

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA,

December 5, 2023, 3:30 p.m.
Community Services Building
440 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA 94804

A. OPEN SESSION TO HEAR PUBLIC COMMENT BEFORE CLOSED SESSION

The meeting was called to order at 3:36 p.m. by Mayor Eduardo Martinez.

B. ROLL CALL

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

C. CLOSED SESSION

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

- Hanlees Hilltop Buick et al. v. City of Richmond
- Riggers Loft Wine Company v. City of Richmond et al.
- Hernandez v. Hodges
- Winehaven v. City of Richmond
- Guidiville Rancheria of California, et al. v. United States of America, et al.
- North Coast Rivers Alliance et al./Point Molate Alliance et al. v. City of Richmond

Eric Reason v. City of Richmond, et al.

**C.2 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.3 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
(initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of Subdivision (d) of
Government Code Section 54956.9)**

- One case

**C.4 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Government Code
Section 54957.6)**

- City Designated Representative: Dave Aleshire, City Attorney
Unrepresented employee: City Manager
- 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

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

None.

E. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

The meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 3:38 p.m. Closed Session adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

F. REGULAR MEETING OF THE RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL

The regular meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Mayor Eduardo Martinez.

G. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Martinez led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

H. ROLL CALL

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

I. STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

J. AGENDA REVIEW

Item Q.1. (*Cannabis Ordinance Amendments*) was continued to the February 6, 2024, City Council meeting. Item O.5.c. (*Contract with American Global Security for Site Security at the Castro Encampment*) was removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion after approval of the Consent Calendar.

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

City Attorney David Aleshire reported the following:

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

Hanlees Hilltop Buick et al. v. City of Richmond - **Report was given - No reportable action taken.**

Riggers Loft Wine Company v. City of Richmond et al.- **Report was given - No reportable action taken.**

Hernandez v. Hodges - **Report was given - No reportable action taken.**

Winehaven v. City of Richmond - **Not discussed.**

Guidiville Rancheria of California, et al. v. United States of America, et al. - **Not discussed.**

North Coast Rivers Alliance et al./Point Molate Alliance et al. v. City of Richmond - **Not discussed.**

Eric Reason v. City of Richmond, et al.- **Report was given - No reportable action taken.**

C.2 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 - **Discussed. No reportable action taken.**

C.3 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of Subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9)

One case - **Discussed. No reportable action taken.**

C.4 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Government Code Section 54957.6)

City Designated Representative: Dave Aleshire, City Attorney

Unrepresented employee: City Manager – **No reportable action taken.**

Agency Representatives: Sharrone Taylor and Jack Hughes

Employee organizations: - **Not discussed.**

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

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

City Manager Shasa Curl gave the following report: Contra Costa Office of Emergency Services Informational Session would be held on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Oakley City Council Chambers; Richmond Library Renovation Project Community Meetings would be held on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. via Zoom and on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at the Richmond Main Public Library, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.; NIAD Holiday Sale & Gallery Reception would be held on Saturday, December 9, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the NIAD Art Center; and the Downtown Holiday Festival would be held on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the Iron Triangle Theater.

L.1 NEW EMPLOYEE REPORT - 1st Tuesday

Interim Human Resource Director Sharone Taylor introduced the following new hires for November 2023: Michele Ramos, Head of Reference, Library; Esmeralda Gonzales and Beatriz Guerrero Auna, Project Coordinators, Planning and Building; Rebecca Vanegas, Information Technology Manager, Information Technology; Sonomia Byrd, Recreation Program Specialist, Community Services; Michael Smith, Fire Chief Annuitant, Fire Department; Luis Angel Encino, Administrative Student Intern, Community Services; Raymond Davis, Maintenance Aide II/III, Public Works; Karina Alejandre, Parking Enforcement Representative, Police Department; Jasvinder Gahla, Administrative Student Intern, Community Services; Andrew Lozano, Combination Equipment Mechanic, Public Works; Austin Basye, Administrative Student Intern, Community Services; and Emergency Services Manager, Richard Diaz, who introduced himself.

M. 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 Zepeda reported that there were odor problems from the Veolia Wastewater Treatment Plant. The odors were the result of taking a secondary clarifier offline to accommodate the contractor's construction work and who began draining the tank on December 4, 2023.

Councilmember Willis reported that the primary concerns in his district were human trafficking around the 24th street corridor and illegal dumping.

Councilmember Bana stated there were plans to create a gender-based violence taskforce; a petition to PG&E CPUC to underground very high voltage transmission lines in the very high fire severity zones; thanked the city manager and human resources director for the new hires, including the Office of Emergency Services Manager. Councilmember Bana also congratulated NIAD for SF MOMA that bought 100 pieces of its artwork.

Mayor Martinez announced that he would present the State of the City on December 18, 2023. The mayor and city council congratulated and sang Happy Birthday to City Clerk Pamela Christian, who was presented with flowers.

N. 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)

Mark Wassberg gave comments regarding the AIDS epidemic.

Antwon Cloird stated that more youth programs were needed to help decrease crime.

Wesley Alexander gave comments regarding the legacy of the African American community in Richmond and the need to support small businesses and the development of a task force to assist businesses in Richmond.

Jamin Pursell thanked Mayor Martinez and Councilmember Zepeda for placing a proclamation on the agenda recognizing World AIDS Day. Mr. Pursell also announced a Richmond Rainbow Pride event and toy drive at Kaleidoscope Coffee on Sunday, December 17, 2023, from 4pm to 6pm.

Ruthie Dineen announced that the Downtown Holiday Festival was on December 13, 2023, from 4pm to 7:30pm at the East Bay Center. Ms. Dineen also informed that classes at the East Bay Center were tuition free and registration would begin December 11, 2023.

O. CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

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

Motion by Councilmember Cesar Zepeda

Seconded by Councilmember Melvin Willis

Ayes (5): Councilmember Soheila Bana, Councilmember Doria Robinson, Councilmember Melvin Willis, Councilmember Cesar Zepeda, and Mayor Eduardo Martinez

Absent (2): Councilmember Claudia Jimenez and Vice Mayor Gayle McLaughlin

Passed (5 to 0)

O.1 City Attorney's Office

- O.1.a Approval of settlement agreement in Jose Sotelo v. City of Richmond, et al

APPROVE the proposed settlement agreement *in Jose Sotelo v. City of Richmond*, et al. for a total settlement amount of \$105,000 – City Attorney’s Office (Dave Aleshire 510-620-6509).

O.2 City Clerk's Office

- O.2.a City Council Meeting Minutes

APPROVE the minutes of the October 17 and 24, 2023, regular City Council meetings and the November 14, 2023, special meeting - City Clerk's Office (Pamela Christian 510-620-6513).

O.3 City Council

- O.3.a World AIDS Day

PROCLAMATION recognizing World AIDS Day, to honor the 700,000 Americans and 40 million lives lost worldwide to AIDS-related illnesses over the years – Councilmember Cesar Zepeda (510-620-6593) and Mayor Eduardo Martinez (510-620-6503).

O.4 City Manager's Office

- O.4.a Fiscal Year 2023-24 Category 3 ECIA Grant Award Recommendations (\$44,000)

APPROVE a recommendation from the City Council ECIA Grant Review Ad Hoc Committee to award \$44,000 in Fiscal Year 2023-24 Environmental Community Investment Agreement (ECIA) Grant funds (Category 3 - City Council-Approved Award) to seven (7) 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 510-620-6828/Patrick Seals 510-307-8016).

Adopted **Resolution No.134-23**.

O.5 Community Development

- O.5.a Contract Amendment No. 2 with PES Environmental, Inc. dba NV5

APPROVE a contract amendment no. 2 with PES Environmental, Inc. (PES), dba NV5, in an amount of \$166,300, for a new total contract amount not to exceed \$236,300, for environmental consultation services related to the Miraflores Property, for a term ending December 31, 2025, to be paid for by funding from the Successor Agency to the Richmond Community Redevelopment Agency – Community Development Department (Lina Velasco 510-620-6706).

- O.5.b Sole-Source Agreement with The Regents of the University of California for Project Evaluation for the City of Richmond’s Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Implementation Grant

APPROVE a sole-source service agreement with The Regents of the University of California, a California public corporation, for a total amount not to exceed \$1,070,000, to document and evaluate program processes as well as outputs, outcomes, and impacts of the City’s Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Round 4 *Richmond Rising* Project focused on serving the Iron Triangle, Santa Fe, and Coronado

neighborhoods, with a term beginning October 1, 2023, through June 30, 2029 – Community Development Department (Lina Velasco/Beatriz Guerrero 510-620-5450).

O.5.c Contract with American Global Security for Site Security at the Castro Encampment.

APPROVE a contract with American Global Security, in an amount not to exceed \$353,524, to provide security guard services at the Castro Encampment for up to two guards, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for a term beginning December 6, 2023, and ending on June 30, 2024 – Community Development Department (Lina Velasco/Jesus M. Morales 510-620-6706).

Lina Velasco Director of Community Development gave an overview.

Motion by Councilmember Cesar Zepeda
Seconded by Councilmember Melvin Willis

Ayes (5): Councilmember Soheila Bana, Councilmember Doria Robinson, Councilmember Melvin Willis, Councilmember Cesar Zepeda, and Mayor Eduardo Martinez

Absent (2): Councilmember Claudia Jimenez and Vice Mayor Gayle McLaughlin

Passed (5 to 0)

O.5.d Accept and Appropriate Grant Funds from All Home

ACCEPT and APPROPRIATE a \$15,000 grant from All Home, provided via the Tides Center, to support the City's Round 3 Homekey Application to acquire a motel to convert into Permanent Supportive Housing – Community Development Department (Lina Velasco 510-620-6706).

O.5.e Contract with Housing Consortium of the East Bay (HCEB) for Case Management and Client Care Liaison Services for the Castro Encampment Resolution Project

APPROVE a contract with Housing Consortium of the East Bay (HCEB) to provide Case Management and Client Care Liaison services for former Castro Encampment residents, including administration of up to \$25,000 of Flex Funds, for a total contract amount of \$279,890, for a term beginning December 5, 2023, through June 30, 2024, to be funded using the City's Encampment Resolution Funds – Community Development Department (Lina Velasco/Jesus Morales 510-620-6706).

O.6 Finance Department

O.6.a Ordinance changing the due date of the Business Tax for businesses (excluding rental businesses) from July 1st to April 1st and adding a section allowing for a thirty-day grace period before late fees are assessed.

ADOPT an ordinance (second reading) changing the due date for the business tax (excluding those due from rental businesses) from July 1 to April 1, and add a section allowing for a thirty-day grace period before late fees are assessed – Finance Department (Nickie Mastay/Andrea Miller/Mubeen Qader/Antonio Banuelos 510-620-6741).

Adopted **Ordinance No. 10-23 N.S.**

O.7 Fire Department

- O.7.a Resolution Designating Officials and Authorizing Submission and State Financial Disaster Assistance

ADOPT a resolution designating officials and authorizing submission of an application to the State of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services for state financial assistance under the California Disaster Assistance Act and the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act – Fire Department (Deputy Fire Chief Aaron Osorio 510-307-8021/Andrea Miller 510-620-6790).

Adopted **Resolution No. 135-23.**

O.8 Human Resources

- O.8.a City Holiday Closure from December 26 through December 29, 2023

ADOPT a resolution approving the Side Letters between the City of Richmond and Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 1021 (Full-Time and Part-Time Units) and International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE) Local 21 (Mid-Management and Executive Management Units) regarding the holiday closure for December 2023 – City Manager's Office/Human Resources Department (Shasa Curl/Sharrone Taylor/Nickie Mastay 510-620-6602).

Adopted **Resolution No. 136-23.**

O.9 Library and Community Services

- O.9.a Memorandum of Understanding with All Season's Ice Company to Provide Ice/Snow at Nicholl Park

APPROVE the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Richmond and All Season's Ice Company to provide 20 tons of ice/snow to Richmond residents at Nicholl Park during the Winter Break at no cost to the City of Richmond and for a term from November 23, 2023, to December 31, 2023 – Community Services Department (LaShonda White 510-620-6828/Ranjana Maharaj 510-620-6972).

O.10 Mayor's Office

- O.10.a Appointment to the Environmental and Community Investment Agreement (ECIA) Transportation Oversight Committee

APPOINT Darlene Drapkin to a vacant seat on the ECIA Transportation Oversight Committee, Term Expires July 25, 2026 – Mayor's Office (Mayor Eduardo Martinez 510-620-6503).

- O.10.b Richmond Arts and Culture Commission Appointment

APPOINT Virginia Jourdan to an unexpired term in the Richmond Arts and Culture Commission, Term Expires June 19, 2025 – Mayor's Office (Mayor Eduardo Martinez 510-620-6503).

- O.10.c Richmond-Shimada Friendship Commission Appointment

APPOINT Mindy Pines to an unexpired term in the Richmond-Shimada Friendship Commission, Term Expires January 18, 2024 – Mayor's Office (Mayor Eduardo Martinez 510-620-6503).

O.10.d Urban Forest Advisory Committee Appointment

APPOINT Ethan Rayner to the Urban Forest Advisory Committee with a term that expires on November 17, 2026 – Mayor’s Office (Mayor Eduardo Martinez 510-620-6503).

O.11 Police Department

O.11.a Executive Management Training Course Held in Boston, Massachusetts for Captain Matthew Stonebraker

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 Captain Stonebraker to attend from July 8, 2024, through July 26, 2024 – Police Department (Chief Bisa French 510-621-1802).

O.12 Public Works

O.12.a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Recurring Contracts and Agreements with Contra Costa County, Stege Sanitary District, West County Wastewater District, West County Agency and the California State Water Resources Control Board for Service

ADOPT a resolution authorizing the city manager to execute reoccurring contracts for Fiscal Year 2023-24 with Contra Costa County, Stege Sanitary District, West County Wastewater District, West County Agency, and the State of California Water Resources Control Board at an aggregate annual amount of \$1,437,085. The execution of these contracts shall not exceed the limits as set forth for the following: Contra Costa County North Richmond Storm Drain Pump Station - \$75,000; Contra Costa County Clean Water Program - \$385,000; California Water Resources Control Board - WWTP National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) - \$125,000; California Water Resources Control Board - City of Richmond Stormwater NPDES permit - \$40,500; California Water Resources Control Board - Sanitary Sewer Overflow Waste Discharge Requirement (SSO - WDR) Permit - \$40,500; West County Agency - \$727,585; Stege Sanitary District Sewer Use Fees Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) - \$43,500 – Public Works Department (Robert Armijo 510-621-5477/Mary Phelps 510-621-1269).

Adopted **Resolution No. 137-23.**

O.12.b Smart Signals Project Funding Agreement with Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA)

ADOPT a resolution authorizing a Funding Agreement between Contra Costa County Transportation Authority (CCTA) and City of Richmond for the allocation of Smart Signals Project funding to City of Richmond for 21 locations; and ACCEPT and APPROPRIATE the matching contribution of \$182,336 from the Gas Tax fund Balance – Public Works Department (Robert Armijo 510-620-5477/ Ken Cheng 510-621-1612).

Adopted **Resolution No. 138-23.**

P. BUDGET SESSION

P.1 Update and Funding Options Using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and Environmental and Community Agreement (ECIA)

RECEIVE an update regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and Environmental Community Investment Agreement (ECIA); DISCUSS recommendations to utilize ARPA and ECIA funds to offset identified shortfalls in Capital Projects and programs/projects aligned with the City Council Strategic Goals; and ADOPT a resolution appropriating ARPA and ECIA to fund proposed expenditures – Finance Department/City Manager’s Office (Andrea Miller 510-620-6790/Mubeen Qader 510-412-2077/LaShonda White 510-620-6828). This item was continued from the November 28, 2023, meeting.

City Manager Shasa Curl gave an overview. Finance Director Andrea Miller, and Deputy City Manager LaShonda White presented a PowerPoint, which highlighted the following: General Fund Adjustments; Capital Improvement Projects Update; Possible ARPA-Funded CIP Shortfall Projects; Pavement Condition Index; Overview of ARPA; ARPA Community Needs Assessment and Strategic Investment Plan; Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loans for Local Businesses; Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loans for Local Businesses; ARPA Funding Possibilities; Proposed ARPA Allocation Options; Environmental and Community Investment Agreement (ECIA); ECIA Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Budget; ECIA Greenhouse Gas Reduction Programs; ECIA Community Programs Budget; ECIA Community Programs; ECIA Funding Recommendation; and Proposed Next Steps.

Discussion ensued.

Wesley Alexander gave comments in person and the following individuals gave comments via Zoom: BK Williams, Ruthie Dineen, Eli Moore, and Samantha Torres.

A motion by Mayor Martinez, seconded by Councilmember Robinson, adopted all staff recommendations for ECIA expenditures and adopt Option 1 with the following amendments: reduce CIP shortfall funding from \$5.8M to \$3M and use the remaining \$2.8M for \$1.25M for small business support and use the city's definition of small businesses via Measure U, which was a business with less than \$250,000 in gross receipts, location within a qualified census tract, impacted industries such as barbershops, hair salons, childcare; and businesses that had not already received assistance from federal governments; an additional \$500,000 for rental assistance for what was already recommended in Option 1; and \$500,000 for unhoused support.

Councilmember Robinson made a friendly amendment to allocate \$750,000 for stormwater and \$250,000 for art and collapse the title of soccer fields, parks, trails, and public restrooms and add an additional \$50,000. The \$500,000 allocation for Unhoused was removed and allocated to stormwater. Mayor Martinez accepted the friendly amendment.

(At 9:19 p.m. the City Council took a break in order to revise the slide presentation to reflect the changes to the allocations made by city council. Mayor Martinez called the meeting back to order at 9:31 p.m.)

Motion by Mayor Eduardo Martinez

Seconded by Councilmember Doria Robinson

Adopted Resolution No. 139-23.

Ayes (5): Councilmember Soheila Bana, Councilmember Doria Robinson, Councilmember Melvin Willis, Councilmember Cesar Zepeda, and Mayor Eduardo Martinez

Absent (2): Councilmember Claudia Jimenez and Vice Mayor Gayle McLaughlin

Passed (5 to 0)

Q. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Q.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). **This item was continued from the November 7, 2023, and November 28, 2023, meetings.**

Continued to the February 6, 2024, City Council meeting.

R. NEW BUSINESS

R.1 East Bay Municipal Utility District Presentation

RECEIVE a presentation from East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) regarding the Galvanized Requiring Replacement (GRR) program - Public Works Department (Robert Armijo 510-620-5477/Daniel Chavarria 510-620-5478).

Yanad Burrell, East Bay Mud Community Affairs gave an overview. Susan Teefy from East Bay Mud presented a PowerPoint, which highlighted the following: What was a Service Line; Who owns the Service Line; History, Former lead service line locations; When were the lead lines removed?; New Federal regulations; How did this impact EBMUD; What was a Galvanized service line?; Inspection of former lead locations; Customers served by GRRs must be notified; and Actions customers could take. Discussion ensued. City Council requested that this information be posted at the city libraries and city website to inform the public and that presentations were made to the neighborhood councils. City council also requested that Federal representatives were asked to assist with the cost to replace the service lines.

R.2 Hilltop Horizon Specific Plan

RECEIVE a presentation; and PROVIDE comments on the uses in the initial concept alternatives developed for the Hilltop Horizon Specific Plan (PLN23-344) – Community Development Department (Lina Velasco 510-620-6841/Hector Rojas 510-621-1220).

Community Services Director Lina Velasco presented a PowerPoint, which highlighted the following: Reimagining underutilized commercial spaces; Project description; Project team overview; Meeting objectives Beverly Choi, ESA; Project Recap; Concept Alternatives; Progression of Concept Alternatives; Outreach Takeaways; Schedule Overview; Informing the Alternatives. Top Planning Drivers/Main Themes; Woody Hanson, Site Lab - Early mall landowner concept alternatives; Early city developed concept alternatives; Evolving city-developed concept alternatives; Refined mall landowner concept alternatives; Similarities in concept alternatives summary; Development Timeline; Differences

in concept alternatives; Employment/Industrial Examples; Retail Examples; and Housing Examples.

(At 10:58 p.m. - A motion by Councilmember Zepeda, seconded by Councilmember Bana, extended the meeting until 11:30 p.m., by the unanimous vote of the City Council).

Discussion ensued. City Council recommended the following to include in the plan: a walkable "green" overpass connection from the freeways with possible assistance from CalTrans; development of permanent transitional housing; a hospital, transit hub, senior housing, a tall signature building that could be seen from the freeway, enhance the lake, high density, plans for mass transit, public events/concerts, sports facilities, promote affordable market home ownership, evacuation study, and BART connection.

Don Gosney and Mike Dolmetti gave comments in person.

This matter would return to the city council during the first quarter of 2024 with a recommended concept proposal.

S. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:46 p.m. in memory of Sandra Day O'Connor a U.S. Supreme Court justice and in celebration of City Clerk Pamela Christian's birthday to meet again on December 19, 2023. The meeting

Clerk of the City of Richmond

Mayor

From: garet@okeefelaw.com
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Cc: [Dave Aleshire](#); scottcrowell@clotag.net; cmarsh@downeybrand.com; mdillon@gdandb.com
Subject: Public Comments - Open Session prior to Closed Session - Closed Session Item C.1. - Point Molate
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 10:52:52 AM
Attachments: [12.5.23 Upstream Letter re City Obligation to Remedy Entitlements.pdf](#)

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This email originated from outside of the City's email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear City Clerk,

Please have the City Council read the enclosed letter presenting Upstream's public comment during open session into the record and place the enclosed letter into the record of public comments with regard to the above-referenced agenda item. Thank you.

Best regards,

Garet D. O'Keefe
O'Keefe & O'Keefe LLP
1068 Cragmont Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94708
(510) 282-0319

December 5, 2023

Via Email

David J. Aleshire, City Attorney
City of Richmond
450 Civic Center Drive
Richmond, CA 94804
Email: daleshire@awattorneys.com

Re: *City's On-Going Obligation to Secure and Defend the Entitlements at Point Molate*

Dear Dave:

This letter is written to the City of Richmond (the "City") on behalf of our client Upstream Point Molate LLC ("Upstream") to coordinate regarding the City's on-going obligations to comply with CEQA as to the City approvals necessary to entitle the development of, and construction on, the Point Molate development areas to carry out the sale and transfer of such development areas to a third party pursuant to the Amended Judgment.

Given the City's extensive work on the Supplemental Environmental Impact Report, and the City's vigorous defense of the entitlement process at the trial and appellate Courts, we are equally surprised by the recent decision by the Court of Appeal. While it seems to us like an unjust and poorly reasoned decision, it is the decision we all must work with to complete the land use entitlement and CEQA compliance process per the Amended Judgment. Despite the delay this decision causes, given the very limited scope of concerns raised in the Court of Appeal's decision, there should be no barriers for the City to remedy these SEIR deficiencies through the limited corrective actions required by the Court's decision.

Based on our reading of the Court of Appeal's decision, the City's efforts to produce, circulate and certify the Point Molate 2020 Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (the "SEIR") passed legal muster except for cultural resources and evacuation response mitigation measures that the Court found deficient. As a result of those two deficiencies, the Court of Appeal ordered that the September 2020 EIR certification and the related project entitlements to develop approximately thirty percent (30%) of the site be voided until corrected. As you know, in accord with the Base Reuse Plan and the Amended Judgment, seventy percent (70%) of the site would remain in open space.

We assume that the City will undertake the corrective action needed to address these two mitigation measures without any prompting from the Tribe and Upstream. However, we nevertheless write to

1068 CRAGMONT AVENUE
BERKELEY, CA 94708

510.282.0319 PHONE
GARET@OKEEFFLAW.COM EMAIL

David Aleshire
December 5, 2023
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remind the City of its ongoing obligation to correct the two minor CEQA mitigation deficiencies that the Court of Appeal identified, and to urge the City to do so without delay, so that the City can protect the value of the Point Molate property, which was the economic basis of the Amended Judgment. Corrections to the mitigation measures and the process are readily available, and we believe that they can be implemented in a matter of a few months.

Corrected mitigation measures will only enhance the City's previously certified EIR, and project approval decisions made by the Richmond City Council in September of 2020. As such, we are hopeful that the City will recertify the SEIR with adjusted mitigation measures and re-approve the project entitlements diligently and in good faith, and not repeat the City's prior practice of abrogating agreements made on behalf of the City by a prior City Council. That practice has not worked out for anyone involved, and was the basis of the Tribe's and Upstream's claims against the City that led to the Amended Judgment.

Please let us know your plans and schedule for taking the corrective action and re-approving the Point Molate project with additional mitigation. As you know, our clients are engaged in discussions concerning a potential acquisition of part of the development footprint by East Bay Regional Park District. That potential acquisition relies upon an appraisal of the property at entitled values, and the new EIR deficiencies have thrown a wrench into those discussions. Our clients are similarly engaged in discussions with other third-party developers to purchase the Historic District and other remaining development areas, again, subject to the right to develop pursuant to the entitlements that were issued by the City in compliance with the Amended Judgment, which entitlements the City remains obligated to issue and defend. It is unfortunate that the City's efforts were not confirmed by the Court of Appeal, but we expect this next round will not be subject to a similar challenge, given the relative simplicity to fix the issues identified by the Court of Appeals.

We trust that the City will take immediate action to correct the two mitigation issues, so that our clients can continue to move forward in accordance with the Amended Judgment. As always, you can count on cooperation from our clients and our offices.

Based on the City's actions going forward, we will determine whether to seek advice or rulings from the federal court as to whether a tolling of time limits under the Amended Judgment or other remedial orders may be necessary.

David Aleshire
December 5, 2023
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As always, thanks for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G.D. O'Keefe", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Garet D. O'Keefe

Cc: Christian Marsh
Linda Klein

From: [Michael Derry](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Lisa Linder](#)
Subject: Public comments – Open Session prior to Closed Session - Closed Session Item C.1. - Point Molate
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 11:07:29 AM
Attachments: [GV to COR Letter December 5, 2023.pdf](#)

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Dear City Clerk,

Please have the City Council read the enclosed letter presenting the Guidiville Tribe's public comment during open session into the record and place the enclosed letter into the record of public comments with regard to the above-referenced agenda item.

Thank you.

Michael Derry
Tribal Council Liaison,
Guidiville Rancheria of California

707-391-1665

CROWELL LAW OFFICE
Tribal Advocacy Group



December 5, 2023

Via Email

David J. Aleshire, City Attorney
City of Richmond
450 Civic Center Drive
Richmond, CA 94804
Email: daleshire@awattorneys.com

Re: *City's On-Going Obligation to Secure and Defend the Entitlements at Point Molate*

Dear Dave:

This letter is written to the City of Richmond (the "City") on behalf of the Guidiville Rancheria of California (the "Tribe") to coordinate regarding the City's on-going obligations to comply with CEQA as to the City approvals necessary to entitle the development of, and construction on, the Point Molate development areas to carry out the sale and transfer of such development areas to a third party pursuant to the Amended Judgment.

Like you, we are surprised by the recent decision by the Court of Appeal. The City's lawyers did a great job defending the entitlements in the trial court and responding to the appeal. While it seems to us like an unjust and poorly reasoned decision, it is the decision we all must work with in order to complete the land use entitlement and CEQA compliance process per the Amended Judgment. This decision on appeal should serve only as a delay, and not a setback, given the very limited scope of concerns raised in the decision that the City must remedy through the limited corrective action required by the Court of Appeal's decision.

Based on our reading of the Court of Appeal's decision, the City's efforts to produce, circulate and certify the Point Molate 2020 Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (the "SEIR") passed legal muster except for cultural resources and evacuation response mitigation measures that the Court found deficient. As a result of those two deficiencies, the Court of Appeal ordered that the September 2020 EIR certification and the related project entitlements to develop approximately thirty percent (30%) of the site be voided until corrected. As you know, in accord with the Base Reuse Plan and the Amended Judgment, seventy percent (70%) of the site would remain in open space.

We assume that the City will undertake the corrective action needed to address these two mitigation measures without any prompting from the Tribe and Upstream. However, we nevertheless write to remind the City of its ongoing obligation to correct the two minor CEQA mitigation deficiencies that the Court of Appeal identified, and to urge the City to do so without



1487 W. State Route 89A
Suite 8
Sedona, Arizona 86336
Phone: 425 802 5369
Email: scottcrowell@hotmail.com

delay, so that the City can protect the value of the Point Molate property, which was the economic basis of the Amended Judgment. Corrections to the mitigation measures and the process are readily available, and we believe that they can be implemented in a matter of a few months.

Corrected mitigation measures will only enhance the City's previously-certified EIR, and project approval decisions made by the Richmond City Council in September of 2020. As such, we are hopeful that the City will recertify the SEIR with adjusted mitigation measures and re-approve the project entitlements diligently and in good faith, and not repeat the City's prior practice of abrogating agreements made on behalf of the City by a prior City Council. That practice has not worked out for anyone involved, and was the basis of the Tribe's and Upstream's claims against the City that led to the Amended Judgment.

Please let us know your plans and schedule for taking the corrective action and re-approving the Point Molate project with additional mitigation. As you know, our clients are engaged in discussions concerning a potential acquisition of part of the development footprint by East Bay Regional Park District. That potential acquisition relies upon an appraisal of the property at entitled values, and the new EIR deficiencies have thrown a wrench into those discussions. Our clients are similarly engaged in discussions with other third-party developers to purchase the other development areas, again, subject to the right to develop pursuant to the entitlements that were issued by the City in compliance with the Amended Judgment, which entitlements the City remains obligated to issue and defend. It is unfortunate that the City's efforts were not confirmed by the Court of Appeal, but we expect this next round will not be subject to a similar challenge, given the ease with which the Court of Appeal's express instructions may be complied.

We hope that we can trust the City to take immediate action to correct the two mitigation issues, so that our clients can continue to move forward in accordance with the Amended Judgment. As always, you can count on cooperation from our clients and our offices, and we look forward to continuing to work with you and the City's outside legal counsel, including Christian and his team. Based on the City's actions going forward, we will determine whether to seek advice or rulings from the federal court as to whether a tolling of time limits under the Amended Judgment or other remedial orders may be necessary.

As always, thanks for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Scott Crowell

Scott Crowell
Legal Counsel for the Tribe

Cc: Christian Marsh
Linda Klein



From: [Cordell Hindler](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments-Open Forum
Date: Thursday, November 30, 2023 4:17:58 PM

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Good Evening, Mayor Martinez, Council Members and Staff,

I AM Submitting the Following Comments into the Record:

1. For a Future Agenda, The Council Should Direct Staff to Work with Chancellor Christ's Office to Schedule a Joint Meeting with Richmond City Council and UC Berkeley in the Spring of 2024 to Hear Updates
2. Also To Reinstate Standing Committees to Address the Financial Aspect of the City of Richmond
3. Also To Have Danny Wan To Present on the Port of Oakland

Sincerely
Cordell

From: [Cordell Hindler](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments- P.1 Budget Session
Date: Thursday, November 30, 2023 4:22:29 PM

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Hello Mayor Martinez, Council Members and Staff,

I AM Asking That the Council to Approve the Resolution as Presented by Staff

Sincerely
Cordell

P.S, I AM in Full Support of Having Additional Staff for Community Groups

From: [Airyka Bolds](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Re: Public comment; Y1 cannabis ordnances
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 11:21:56 AM

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On Tue, Nov 7, 2023 at 11:19 AM <airyka20@gmail.com> wrote:

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: [Arwa Asif](#)
To: cityclerkdept@ci.richmond.ca; [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments Agenda Item R1.
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 8:02:41 AM

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Dear Richmond City Council,

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Arwa Asif, and I am the West County Alcohol Policy Coalition Coordinator with Bay Area Community Resources. I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the proposed amendment to the cannabis ordinance, specifically regarding the addition of non-storefront establishments that exclusively provide delivery services.

While I acknowledge the potential benefits of expanding access to cannabis products through delivery services, it is crucial to consider the potential negative impacts on our communities, particularly youth access and overall public safety.

One primary concern is the potential increase in youth access to cannabis if adequate protocols are not in place to prevent individuals under the legal age of 21 from ordering or receiving cannabis products. Given that cannabis can have detrimental effects on the developing brain, it is imperative that any amendment to the ordinance includes robust safeguards to prevent inadvertent youth access.

If the city of Richmond chooses to proceed with this amendment, it is essential that the updated ordinance incorporates comprehensive measures to protect youth and the community at large. This may include stringent age verification processes for online orders, secure delivery protocols, and increased enforcement to deter illegal sales to minors.

Furthermore, it would be prudent to involve local community organizations and leaders in the development of these protective measures to ensure that they are tailored to the specific needs and concerns of our community.

In conclusion, I strongly urge the city of Richmond to prioritize the well-being of our youth and community by including stringent protections in the proposed cannabis ordinance amendment. By doing so, we can strike a balance between providing access to legal cannabis products for adults and safeguarding against potential negative consequences.

Thank you for considering my concerns, and I appreciate your commitment to maintaining a safe and responsible cannabis regulatory framework.

Sincerely,

--



Arwa Asif

She/Her

West Contra Costa Alcohol Policy Coalition Coordinator
Bay Area Community Resources

M [\(510\) 559-3077 ext. 94123](tel:(510)559-3077) **E** aasif@bacr.org

W www.bacr.org



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From: [Eleazar Galeano](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments Agenda Item R.1
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 9:51:56 PM

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Dear Council Members,

My name is Eleazar and I am a Richmond resident. I am writing in opposition to amend the cannabis ordinance and allow the opening of non-retail storefronts in Richmond. From a public health standpoint, I think it is obvious that having such locations open in Richmond could pose as a threat to the wellbeing of our youth. Unless there is proper legal language and protocols put into place, this can very quickly turn into a problem for the city by increasing the risk of accessibility to minors and at-risk demographics in Richmond. I urge you to vote in opposition of this amendment.

Best,
Eleazar

From: [katherine.l](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments Agenda Item R.1
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 11:19:32 PM

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Greeting Richmond City Council,

My name is Katherine and I'm a lifelong resident of Richmond. As someone who grew up in Richmond, I have first hand experience with the increase of both liquor and cannabis retailers in my city, and I can tell you that the rates of youth who have come to access substances such as alcohol and cannabis has become alarming. In regards to Item R1 to make amends to the cannabis ordinance, I am in opposition, and I hope you can understand why you should be too.

Increasing the amount of non-retail cannabis locations will not only pose a negative impact to our youth but to people who may run those delivery services. Delivery workers are often targets for theft and Richmond already sees a large amount of unattended crime. Instead of putting our resources towards a recreational drug, we should turn to fund public health programs and community safety programs. I understand that cannabis businesses can benefit from the additional business of delivery sites, however I ask you- Is it worth the potential harm to Richmond as a whole? Is the health of our youth not worth taking a stance of opposition to recreation?

Please take my voice into consideration as you make your decision. Thank you for your time.

Katherine

From: [Kayla McCullough](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Q1. Public Comment - Opposition to Cannabis Ordinance Amendment
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 11:32:34 AM

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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

Copy of Public Comment.docx

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

[3919 Macdonald Ave](#)

[Richmond, Ca 94804](#)

www.chaaweb.org

From: [Aylin A.](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Cannabis Ordinance
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 11:27:27 AM
Attachments: [Public Comment.docx](#)

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Dear Richmond City Council Members,

I write to you regarding Item Y1: the first reading of the ordinance amending cannabis commercial uses in our community. It's imperative that as we discuss the introduction of more storefront and delivery-only cannabis permits, we also consider the welfare of our youngest and most vulnerable citizens.

The proposed increase in cannabis retailer density without concurrent enhancement of youth protections fails to address the very real concern of heightened exposure and potential substance use disorders among teens. High THC products have been proven to adversely affect youth brain development, and this is an issue that cannot be overlooked.

Therefore, I urge the Council to ensure that any amendments to our cannabis regulations include strict measures that shield our youth from increased cannabis availability and its repercussions. By doing so, we can pursue economic development without sacrificing the well-being of our community members.

Respectfully,
Lindsay Aylin Argueta

From: [Lonnell Walker](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Fwd: Public Comment Y1
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 11:21:36 AM
Attachments: [PC_Walk.docx](#)

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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: [Nabila Sher-Oliver](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comment agenda item #Q.1
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 1:20:39 PM

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

I write to express my reservations about the proposed Cannabis Ordinance Amendment, considering various aspects that could impact our community negatively.

1. **Public Health and Safety:** Increasing the number of cannabis retail permits raises concerns about public health, especially given the documented link between cannabis use and emergency room visits. The potential for increased accessibility may inadvertently contribute to health-related issues.
2. **Impact on Youth:** The escalating use of cannabis among young people is alarming, and expanding the number of retail permits might make it easier for underage individuals to access cannabis. It is crucial to consider measures to mitigate the potential impact on our youth.
3. **Zoning and Neighborhood Impact:** Studies have indicated that clustering cannabis stores can lead to decreased property values and neighborhood disruptions. It is imperative to evaluate the potential zoning and neighborhood impacts to maintain the integrity of our communities.
4. **Equity and Social Responsibility:** While promoting equity in the cannabis industry is commendable, concrete steps, not just promises, are needed to address existing disparities. The proposed amendments should ensure tangible support for equity applicants rather than token gestures.
5. **Local Control:** Granting local municipalities the flexibility to regulate the cannabis industry according to their specific needs is vital. One-size-fits-all approaches may not account for the unique characteristics of each community, and local control allows for a more tailored response.

I urge the Council to carefully consider these factors and reassess the proposed amendments to ensure they align with the best interests of our community.

Sincerely,

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

From: [Raquel Antolin](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public comment Agenda item Q.1
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 12:49:03 PM

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Hello Richmond city council members,

My name is Raquel Antolin and I'm here today with Bay Area Community Resources and as a concerned Richmond resident.

My main reason for being here is to express my strong opposition to the proposed Cannabis Ordinance, specifically concerning the issue of increased access to cannabis by our youth. I firmly believe that it is our duty to protect our young population from potential harm and adverse effects associated with cannabis use and it should be a top priority for our community.

As a concerned member and parent of this community, I am deeply troubled by the potential consequences of the proposed amendments. It is well-documented that early exposure to cannabis can have a significant impact on the developing brains of our youth, leading to cognitive impairments, mental health issues, and an increased risk of substance abuse in the long run. Therefore, I am deeply concerned that these amendments might contribute to these adverse outcomes.

I urge you to reconsider the proposed amendments and take into account the potential harm they could inflict on our youth. Instead, we should focus on adopting policies that prioritize the health and well-being of our younger citizens and implement robust measures to restrict their access to cannabis. This includes strict regulations, education programs, and age verification procedures at cannabis dispensaries.

Furthermore, I encourage our local authorities to seek input from healthcare professionals, addiction specialists, and youth advocates when making decisions that could have far-reaching consequences on the future of our youth.

Our community's future relies on the choices we make today, and I implore you to make the right decision by rejecting the proposed Cannabis Ordinance Amendments in their current form. Let us work together to create policies that safeguard the well-being of our youth while addressing the legitimate concerns of our community.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this crucial matter. I look forward to seeing a safer, more responsible approach to regulating cannabis in our community.

Sincerely,

Raquel Antolin

Raquel Antolin

Pronouns: She/Her

Program Coordinator

Discovering the Reality of Our Community

Zoom phone: (925) 331-1993

Call/text: (510) 998-7009

From: [Shameka Bolds](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Subject: Q1. Public Comment - Opposition to Cannabis Ordinance Amendment
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 12:05:01 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

3919 Macdonald Ave

Richmond, Ca 94804

www.chaaweb.org

From: [Winnie Li](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments Agenda Item R.1
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 9:54:53 PM

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Dear Richmond City Council,

My name is Winnie, and as a Richmond resident I believe that we should be opposed to opening non-storefront sites for cannabis. As such, we should be opposed to amending the cannabis ordinance to allow for such sites to open. This can increase the risk of unauthorized access to youth as delivery-only services may lack the physical barriers and age verification processes essential to preventing underage individuals from obtaining cannabis products. Without direct face-to-face interaction, there is an elevated risk of individuals under the legal age of 21 successfully placing orders and receiving deliveries without proper verification. This lack of oversight could inadvertently contribute to a rise in youth access to cannabis, posing potential risks to their health and well-being. To protect our youth and maintain a responsible cannabis industry, it is essential to implement robust safeguards and age verification measures for all delivery services. Unless we can ensure these protocols, we must oppose the amendments presently.

Best,
Winnie