses, non-profits, and community-based organizations that were in operation during the pandemic. Mr. Alexander expressed concerns regarding the adverse impacts on small businesses from the inflationary environment. Mr. Alexander urged the council to immediately prioritize the distribution of the American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Rick Perez acknowledged the council for taking a stance against the apartheid of Gaza and expressed concerns for the innocent lives lost. Mr. Perez gave comments against police shootings. Mr. Perez reported that he and his friend's trucks were stolen. Mr. Perez advised that unhoused individuals in his neighborhood were stealing and causing damage to private property. Mr. Perez urged the council to solve the homeless problem.

Patricia Perez gave comments against the Richard "Pedie" Perez police shooting case. Ms. Perez advised that she deplored the Israel-Hamas war. Ms. Perez suggested that more police training was needed for handling unarmed suspects.

Jamin Pursell announced that there were two events scheduled for the Richmond Civic Center. The Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20, 2023, and a World Aids Day vigil on December 1, 2023.

Antwon Cloird gave comments against Item Y.1 (increasing the number of cannabis retailers). Mr. Cloird advised that cannabis proceeds did not benefit the youth. Mr. Cloird expressed concerns that the lack of youth activities would contribute to crime. Mr. Cloird urged the council to support struggling youth organizations and invest in youth opportunities, jobs, and training programs.

The following speakers gave comments via teleconference:

Janet S. Johnson expressed concerns regarding the city's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the lack of an office of emergency services manager (OES) in the Fire Department. Ms. Johnson advised that the Fall CERT academy training was canceled in Richmond. Ms. Johnson announced that in the absence of an OES manager, future CERT courses may only take place if sufficient voluntary resources were found. Ms. Johnson urged the Fire Department to hire an OES manager.

Mike Velazquez acknowledged the city for offering a mental health program to Fire Department personnel. Mr. Valezquez highlighted the fire union side letter that allowed other ranks to work down so that mandated firefighters may go home to their families.

Leisa Johnson acknowledged Councilmember Zepeda for reaching out to the community regarding the pro-Palestinian resolution adopted by the council on October 28, 2023. Ms. Johnson gave comments against the resolution and the impact on the community.

Naomi Williams inquired about the status of the proposed cannabis retailer at 350 Cutting Boulevard in the Pullman Neighborhood. Ms. Williams advised that the neighborhood had not received any community benefits as promised. Ms. Williams also advised that the residents on the south side of Richmond needed help.

## **W. CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR**

**(All items placed under the Consent Calendar were considered to be routine and noncontroversial. The items were enacted upon together with a motion and second, without discussion, of any member of the City Council, and each item was deemed to have received the action recommended.)**

City Clerk Pamela Christian announced that Item W.4.b, City Council Environmental Community Investment Agreement (ECIA) Ad Hoc Committee's Fiscal Year 2023-24 Category 3 ECIA Grant Award Recommendations (\$50,000), was being withdrawn from the agenda.

**Motion by** Councilmember Bana

**Seconded by** Vice Mayor McLaughlin

To approve all items on the Consent Calendar except items W.4.b and W.12.e.

Councilmember Robinson voted no on items W.7.b (Approval of Liens and Special Assessments for Unpaid Garbage Collection Service Fees Due to Republic Services) and W.12.f. (18-Month Plan to Eliminate Mandatory Overtime within the Richmond Police Department).

Ayes (5): Councilmember Bana, Councilmember Robinson, Councilmember Zepeda, Vice Mayor McLaughlin, and Mayor Martinez.

Absent (2): Councilmember Jimenez and Councilmember Willis.

Passed (5 to 2)

**W.1 City Attorney's Office**

- W.1.a Settling Guidiville Rancheria of California, et al v. United States of America, et al.

APPROVE the proposed settlement agreement in *Guidiville Rancheria of California, et al. v. United States of America, et al.* for a total settlement amount of \$75,000 – City Attorney’s Office (Dave Aleshire 510-620-6509).

**W.2 City Clerk's Office**

- W.2.a City Council Meeting Minutes

APPROVE the minutes of the regular September 19, September 26, and special September 27, 2023, City Council meetings - City Clerk's Office (Pamela Christian 510-620-6513).

**W.3 City Council**

- W.3.a Accept \$75,000 contribution from Prologis for LifeLong Medical Care’s Health Ambassador Program.

ACCEPT and APPROPRIATE a \$75,000 grant from Prologis to the City of Richmond for unhoused services and DIRECT staff to apply this funding to LifeLong Medical Center to aid in funding Health Ambassadors which will provide Client Care Liaison Services for Richmond’s unhoused population - Vice Mayor Gayle McLaughlin (510-620-6636).

- W.3.b Wildfire Prevention Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Richmond Resolution

ADOPT a resolution authorizing the City of Richmond to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among jurisdictions in the East Bay Hills to form a wildfire coordinating group to improve regionwide collaboration on wildfire mitigation activities and reduce wildfire risk throughout the East Bay Hills; in addition, ADOPT a resolution on an Overall Wildfire Risk Reduction and Response Policy to be presented to the regional group once convened - Vice Mayor McLaughlin (510-620-6636).

**Adopted Resolution Nos. 119-23 and 120-23.**

**W.4 City Manager's Office**

- W.4.a First Contract Amendment with The Gardner Group, LLC

Approve a first amendment to the contract with The Gardner Group, LLC, in the amount of \$90,000, to continue to provide management consulting services on an as-needed basis, for a new total contract amount not to exceed \$100,000, and extending the contract term to December 31, 2024 – City Manager’s Office/Finance Department (Shasa Curl/Nickie Mastay/LaShonda White/Andrea Miller 510-620-6512).

- W.4.b City Council Environmental Community Investment Agreement (ECIA) Ad Hoc Committee’s Fiscal Year 2023-24 Category 3 ECIA Grant Award Recommendations (\$50,000)

APPROVE a recommendation from the City Council ECIA Grant Review Ad Hoc Committee to award \$50,000 in Fiscal Year 2023-24 Environmental Community Investment Agreement (ECIA) Grant funds (Category 3 - City Council Approved Award) to eight Richmond-serving

non-profit organizations; ADOPT a resolution; and AUTHORIZE the city manager to negotiate and execute Grant Service Agreements with approved grantees – City Manager’s Office (LaShonda White 510-620-6512/Patrick Seals 510-307-8016).

**Withdrawn from the agenda.**

**W.5 Community Development**

W.5.a Contract with Hatchuel Tabernik and Associates to provide Program Evaluation Services

APPROVE a contract with Hatchuel Tabernik and Associates (HTA) in the amount of \$40,000, to provide evaluation services for the City’s Encampment Resolution Funding Round 1 project, for a term from November 7, 2023, through December 31, 2025, with an option to increase the contract by an additional \$40,000 upon evaluation of year 1 work and outcomes – Community Development Department (Lina Velasco/Jesus Morales 510-620-6649).

**W.6 Economic Development**

W.6.a Report on the Port of Richmond Operations

RECEIVE a written report on the Port of Richmond’s operations, facilities, and economic opportunities – Economic Development Department (Nannette Beacham/Lizeht Zepeda 510-620-6653).

W.6.b Amend the Port of Richmond Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) Tariff No.3

ADOPT a resolution to amend the Port of Richmond FMC Tariff No. 3 reflecting a six and two-tenths percent (6.2%) general rate increase (GRI) to the Port of Richmond Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) Tariff No. 3 and an annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) rate adjustment as approved by the Executive Committee of the California Association of Port Authorities (CAPA) – Economic Development Department (Lizeht Zepeda 510-620-6653).

**Adopted Resolution No. 121-23**

**W.7 Finance Department**

W.7.a Second Contract Amendment with Badawi and Associates for Audit Services

APPROVE a second contract amendment with Badawi and Associates in the amount of \$18,000, for a new total amount not to exceed \$1,548,370, to provide an audit of the City’s California Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program, for the period from October 1, 2020, to June 30, 2023 – Finance Department/Office of Neighborhood Safety (Andrea Miller/Mubeen Qader/Sam Vaughn/Jerry Chak 510-620-6569).

W.7.b Approval of Liens and Special Assessments for Unpaid Garbage Collection Service Fees Due to Republic Services

ADOPT a resolution authorizing placement of liens and special assessments for unpaid garbage collection service fees on Contra Costa County’s property tax records – Finance Department (Mubeen Qader 510-620-6740/Antonio Banuelos 510-620-6741).

**Adopted Resolution No. 122-23**

**Councilmember Robinson voted no on this item.**

W.7.c Resolution Approving an Additional Three Percent Annual Cost of Living Increase for Recipients of the General Pension Fund for 2024

ADOPT a resolution approving a three percent annual cost of living increase, in addition to the two percent minimum cost of living increase, for the recipients of the General Pension Fund, for a total annual cost of living increase of five percent for these recipients – Finance Department (Andrea Miller 510-620-6740).

**Adopted Resolution No. 123-23**

**W.8 Human Resources**

W.8.a Contract with Restoration Family Counseling Center to Provide Services to Sworn Fire Personnel

APPROVE a three-year contract with Restoration Family Counseling Center (RFCC), in an amount not to exceed \$133,000, with a term from October 24, 2023, through October 24, 2026, to provide mental health services for Sworn Fire Personnel – Human Resources Department (Nickie Mastay/Sharrone Taylor/Amy Aaronson/Aaron Osorio 510-620-6602).

W.8.b Resolution Approving a Side Letter to the Memorandum of Understanding with Fire Unions

ADOPT a resolution approving a side letter to the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Richmond and the International Association of Firefighters Local 188, regarding eligibility for overtime assignments – Human Resources Department (Interim Chief Aaron Osorio/Nickie Mastay/Sharrone Taylor 510-620-6602).

**Adopted Resolution No. 124-23**

**W.9 Information Technology**

W.9.a Sole-Source Agreement with ParcelQuest for Land-Based Property Data Subscription and Online Licenses

APPROVE a sole-source agreement in the amount of \$50,000 with ParcelQuest for an annual property data subscription and online license use, with a term from October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024 – Information Technology Department (Sue Hartman 510-620-6874).

**W.10 Library and Community Services**

W.10.a Approve contracts with the Roots of Success of America and Richmond Community Foundation

APPROVE contracts with (1) Roots of Success in the amount of \$180,000, and (2) Richmond Community Foundation in the amount of \$150,000, to provide workforce training and employment services for up to 20 youth each, for a term commencing October 18, 2023, and ending December 30, 2024 – Community Services Department (LaShonda White 510-620-6828/Tamara Walker 510-307-8006).

W.10.b First Contract Amendment with Rubicon Programs to Provide Workforce Training and Employment Ppportunities Funded Under the California for All Youth Grant

APPROVE a first amendment to the contract with Rubicon Programs, to increase the contract limit by \$95,323, for a total amount not to exceed \$190,646, to be the service provider for the Beautify Richmond program, with a contract term through March 31, 2024 – Community Services Department (LaShonda White 510-620-6828/Tamara Walker 510-307-8006).

W.10.c Amendment to the Interagency Agreement between the City of Richmond and Contra Costa County for the Joint Administration of the North Richmond Mitigation Funding

APPROVE an amendment to the Interagency Agreement between the County of Contra Costa (County) and the City of Richmond (City), effective September 19, 2023, to increase the payment limit by \$360,000, for a new payment limit of \$835,000, and extend the term from September 30, 2023, to September 30, 2026, to facilitate the City's continued use of the North Richmond Mitigation Fee (NRMF) funding, and to co-staff the NRMF Committee and implement services and programs authorized in the City/County-approved expenditure plans; and AUTHORIZE the city manager or their designee to execute the amendment to the Interagency Agreement between the County and City – Community Services Department (LaShonda White 510-620-6828/Lori Reese-Brown 510-620-6869).

**W.11 Mayor's Office**

W.11.a Proclamation Declaring October 21, 2023, as Arbor Day in Richmond

PROCLAMATION recognizing October 21, 2023, as Arbor Day in Richmond - Mayor's Office (Mayor Eduardo Martinez 510-620-6503).

W.11.b Planning Commission Appointment

APPOINT Aaron He to the Richmond Planning Commission, term expires, June 30, 2025 – Mayor's Office (Mayor Eduardo Martinez 510-620-6503).

W.11.c Proclamation Declaring November 2023 as Native American Heritage Month in the City of Richmond and acknowledging the contributions of Native Americans in our Community

PROCLAMATION declaring November 2023 as Native American Heritage Month in the City of Richmond – Mayor's Office (Mayor Eduardo Martinez 510-620-6503)

**W.12 Police Department**

W.12.a Blanket Purchase Orders for Ongoing Police Ammunition Purchases

APPROVE and AUTHORIZE the Police Department to create blanket purchase orders for required training and duty ammunition purchases of up to \$50,000 per vendor, for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and Fiscal Year 2024-2025. The four vendors are Dooley, LC Action, San Diego Police Supply, and Ammo Incorporated – Police Department (Chief Bisa French 510-621-1802).

W.12.b Proposed Contract with Donnoe and Associates to Administer the Promotional Exam for Police Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain

APPROVE a contract with Donnoe & Associates, Inc., in a total amount not to exceed \$38,500, for Police Staff promotional exam creation,

administration, and ranking, for the period November 8, 2023, through November 7, 2024 – Police Department (Chief Bisa French 510-621-1802).

W.12.c Proposed Contracts with Get Polygraphed, Inc. and Shannon Layer Polygraph for Preemployment Polygraph Services

APPROVE two contracts with (1) Get Polygraphed, Inc. for a payment limit not to exceed \$50,000, and (2) Shannon Layer Polygraph for a payment limit not to exceed \$50,000, each for a three-year term beginning November 8, 2023, and ending November 7, 2026, to provide pre-employment polygraph services for sworn and non-sworn Police Department applicants, for a total program cost not to exceed \$100,000, with an option for a two-year mutually agreed upon contract extension of \$30,000 per vendor – Police Department (Chief Bisa French 510-621-1802).

W.12.d Executive Management Training Course Held in Boston, Massachusetts for Assistant Chief Timothy Simmons.

ACCEPT and APPROVE the course registration amount not to exceed \$11,400, and the out-of-state travel form, for the Senior Management Institute for Police (SMIP) program at Boston University School of Law for Assistant Chief Simmons to attend from June 3, 2024, through June 21, 2024 – Police Department (Chief Bisa French 510-621-1802).

W.12.e First Contract Amendment with Flock Group, Inc. to Add Additional Cameras Throughout the City

APPROVE a first contract amendment with Flock Group, Inc. in the amount of \$748,500, including a \$13,000 contingency, for a new total contract amount not to exceed \$998,100, for additional cameras to be installed and replaced throughout the City, for the term ending February 28, 2026 – Police Department (Chief Bisa French 510-621-1802).

Chief of Police Bisa French introduced the matter. Chief French, Police Captain Eric Smith, and Deputy Police Chief Timothy Simmons gave an overview of the information captured by the cameras and retention policy. Chief French provided examples of cases where the cameras provided evidence to capture suspects. Discussion ensued. The council requested a cost-benefit analysis with the civil liberties component factored in. *(At approximately 11:28 p.m. - a motion by Councilmember Zepeda, seconded by Councilmember Bana, to suspend the rules and extend the meeting to complete the discussion for Item W.12.e, passed by the unanimous vote of the City Council).* Further discussion ensued. The council requested staff to consider developing a policy on criminalization. Ben Therriault and Theresa Russell gave comments in person. The following individuals gave comments via teleconference: Tracy Rosenberg, Leisa Johnson, Layla Dima, and Naomi Williams. Further discussion ensued. The council suggested an education and awareness program alerting the public of the cameras.

**Main Motion by Councilmember Zepeda  
Seconded by Councilmember Bana**

To approve the staff recommendation and add a component for the Police Department's potential community engagement staff to conduct community education when hired.

Ayes (5): Councilmember Bana, Councilmember Robinson, Councilmember Zepeda, Vice Mayor McLaughlin, and Mayor Martinez.

Absent (2): Councilmember Jimenez and Councilmember Willis.

Passed (5 to 2)

**Substitute Motion by Vice Mayor McLaughlin**

To only install 40 plan tilt zoom cameras for illegal dumping and staff return to the council with an analysis providing various options for different numbers of cameras. Died for lack of second. The main motion passed.

**W.12.f 18-Month Plan to Eliminate Mandatory Overtime within the Richmond Police Department**

RECEIVE a written report which outlines the Richmond Police Department's strategy to eliminate the need for mandatory patrol overtime signups within the next 18 months – Police Department (Chief Bisa French 510-621-1802). This item was continued from the October 3, 2023, meeting.

**Councilmember Robinson voted no on this item.**

**W.12.g Crime Report from Police Chief**

Receive a written crime report from the Police Chief - Police Department (Chief Bisa French 510-621-1802). This item was continued from the October 24, 2023, meeting.

**W.13 Public Works**

**W.13.a Proposed Restated Agreement and Amendment to the West County Agency Joint Powers Agreement between the City of Richmond and the West County Wastewater District**

ADOPT a resolution approving the Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement of the West County Agency between the City of Richmond and the West County Wastewater District – Public Works Department (Daniel Chavarria 510-620-5478/Mary Phelps 510-621-1269).

**Adopted Resolution No. 125-23**

**W.13.b Resolution Designating Officials Authorized to Apply and Sign for Federal and State Post Disaster Financial Assistance**

ADOPT a resolution designating and authorizing the City Manager, Director of Finance, Director of Public Works, and City Engineer as officials who may apply for federal and state post disaster financial assistance under the California Disaster Assistance Act – Public Works Department (Daniel Chavarria 510-620-5478/Robert Armijo 510-620-5477).

**Adopted Resolution No. 126-23**

**W.13.c Transportation Development Act (TDA) Grant Contract with SOS! Richmond for the Richmond Ferry to Bridge Bicycle & Pedestrian Network Improvements Projects**

APPROVE a contract with SOS! Richmond, in the amount of \$30,000, to provide maintenance for the Richmond Greenway through June 30, 2024, and comply with requirements under the Transportation Development Act (TDA) Grant issued to the City of Richmond for Bicycle & Pedestrian Improvements – Public Works Department (Robert Armijo 510-620-5477/Josel Munoz 510-620-6671).

W.13.d Housing Resolution for Compliance with One Bay Area Grant (OBAG) Funding Requirements

ADOPT a resolution wherein the City agrees to continue complying with various state housing laws as a condition of receiving its One Bay Area Grants (OBAG) 3 funding awards for the Bayview to BART and McBryde Ave Safe-Routes-to-Parks projects – Public Works Department (Robert Armijo 510-620-5478/Josel Munoz 510-620-6671/Lina Velasco 510-620-6841).

**Adopted Resolution No. 127-23**

W.13.e As-Needed Landscape Architectural Design Services for Various City of Richmond Projects

ADOPT a resolution authorizing service contracts with seven architectural design firms for as-needed landscape architectural services, in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 per firm, over a three-year period from December 1, 2023, through December 31, 2026, with two one-year extension options, for a total amount not to exceed \$300,000 per firm for the total extension period - Public Works Department (Robert Armijo 510-620-5477/Josel Munoz 510-620-6671).

**Adopted Resolution No. 128-23**

**X. BUDGET SESSION**

**X.1 FY 2022-23 Q4 Financial Report and Administrative Budget Adjustments**

RECEIVE the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Quarter 4 (Q4) report for the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023; APPROVE proposed administrative year-end budget adjustments; and PROVIDE DIRECTION to staff regarding Estimated Unspent Funds - Finance Department (Andrea Miller 510-620-6790/Mubeen Qader 510-412-2077). This item was continued from the October 24, 2023, meeting.

City Manager Shasa Curl introduced the matter. Director of Finance Andrea Miller, Deputy City Manager Internal Services Nickie Nastay, Deputy City Manager Community Services LaShonda White, Deputy Director of Finance Mubeen Qader, Revenue Manager Antonio Banuelos, Director of Public Works Daniel Chavarria, and Deputy Director of Public Works Robert Armillo presented a PowerPoint that highlighted the following: Guiding Fiscal Policies; General Fund revenue, expenditures, and adjustments; reserve level; non-General Fund revenue and expenditures; Capital Improvement Projects shortfall and unfunded; administrative budget adjustments; next steps; and other post-employment benefits and pension unfunded liabilities. Discussion ensued. The council requested the following: publish the updated PowerPoint slides on the city's website; address the confusion with the West Cutting Boulevard bike lanes and widths; include District 4 with future biking and park plans; consider allocating funds by project name for those that were close to completion and reserve funds for newly started projects where costs were subject to increase; prioritize the renovation of the Booker T. Anderson Community Center; utilize American

Rescue Plan Act funds towards emergency response and resilience; recognize that the whole surplus included funds allocated for the Richmond Main Library renovation; and provide an itemized budget for the \$1 million Community Crisis Response Program (CCRP) implementation budget, and consider allocating \$2 million toward the next fiscal year funding to operate the CCRP for the first year. The following individuals gave comments in person: Theresa Russell, Samantha Torres, Angela Aranda, and Jamin Pursell. Emily Ross and Layla Dima gave comments via teleconference. Further discussion ensued. The council requested staff to provide a budget for all-season turf for soccer fields.

**Motion by Vice Mayor McLaughlin**  
**Seconded by Councilmember Robinson**

To accept the staff recommendation for the unspent funds; direct staff to insert \$2 million of ongoing funding into the fiscal year 2024-2025 budget for the Community Crisis Response Program; and consider a change to the guiding fiscal policies. A friendly amendment made by Councilmember Robinson was accepted to add an allocation to start the process to move soccer fields into the Capital Improvement Plan; revisit the policy around other post-employment benefits (OPEB) and pension set-a-sides and make it clear when that percentage was taken in and from what funding source; and receive a budget amount from staff to allow for two to three additional soccer fields to move into the development process paying for planning and design.

Ayes (5): Councilmember Bana, Councilmember Robinson, Councilmember Zepeda, Vice Mayor McLaughlin, and Mayor Martinez

Absent (2): Councilmember Jimenez and Councilmember Willis

Passed (5 to 2)

The council requested staff to provide at a future meeting more clarity on the OPEB and CalPERS process and how the contributions were determined.

**Adopted Resolution Nos. 128-23(A) and 128-23(B)**

## **Y. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **Y.1 Cannabis Ordinance Amendments**

HOLD a Public Hearing; and INTRODUCE (first reading) an ordinance making certain amendments to Richmond Municipal Code (RMC) Section 15.04.610.270 Marijuana/Cannabis Commercial Uses, that includes, but is not limited to, increasing the number of storefront retail permits and adding new non-storefront retail (delivery only) permits, with a certain amount of the new retailer licenses to be reserved for equity applicants – Community Development Department (Lina Velasco 510-620-6841).

**Continued to the November 28, 2023, City Council meeting.**

## **Z. NEW BUSINESS**

### **Z.1 Status of Pacific Gas & Electric Projects in Richmond**

RECEIVE a presentation from Pacific Gas & Electric on projects in Richmond - Mayor Eduardo Martinez (510-620-6503) and Councilmember Claudia Jimenez (510-620-6565).

**Withdrawn from the agenda.**

### **Z.2 Itemize Budget for Public Emergency Preparedness for Public Disasters- Earthquake and Wildfire**

RECEIVE a presentation from Councilmember Bana; and PROVIDE DIRECTION to City staff to develop a funding plan of \$1.09 million for wildfire and earthquake safety in November 2023, and return with an additional proposal for appropriations during Mid-Year Fiscal Year 2023-24 – Councilmembers Soheila Bana (510-779-7280) and Cesar Zepeda (510-620-6593). This item was continued from the October 24, 2023, meeting.

Councilmember Bana introduced the matter and presented PowerPoint that highlighted the following: preparedness for public disasters; goals and potential funding sources; Contra Costa Measure X; vulnerable resources; fire hazard zones; remote control mower and goat/sheep brush clearing; city-wide public disaster preparedness and study planning; fire access lanes accessibility; dedicated fire inspector; chipper truck and chipper; Wildland Urban Interface/3DI software management tool; public awareness; fireboat/marine unit; training; vegetation management; earthquake early warning; request for \$500,000 in funding for immediate needs; and direction for staff to identify additional funding sources and a timeline. Discussion ensued. The council suggested that this matter be returned to a future meeting after review by the interim fire chief. The council requested staff to return to a future council meeting with a financial source for a wildfire prevention plan and a list in order of importance.

*(At 11:00 a.m. - a motion made by Councilmember Zepeda, seconded by Councilmember Bana, to extend the meeting to hear Item W.12.e, passed by the unanimous vote of the City Council).*

#### AA. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:19 a.m., in honor of veterans, to meet again on November 28, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

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Pamela Christian, Clerk of the City of  
Richmond

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Eduardo Martinez, Mayor

**From:** [Cordell Hindler](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept User](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comments-Open Forum  
**Date:** Thursday, November 2, 2023 5:09:51 PM

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Hello Mayor Martinez, Council Members and Staff,

I AM Submitting the Following Comments into the Record:

1. For a Future Agenda, The Council Should Consider Reinstating the Standing Committees to Address the Concerns in Richmond
2. Also, To Have John Gioia and Lisa Motoyama to Present on the Homeless Population
3. To Direct Staff to Work with Chancellor Christ's Office to Schedule a Joint Meeting Between the Richmond City Council and UC Berkeley in the Spring of 2024

Sincerely  
Cordell

November 7, 2023

Dear City Council Members,

I'm unable to attend the City Council Public Forum so I'm sending this letter:

Along with my fellow residents from Heritage Park, <sup>at Heritage Park</sup> we really need you to hear and see how this 5% rental increase is going to affect us.

- 1) We're on fixed incomes that IS NOT going to increase. At the same time everything is going up and still rising. For example Food, PG&E and personal items, etc.
- 2) I sent an email to the current Regional Director about the decline and elimination of services we're entitled to and a copy to the Vice President of USA Properties to make sure she's aware of how the residents are treated. Last week, 2 items became a work in progress and a few dollars added to our holiday budget that was already slashed, still below what was originally approved by the prior Regional Director.

<sup>FOR EXAMPLE</sup>  
I formally complained & got a small amount restored.

It's like I'm approved \$10, she came in and cut it to \$6, then offered \$1 making it \$7 and I should be thankful and happy? It's still below what was originally approved. November 5, 2023, an email was sent to her and the Vice President asking for an update on a meeting time with her since she hasn't been here for 4 weeks in a row and had assured us she'll be here every Monday 9am to 12noon. From my understanding that's her obligation and the residents want justification for this increase and the promised yearly 5% increase to follow.

<sup>RENT</sup> We need your help to <sup>PLEASE</sup> do whatever you can to help us or a lot of Seniors in this affordable complex are going to end up homeless.

Thank You for listening,



Elda Fontenot, Heritage Park Tenants Association President



## LifeLong Centers Leading the Way to a Healthier Community

Ashby Health Center • Brazell H. Carter Health Center • Brookside Richmond Health Center  
Brookside Dental Care • Brookside San Pablo Health Center • Dental Care  
Downtown Oakland Health Center • East Bay Community Recovery Project • Eastmont Health Center  
East Oakland Health Center • Howard Daniel Health Center • Immediate/Urgent Care – Berkeley  
Immediate/Urgent Care – San Pablo • Lenoir Health Center • Marin Adult Day Health Center  
Over 60 Health Center • Patient Services • Pinole Health Center • Rodeo Health Center  
School-Based Health Services • Supportive Housing Program • Trust Health Center  
West Berkeley Health Center • William Jenkins Health Center

2344 Sixth St  
Berkeley, CA 94712

November 3, 2023

City Council of Richmond, California  
440 Civic Center Plaza  
Richmond, CA 94804

RE: Letter of Support for Richmond Health Ambassador Project

Dear Mayor Eduardo Martinez and City Council Members:

I am writing in full support of the collaborative Health Ambassador Project between LifeLong Medical Care and Safe Organized Spaces (SOS) in the City of Richmond. LifeLong Medical Care is a Federally Qualified Health Center that provides high quality health and dental care, and social services to underserved people of all ages. We are known for creating innovative models of care for the elderly, people with disabilities, and those experiencing homelessness. LifeLong has been an integral part of the healthcare community in the City of Richmond with its William Jenkins Health Center.

LifeLong and SOS started a new project over a year ago to co-locate LifeLong Health Ambassadors with the SOS outreach teams. The Health Ambassadors provide crucial health education to people experiencing homelessness and linkages to care to the William Jenkins Health Center. To date, our Health Ambassador program has helped 128 unique individuals experiencing homelessness in Richmond to receive PPE like face masks and hand sanitizer; supplies to assist individuals to isolate safely to mitigate the spread of COVID-19; and to access COVID tests and vaccinations at our health center. This work also helps people become established with LifeLong as their primary care provider, enabling them to address a wide range of health issues impacting their well being.

The \$75,000 donation from Prologis will enable us to continue this project after the current funding expires in early 2024. It will also provide a bridge that will enable us to identify on-going funding through CalAIM MediCal to support a sustainable service model for health outreach and engagement with people living in shelters or on the streets of Richmond.

We appreciate the support of the City of Richmond for this funding.

Thank you, .

Brenda Goldstein, MPH  
Chief of Integrated Services



## LifeLong Centers Leading the Way to a Healthier Community

Ashby Health Center • Brazell H. Carter Health Center • Brookside Richmond Health Center  
Brookside Dental Care • Brookside San Pablo Health Center • Dental Care  
Downtown Oakland Health Center • East Bay Community Recovery Project • Eastmont Health Center  
East Oakland Health Center • Howard Daniel Health Center • Immediate/Urgent Care – Berkeley  
Immediate/Urgent Care – San Pablo • Lenoir Health Center • Marin Adult Day Health Center  
Over 60 Health Center • Patient Services • Pinole Health Center • Rodeo Health Center  
School-Based Health Services • Supportive Housing Program • Trust Health Center  
West Berkeley Health Center • William Jenkins Health Center

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**From:** [Alice LoCicero](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept User](#)  
**Subject:** Public comments for Agenda Item X-1  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 1:00:15 PM

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Dear Council Members,

Thank you for having the insight and wisdom to establish a program of alternatives to police response for appropriate needs of city residents--the CCRP.

Over some years, in many cities, I have been involved in a variety of responses to disasters and personal tragedies that were best responded to by law enforcement, and others by trained, non-law-enforcement responders, and I have found that many in the community respond far better to non-law-enforcement personnel. This is especially true for folks who have had difficult interactions with authorities either here in the US or in other countries.

In order for the program to succeed, it must get off to a very robust start. Partial funding is not conducive to success. Please fully fund this program from day one, so it has a good chance of meeting the complex needs of the city residents.

Thank you.

Alice LoCicero  
47 Sandpoint Drive

**From:** [Cordell Hindler](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept User](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment- X.1 Budget Session  
**Date:** Thursday, November 2, 2023 5:17:34 PM

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Hello Mayor Martinez, Council Members and Staff,

I Am Asking That the Council To Approve the Report as Presented by Staff

Sincerely  
Cordell

**From:** [JRiggs](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept User](#)  
**Cc:** [Soheila Bana](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comments for Agenda Item X-1  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 7:55:13 AM

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I am writing to urge the City Council to fund the Community Crisis Response Program at \$2million. This program is community supported and Council supported. Now, for its success, it needs to be financially supported. Everyone has seen programs that had all the goodwill needed to succeed, but at the end were just underfunded. Please don't let this critically needed program meet the same fate.

By investing now, we can build a system that saves on costs down the road. And more importantly, we can invest in the people of Richmond.

Thank you,  
Jennifer Riggs  
Matt Verheaghe

5136 Rain Cloud Drive  
Richmond, CA 94803  
415-297-6664

**From:** [Marisol Cantú](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept User](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment Agenda X-1  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 12:43:40 PM

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Hello Mayor, City Council, and City Clerk,

My name is Marisol Cantu. I am a 3rd generation Richmond resident and Reimagining Public Safety Community Taskforce member who has been advocating for the Community Crisis Response Program since 2021.

The Community Crisis Response Program is vital to our city's transition to reimagining community safety, diverting low-level 911 calls to appropriate responders, and creating systems of care instead of the mass criminalization system.

When the Council approved the CCRP, they earmarked \$1M for it. However, in the Urban Strategies Council Report, over \$2M is needed for a city-run program. There was also rationale for the need for more funding for the first year as one-time start-up costs.

This is why I urge the City Council to allocate \$2M from the Quarter Report FY 22-23 into the CCRP budget and earmark these funds for the use of the entire pilot program.

Now is the time for real investment into our community, not false promises, weak projections, and underfunding. Our community desperately needs a successful CCRP now.

Marisol  
D6 Resident

**From:** [Michelle Nguyen](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept User](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comments for Agenda Item X-1  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 10:16:21 AM

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Dear City Council Members,

This past Saturday 11/4, we had our community wellness event, Rich City Kickback. It was a testimony of a dire need for community wellness. Participants from the TREES Program (a program for young adults in Richmond focused on substance use & mental health) shared their own personal reflections and call to action for an increased investment in mental health resources.

We believe that non-police community crisis response program is important to provide a holistic approach to public safety just as the TREES Program is advocating for mental health resources in place of substance use.

On behalf of the TREES Program, we urge the City Council to allocate \$2M to the Community Crisis Response Program. Thank you!

In solidarity,  
Michelle Nguyễn  
Young Adults Program Supervising Coordinator  
Pronouns: She/Her

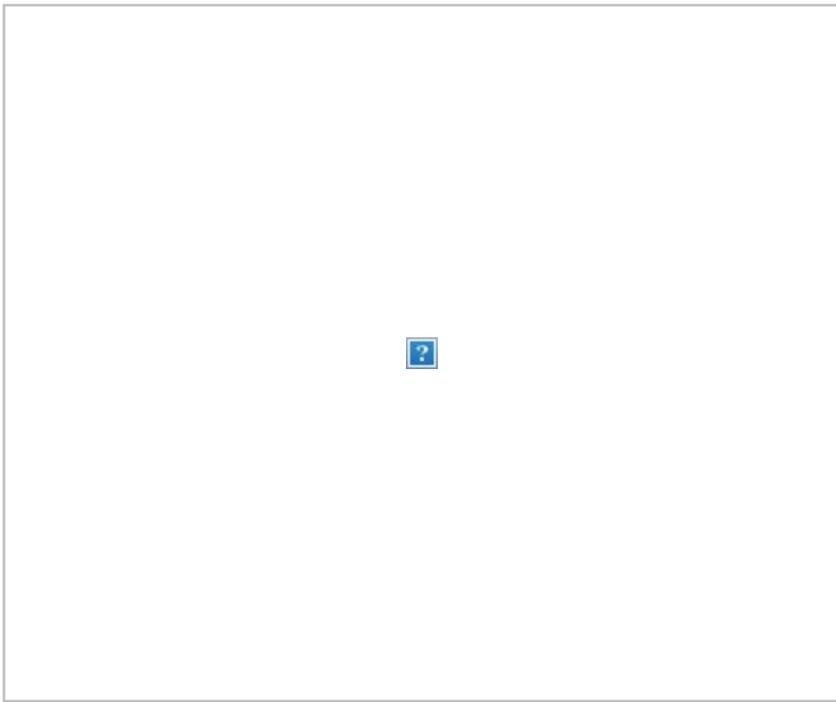
[Booking Link](#)

Information about the [TREES Program](#)



3029 Macdonald Ave.  
Richmond, CA 94804  
(510) 210-1251 ext 305  
[www.yesfamilies.org](http://www.yesfamilies.org)

The YES office is open Monday-Friday, 9AM to 5PM, and we ask that visitors continue to mask indoors. YES staff members work unique hybrid schedules-- please see [www.yesfamilies.org/staff-board](http://www.yesfamilies.org/staff-board) for contact information.



**From:** [Sahai Burrowes](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept User](#)  
**Cc:** [Marisol Cantu](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comments for Agenda Item X-1  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 12:19:59 PM

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Dear Representatives,

I am writing to express my strong support for allocating \$2M of the city's unspent funds to establishing Richmond's planned Community Crisis Response Program (CCRP). A well-functioning CCRP would enhance public safety, relieve and support other currently overwhelmed first responders, and demonstrate our city's commitment to compassion, responsiveness, and inclusivity.

Given its importance and the wellspring of community support it has engendered, it is crucial to launch the CCRP on a solid foundation. Creating this new sister program to the Office of Neighborhood Safety will take time, resources, and a community-led, city-backed effort. Creating this foundation requires resources, making this a critical time for investing in the program.

Providing solid start-up funding supports the CCRP's short-term success and increases its *long-term financial feasibility* by setting a funding benchmark, helping to establish the systems and staffing needed for growth, and facilitating the initial success stories needed for future external funding requests.

As a Richmond resident and homeowner who plans to age in place in this community, I am excited by this initiative. I value having a way to help my neighbors and respond to quality-of-life issues without having to call law enforcement. I value having this level of community outreach and support for myself should I ever need it. Therefore, I encourage allocating funds to establish the CCRP and provide them with the managerial support, training, and tools needed to succeed.

I applaud your recognition of the CCRP's potential to make our community safer, more compassionate, and more responsive to the needs of all residents. Thank you for your leadership.

Best Regards,

**Sahai Burrowes, PhD, MALD**

Associate Professor, Public Health Program  
Chair, Global Health Concentration  
Touro University California  
1310 Club Drive Vallejo, CA 94592, USA

**Email:** [sburrowe2@touro.edu](mailto:sburrowe2@touro.edu)

**[Please schedule office hours with me here](#)**

<https://tu.edu/programs/public-health/>

**From:** [yaquelin.valencia](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept User](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment for Agenda item. X-1  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 12:14:04 PM

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Dear Mayor, City council and city manager's office,

I am a concerned community resident who lives in District 2

I am emailing you to urge the City Council to allocate \$2M to the Community Crisis Response Program. Now is the time to fully invest in the CCRP as a commitment to residents' health and well-being. It is critical that the Office of Neighborhood Safety has the financial security to plan a successful program, so we ask that you invest in this program as you have done in the past. The success of the program depends on being fully funded and now is the time to invest in the program the city council voted on.

- Creating a new sister program to the Office of Neighborhood Safety will take time, resources, and a community-led, city-backed effort.
- Far too often, cities do not allocate the needed resources for new programs, and unforeseen costs, and yet expect the same results. We ask that you do not do this. Invest now.
- We ask that you have foresight and realize this program will need more funding in the beginning years and will pay itself off 100-fold by creating systems of care.

--

**Yaquelin Valencia**  
**Cell: (510)932-8198**

**From:** [Yeymi Perez](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept User](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment for Agenda item. X-1  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 12:35:42 PM

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Good evening City Council,

My name is Yeymi Perez. I'm a Richmond resident and Reimagine Richmond Organizer. I would like to start by thanking the City Council and the Mayor for allocating \$1M to the Community Crisis Response Program (CCRP). This is a strong step for our community to ensure that we prioritize our communities safety needs. This program will provide an opportunity to navigate people to the right services at the right time by utilizing community responders with strong ties and connections to Richmond.

However, in order to ensure that this program is being set up for success, I really encourage and urge the city to allocate \$2M to the Community Crisis Response Program from the unspent funds of the past fiscal year. The program's success depends on it being fully funded and now is the time to invest in the program the city council voted on. We'd like to ask that you really take into consideration and realize the needed funding in the beginning stages of this program, which if done successfully will easily pay itself off by creating systems of care. Our community has waited so long for a program like CCRP to be implemented and I really urge our city council to ensure that it is supported financially so that it can properly serve our people of Richmond.

Thank you,  
Yeymi Perez

**From:** [airyka20@gmail.com](mailto:airyka20@gmail.com)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept User](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment; Y1 cannabis ordinances  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 11:19:41 AM

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To the Richmond City Council,

The issue of cannabis retail density is not just a matter of economics or business—it's a matter of public health, especially concerning our youth. The high THC levels found in many cannabis products today can lead to profound negative effects on adolescent brain development, and thus must be regulated with utmost caution.

Programs like the Pride & Purpose project offer a beacon of hope, demonstrating successful strategies in youth education and prevention of substance abuse. Any changes to the cannabis ordinance should not only maintain but enhance the capacity for such programs to operate and flourish.

I trust that you will make decisions that protect the wellbeing of all citizens, especially our younger generation.

Kind regards,

Airyka Bolds

**From:** [Pride & Purpose](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept User](#)  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 11:25:52 AM

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Dear Richmond City Council Members,

**Subject: Urgent Considerations on Cannabis Ordinance Amendments**

As a Richmond resident and advocate for youth welfare, I am writing to you regarding the upcoming public hearing on the proposed amendments to the Richmond Municipal Code Section 15.04.610.270 concerning cannabis commercial uses.

While I commend the initiative to increase equity in cannabis retail permits, the potential increase in storefront and non-storefront retail density must be carefully scrutinized for its broader social impact, particularly on our youth. Research has consistently shown a correlation between cannabis retail density and increased usage among adolescents, with lasting implications on their health and well-being.

Moreover, the availability of high-THC cannabis products has been linked to developmental issues and an increased risk of substance use disorders in youth. The current amendments do not adequately address this critical issue. We need to ensure that any legislative changes are paired with robust protections for our younger citizens.

I am concerned that the amendments under consideration do not sufficiently propose new measures to strengthen protections against substance use disorders. It is our responsibility as a community to not only provide equal business opportunities but also to safeguard the health of our future generations.

I urge you to prioritize the implementation of comprehensive education and prevention strategies as part of these ordinance amendments. Let's make sure that our progress in the industry does not come at the expense of the most vulnerable in our city.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Warm regards,

Cristina Medrano

**From:** [Jacqueline Cabrera](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept User](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Y1 Cannabis Ordinance  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 11:45:47 AM

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Honorable Members of the Richmond City Council,

The agenda to revise the cannabis ordinance and increase the number of retail and delivery permits raises significant concerns for me, especially with the absence of enhanced protective measures for our youth. The proven detrimental effects of high THC content on the developing brain, along with increased accessibility due to retail density, are troubling aspects that cannot be ignored.

I urge you to reconsider these amendments with a greater focus on the health implications for Richmond's youth. Without integrating firm regulations aimed at preventing substance use disorders and safeguarding our younger population, we risk enabling a public health issue that could have lasting consequences.

Your commitment to our community's health is appreciated and I hope to see amendments that reflect this.

Kind regards,

Jakcely Cabrera ( [Jacqueline.Cabrerajim@gmail.com](mailto:Jacqueline.Cabrerajim@gmail.com) )

**From:** [Kayla McCullough](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept User](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Y1 Cannabis Ordinance  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 11:49:11 AM  
**Attachments:** [Public Comment.docx](#)

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To the Members of the Richmond City Council,

The current amendments to the Richmond Municipal Code related to cannabis commercial use, including the expansion of retail and non-storefront permits, present a complex issue that demands our careful scrutiny. As a Richmond resident and advocate for youth health, my primary concern lies with the direct impact that retail density has on the likelihood of cannabis use among minors.

With the introduction of highly potent THC products into the market, the risk to our youth's neurological development is exacerbated. Furthermore, the current form of the amendments does not address the pressing need for stronger protections against substance use disorders for our young people.

As we progress towards making Richmond a better place for business, let us not do so at the expense of our future generation's health and safety. I implore the Council to amend this ordinance to include specific strategies and programs that will mitigate these risks.

Thank you for your dedication to our community's welfare.

Best regards,

Kayla McCullough

**From:** [Lonnell Walker](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept User](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment Y1  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 12:56:13 PM  
**Attachments:** [PC\\_Walk.docx](#)

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Letter in attachments

Dear Richmond City Council,

As a concerned parent and long-term resident of Richmond, I am reaching out regarding the proposed amendments under Item Y1 concerning the increase of cannabis retail permits. While I support the idea of promoting equity through increased business opportunities, I am apprehensive about the potential impact this could have on our community—particularly on our youth.

The introduction of more cannabis businesses increases the density of these establishments, which in turn raises the accessibility of cannabis to minors. Even with the best enforcement, the risk of diversion and the normalization of cannabis can lead to higher rates of experimentation and use among teenagers. I urge the council to consider not just the economic implications but also the societal impact, especially as it pertains to our youth.

In the process of adopting these amendments, I strongly advocate for additional measures to be included that will help prevent underage use and protect the well-being of our young citizens, such as increased funding for education programs on drug use and stricter zoning laws for cannabis businesses.

I trust that the Council will make a decision that balances economic growth with the health and safety of all Richmond residents.

Yours faithfully,

Lonnell Walker

**From:** [M.D Webb](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept User](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment : Y1 Cannabis Ordinance  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 10:51:23 AM

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Attention: Members of the Richmond City Council,

As a concerned resident and advocate for youth wellness in Richmond, I am apprehensive about the proposed amendments to the Cannabis Ordinance that would increase the number of cannabis retailers. The link between retail density and increased youth usage is well-documented, and the prevalence of high-THC products poses an undeniable risk to the developing adolescent brain.

Thank you for your consideration.

Warm regards,

Markee Webb

**From:** [Nabila Sher-Oliver](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept User](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment Agenda Item Y1: Cannabis Ordinance Amendments  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 1:02:11 AM

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Hello

Please include the following in Public Comment for Agenda Item Y1: Cannabis Ordinance Amendments:

The Alcohol, Marijuana, and Prescription Drug (AMPD) Coalition oppose the proposed Cannabis Ordinance Amendments for several reasons:

1. **Public Health and Safety:** Increasing the number of cannabis retail permits could impact public health, as cannabis use has been linked to emergency room visits.
2. **Impact on Youth:** The rise in cannabis use among young people is concerning, and more retail permits might make it easier for underage individuals to access cannabis.
3. **Zoning and Neighborhood Impact:** Studies have shown that clustering cannabis stores can decrease property values and disrupt neighborhoods.
4. **Equity and Social Responsibility:** To truly promote equity, we need concrete steps, not just promises, to address disparities in the cannabis industry.
5. **Local Control:** Local municipalities should have the flexibility to regulate the cannabis industry according to their specific needs.

Thank you for your time.

Nabila Sher-Oliver  
Alcohol and Other Drug Policy Coordinator  
Alcohol, Marijuana, and Prescription Drug (AMPD) Coalition Coordinator  
Bay Area Community Resources  
11175 San Pablo Ave  
El Cerrito, CA 94530  
510-559-3004  
[Nsher@bacr.org](mailto:Nsher@bacr.org)

**From:** [EDF](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept User](#)  
**Cc:** [Lina Velasco](#)  
**Subject:** public comments - Agenda Item No: PLN23-284  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 4:13:43 PM  
**Attachments:** [Letter to Richmond City Council 11.07.23.pdf](#)

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Dear Clerk of the Court,  
Please find attached public comment re: **Agenda Item No: PLN23-284** submitted on behalf of Equity Defense Firm for consideration by the Mayor and City Council.  
Best regards,  
Natalia Thurston  
Director, Equity Defense Firm



November 7, 2023

Honorable Mayor Eduardo Martinez  
Richmond City Council Members  
City of Richmond  
440 Civic Center Plaza  
Richmond, California  
Via Email: [cityclerkdept@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:cityclerkdept@ci.richmond.ca.us)

Re: **Agenda Item No: PLN23-284;**  
**PROPOSED COMMERCIAL CANNABIS USES ZONING**  
**TEXT AMENDMENTS TO RICHMOND MUNICIPAL**  
**CODE SECTION 15.04.610.270**

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council Members:

I write on behalf of Equity Defense Fund (“EDF”) a 501(C)(3) non-profit tax exempt organization founded in 2020 in San Francisco by cannabis industry leaders and cannabis business equity owners. EDF has direct experience building successful equity programs in California, having served as a Technical Support Provider to San Francisco’s Office of Cannabis and Sacramento’s CORE Program since 2020.

We write to encourage the City of Richmond to adopt the equity amendments proposed to the Commercial Cannabis Uses Municipal Code Section 15.04.610.270 involving development of retail delivery licenses for those Richmond residents disproportionately and negatively affected by the war on drugs.



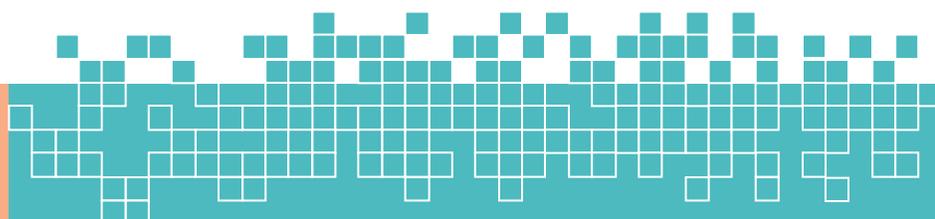
The City of Richmond currently has the opportunity to access a state level grant fund with over \$40 Million in funding previously distributed by the Department of Cannabis Control to cities in California to start and build equity programs with use of grant funds to:

- Create a cannabis equity program
- Support an existing cannabis equity program
- Directly help equity applicants and licensees through:
  - Technical Assistance support
  - Reduced or waived fees
  - Grant funding for business start up expenses
  - Help securing a business location
  - Help recruiting, training or retaining a qualified and diverse workforce
  - Business resilience, such as emergency preparedness

Along with issuing delivery only retail licenses to its equity program applicants and owners, EDF recommends that the Mayor and City Council consider applying to the Department of Cannabis Control for grant funding available for a shared use manufacturing, distribution and retail delivery facility in Richmond.

The barriers to entry into the commercial cannabis industry are very high and extremely costly with capital scarce in the current negative economic climate. The shared use building model allows equity program participants to develop and own brands without having to raise extensive capital to secure real estate, equipment and licenses. These are significant barriers to entry that currently keep many equity applicants from developing successful cannabis businesses in the regulated market.

The shared use facility can be used as a business incubator for Richmond's equity program participants to develop and sell cannabis brands to retailers through white-labeling. EDF's directors helped launch the nation's first shared use building project Equity Works in Oakland and can assist Richmond in developing a similar model in Richmond with access to state funding.





Thank you for your support of equity programs and the unique opportunity for business ownership by marginalized communities presented by establishing an equity program in Richmond. Please do not hesitate to contact me (415) 240-9024 or our Executive Director Walter Redding (415) 240-1534 with questions or if you would like further information in ways that EDF can support establishment of Richmond's equity program through technical support programs.

Very truly yours,

EQUITY DEFENSE FUND

*Natalia Thurston*

Natalia Thurston, J.D., M.B.A.  
Director & Legal Counsel

cc: Lina Velasco, Director of Community Development,  
[lina\\_velasco@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:lina_velasco@ci.richmond.ca.us).

**From:** [Roberta Holland](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept User](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Y1 Cannabis Ordinance Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 11:53:19 AM

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Dear City Council Members,

As we examine the proposed amendments to increase cannabis retail and delivery permits, I am compelled to speak on behalf of our city's youth. The introduction of more cannabis retailers, particularly those offering high-THC products, is deeply concerning given the potential for increased youth access and the detrimental effects on brain development during these crucial years.

I have seen firsthand the positive outcomes from the Pride & Purpose project and its role in educating and shielding our youth from the dangers of drug misuse. Any expansion of cannabis retail density must be balanced with reinforced support for such essential programs.

With respect, I ask the Council to consider the long-term implications of these amendments on the youth of Richmond.

Yours truly,

Roberta Holland

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Shameka Bolds](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept User](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment Y1 Cannabis Ordinance Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 12:21:34 PM

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To the Honorable Members of the Richmond City Council,

As an active member of the Richmond community, I write to express my views on the proposed amendments to our cannabis ordinance. The prospect of adding more storefront and delivery-only cannabis permits presents a challenge that goes beyond business development; it touches on the fabric of our community's health and resilience.

We must consider the message we send to our children when we increase the visibility and availability of cannabis. As research suggests, there is a relationship between the number of dispensaries and cannabis use among youth. Therefore, it is imperative that we proceed with caution.

I stand with equity applicants and the expansion of opportunities for all. However, I also stand for a Richmond that does not compromise the safety and development of its younger generation for economic gain. Could the Council ensure that strong, evidence-based youth prevention and education programs are embedded into these ordinance amendments?

Your leadership in balancing these complex issues is crucial. I am hopeful that the result will reflect not only the needs of today's entrepreneurs but also the future well-being of Richmond's youth.

With respect,

**Shameka Bolds**

**Organizational Leadership, MS**

(She/her/hers)

Environmental Programs Supervisor

Community Health for Asian Americans

Phone: 510-2333-7555x23

Email: [Shameka.bolds@chaaweb.org](mailto:Shameka.bolds@chaaweb.org)

3919 Macdonald Ave

Richmond, Ca 94804

[www.chaaweb.org](http://www.chaaweb.org)

**From:** [Tyler Martin](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept User](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment Y1  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 12:05:33 PM

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Martintyler@472@gmail.com  
Tyler Martin