

**RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA,
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

April 30, 2024, 5:30 p.m.
Community Services Building
440 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA 94804

A. SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL

The Special City Council meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. by Mayor Eduardo Martinez.

B. PLEDGE

Mayor Eduardo Martinez led the Pledge of allegiance to the Flag.

C. ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Soheila Bana, Gayle McLaughlin, Cesar Zepeda, Vice Mayor Claudia Jimenez, and Mayor Eduardo Martinez. Councilmember Doria Robinson joined remotely from the Moxy Washington Hotel in Washington, DC. **Absent:** Councilmember Melvin Willis.

D. STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

E. AGENDA REVIEW

Item G-2. *(Consideration of a possible ballot measure to transition Richmond's municipal voting method to instant runoff elections)* was moved to be heard before Item G.1. *(Adding Restrictions to the City of Richmond's Investment Policy)*.

F. CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilmember Zepeda recused himself from voting on Item F.1. ***Resolution in Support of Richmond San Rafael Bridge Trail*** because he is a member of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) board.

Karen Siller, Jonathan Mencer, and Leisa Johnson gave comments regarding Item F-4 the proclamation declaring Jewish American Heritage Month and stated that the Jewish community was excluded and would have attended the meeting if tonight was not the last night of Passover.

Cordell Hindler stated the Cinco de Mayo parade and festival would be on Saturday, May 4 and 5, 2024.

Jamin Pursell expressed gratitude for the city's support of the Richmond Rainbow Pride events and invited the community to the June 2, 2024, Pride Festival.

Ayes (6): Councilmember Soheila Bana, Councilmember Gayle McLaughlin, Councilmember Doria Robinson, Councilmember Cesar Zepeda, Vice Mayor Claudia Jimenez, and Mayor Eduardo Martinez

Absent (1): Councilmember Melvin Willis

Passed (6 to 0)

F.1 Resolution in support of Richmond San Rafael Bridge Trail

ADOPT a resolution in support of Richmond San Rafael Bridge Trail - Councilmember Doria Robinson (510-620-6568) and Mayor Eduardo Martinez (510-620-6503).

Adopted **Resolution No. 33-24.**

Councilmember Zepeda recused himself from voting on this item.

F.2 Proclamation Celebrating the 16th Annual Cinco de Mayo Peace and Unity Parade and the Cinco de Mayo Festival

PROCLAMATION celebrating the Cinco de Mayo celebrations and the organizers - Mayor Eduardo Martinez (510-620-6503) and Councilmember Cesar Zepeda (510-620-6593).

F.3 May is National Bike Month

PROCLAMATION recognizing May as National Bike Month and encouraging residents to participate in biking events – Councilmember Doria Robinson (510-620-6593) and Mayor Eduardo Martinez (510-620-6503).

F.4 Jewish American Heritage Month Proclamation

PROCLAMATION recognizing May as Jewish American Heritage Month in the City of Richmond - Mayor Eduardo Martinez (510-620-6593), Councilmembers Gayle McLaughlin (510-620-6636), and Melvin Willis (510-412-2050).

F.5 Budget Increase to City-Sponsored Festivals (Cinco de Mayo, Richmond Rainbow Pride, and Juneteenth)

Jamin Pursell

APPROVE a budget increase for the remaining City-sponsored festivals for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 in a total amount not to exceed \$24,000 (Cinco de Mayo Parade budget increase of \$5,000 for a total budget of \$7,500, Cinco de Mayo Festival budget increase of \$5,000 for a total budget of \$7,500, Richmond Rainbow Pride budget increase of \$4,000 for a total budget of \$5,000, and Juneteenth Parade and Festival budget increase of \$10,000 for a total budget of \$15,000) – City Manager’s Office (Shasa Curl/LaShonda White 510-620-6828).

F.6 Recommendations from the Management and Performance Audit of the Port of Richmond

DIRECT the city manager to appropriate funds in the Fiscal Year 24-25 budget for finance manager and maintenance manager positions for the Port of Richmond; to consider all increased costs associated with these two staff positions and incorporate them when setting future fees, tariffs, and lease rates; and work with

all City departments referenced in the Recommendations List of the Port of Richmond Audit to return in September of 2024 with action plans and timelines for the listed recommendations - Mayor Eduardo Martinez (510-620-6502), Vice Mayor Claudia Jimenez (510-620-6565), and Councilmember Cesar Zepeda (510-620-6593).

G. NEW BUSINESS

G.1 Adding Restrictions to the City of Richmond's Investment Policy

DIRECT City staff to review and modify the City of Richmond Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of City funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid - Mayor Eduardo Martinez (510-620-6502), Councilmembers Gayle McLaughlin (510-620-6636) and Councilmember Soheila Bana (510-620-6743).

Mayor Martinez gave an overview of the matter. Chief of Staff, Shiva Mishek gave a PowerPoint presentation, which highlighted the following: Precedence and Current Context; City of Richmond Portfolio Management. Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) :State of California Pooled Money Investment Account approved Commercial Paper and Corporate Bonds; New Restriction 2: City policy not to invest in companies and their subsidiaries involved in the development and manufacturing of arms and weapons; New Restriction 3: City policy not to invest in companies and their subsidiaries that are involved in the border and mass surveillance industries; New Restriction 4: not to invest in companies and their subsidiaries that are involved in mass incarceration and detention industries; New Restriction 1: not to invest in predetermined list of companies and subsidiaries that are involved in Israel's violations of Palestinian rights; Divest from AirBNB, Caterpillar, CISCO systems; DELL, First Solar, intel, IBM, Microsoft, Motorola Solutions, and WiX.

The following individuals gave comments in person: Abubakr Elgarguri, Salah Elbakri, Bader Aljishi, Nisar Ali, Dov Baum, Huda Shede, Keala Uchoa, Ahmad, Farid, Iyas Sartawi, LaRayne Ortega, Hussain Hassane, Jose Cruz, Carolina Avelar, Ed R, Ymeson Yuen, Stan Woods, Rocky Chou, Rohan Sabris, Frank Sterling, Shan Zazi, Ahmad Khan, Rob Lipton, Jaime Young, Mark Wassberg, Ayesha A, Al Dargma, Annie Pennell, Domenichi Morris, Amy Barron, Isabel Gil-Garcia.

The following individuals gave comments via Zoom: Nadav, Mindy Pines, Meytal Ben Yosef, Amber Hatfield, Rogge, Lory Paulson, Emily Ross, Marisol Canty, Danielle, Ester, Sarah L., Yosra Abdelaziz. Ab, Miriam Buzi, Naomi Smoller, Kamila, Humza, Matt Jack, Gulled A., Noshaba Afzal, Devin, Emi Yoko-Young, Naveed Desai, Lila Sheira, Hiba, Fatima Abdel-Wahab, Vish, Vincent Ianiello, Seema Badar, Val, Anne, and Matthew Lewis.

Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Councilmember McLaughlin, seconded by Councilmember Willis to direct staff to review and modify the city's Investment Policy and come up with options and recommendations for the four (4) restrictions as presented in the agenda report and the presentation, and for

potentially coming up with new socially responsible investments. These options and recommendations can be through coming up with new investment groups. They should be presented to the City Council by July 2nd (or at least an update as to where we're at) and subsequently to the HRHRC (Human Rights Human Relations Commission) to come up with a framework to annually review these companies and banks we are restricting and making sure from year to year those restrictions are being implemented and followed. Councilmember Bana made a friendly amendment to ask city administrators to write a letter to LAIF, CalTrust and Mechanics Bank informing them of our decision and urging them to divest as well. The friendly amendment was accepted.

Deputy City Attorney Shannon Moore recommended that the following be included in the motion: The proposed restrictions, particularly Restriction #1 is intended as a constitutionally protected protest of the policies of current government of the state of Israel regarding the people of Palestine and the war in Gaza. It shall not allow any discriminatory actions against any person on the basis of religion, creed, ethnicity, national origin or any unlawful basis. That would be incorporated in any sort of further revisions to the City's Investment Policy. The additional recommendation to the motion was accepted.

Ayes (6): Councilmember Soheila Bana, Councilmember Gayle McLaughlin, Councilmember Doria Robinson, Councilmember Melvin Willis, Vice Mayor Claudia Jimenez, and Mayor Eduardo Martinez

Abstentions (1): Councilmember Cesar Zepeda

Passed (6 to 0)

G.2 Consideration of a Possible Ballot Measure to Transition Richmond's Municipal Voting Method to Instant Runoff Elections

RECEIVE a presentation on Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) from Cal RCV and DIRECT the City Attorney's Office to draft 1) language for an IRV ballot measure and 2) ordinance language to allow City Council to place that IRV ballot measure language on the 2024 General Election ballot — Mayor's Office (Mayor Eduardo Martinez 510-620-6502).

Mayor Martinez gave an overview of the matter. California Ranked Choice Voting Executive Director Marcela Miranda-Caballero and California Ranked Choice Voting Volunteer Ken White, presented a PowerPoint which highlighted the following: Instant Runoff Voting; What is Ranked Choice Voting?; Why instant runoff RCV?; and Why RCV is good for Richmond. Discussion ensued.

(Councilmember Willis arrived during discussion of this item).

Diana Wear, Jamin Pursell, and Sue Wilson gave comments in person. Marisol Cantu gave comments via Zoom.

A motion made by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember McLaughlin, directed the City Attorney's Office to prepare a proposed charter amendment for an IRV ballot measure to allow the City Council to place the IRV ballot measure on the 2024 General Election ballot.

Ayes (7): Councilmember Soheila Bana, Councilmember Gayle McLaughlin, Councilmember Doria Robinson, Councilmember Cesar Zepeda, Councilmember Melvin Willis, Vice Mayor Claudia Jimenez, and Mayor Eduardo Martinez

Passed (7 to 0)

H. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:34 p.m., to meet again on May 7, 2024.

Clerk of the City of Richmond

Mayor

From: [Ahmed Shorab](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Urge Richmond to Divest
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 11:22:39 AM

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You don't often get email from civicinput@newmode.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Richmond City Clerk,

I am a first generation American from Gaza, residing in Hayward. I've grown up in the Bay Area always feeling like an 'other', constantly reminded I don't belong here. Haywards divestment was the first time I've felt the Bay Area community had my back. Now is the time to make a stand against decades of oppression in Palestine, and to show Palestinian Americans they are a valued part of this community.

Divestment is a critical non-violent way to show Israel that ending the occupation is in their best interest. It is actions like these that enable a peaceful resolution.

I recognize that you will face smear campaigns for your actions, that will inconvenience your lives. However I'd like to remind you all - nobody who changed history had it easy.

Sincerely,
Ahmed Shorab
ahmedshorab@gmail.com

From: [akeylah hernandez](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Soheila Bana](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#)
Subject: 1) Public comments: Vote YES on Agenda item G.1
Date: Monday, April 29, 2024 5:52:58 PM

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I'm writing to urge you to vote YES on Tuesday's agenda item G.1: "DIRECT City staff to review and modify the City of Richmond Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of City funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid."

Richmond ignited a fire when it passed a ceasefire resolution just weeks after the genocide of Palestinians began. Since October, nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been killed by the state of Israel, including 15,000 children. Over 7,000 Palestinians in the West Bank have been detained without charge. Settlers are burning down villages. Our federal government is complicit in genocide. Despite endless evidence of war crimes, millions of people protesting across the globe, a federal court case, and direct orders from the United Nations, Israel has not relented and President Biden continues to send billions of dollars and military aid to Israel.

There is no moral ambiguity anymore. It is not complicated. Please vote yes.

Sincerely,
Akeylah, Richmond District 6 resident

From: [Alan Bonilla](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Soheila Bana](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#)
Subject: 1) Public comments: Vote YES on Agenda item G.1
Date: Monday, April 29, 2024 8:23:25 PM

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I'm writing to urge you to vote YES on Tuesday's agenda item G.1: "DIRECT City staff to review and modify the City of Richmond Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of City funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid."

Richmond ignited a fire when it passed a ceasefire resolution just weeks after the the genocide of Palestinians began. Since October, nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been killed by the state of Israel, including 15,000 children. Over 7,000 Palestinians in the West Bank have been detained without charge. Settlers are burning down villages. Our federal government is complicit in genocide. Despite endless evidence of war crimes, millions of people protesting across the globe, a federal court case, and direct orders from the United Nations, Israel has not relented and President Biden continues to send billions of dollars and military aid to Israel.

There is no moral ambiguity anymore. It is not complicated. Please vote yes.

Sincerely,
Alan Bonilla

From: [Alice LoCicero](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: public comments agenda item #G1
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 12:39:28 PM

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Dear Council Members,

I am a Richmond resident. When I was in business school, I came to realize that one of the most impactful ways to change things for the better is to be an informed person who invests carefully and ethically.

I strongly support the policies represented in agenda item #G1 as they all help the city to contribute to the well-being of people and to withdraw support for businesses that cause harm.

Thank you for considering this agenda item.

Alice LoCicero
47 Sandpoint Drive
(Marina Bay)
Richmond, CA 94804

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*Alice LoCicero, Ph.D., MBA
Board Certified Clinical Psychologist
Clinical Faculty, The Wright Institute*

www.dralicelocicero.com
alicelocicero.substack.com: *Outside Psychology's Overton Window*

From: alison.b.levy
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Soheila Bana](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#)
Subject: 1) Public comments: Vote YES on Agenda item G.1
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 8:44:07 PM

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

Hello, My father was an adult Jewish Holocaust survivor and for this empathetic reason I amadmently ANTI-PALESTIAN GENOCIDE. The least thaf can happen now is stopping the abysmal murders.

I'm writing to urge you to vote YES on Tuesday's agenda item G.1: "DIRECT City staff to review and modify the City of Richmond Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of City funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid."

Richmond ignited a fire when it passed a ceasefire resolution just weeks after the the genocide of Palestinians began. Since October, nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been killed by the state of Israel, including 15,000 children. Over 7,000 Palestinians in the West Bank have been detained without charge. Settlers are burning down villages. Our federal government is complicit in genocide. Despite endless evidence of war crimes, millions of people protesting across the globe, a federal court case, and direct orders from the United Nations, Israel has not relented and President Biden continues to send billions of dollars and military aid to Israel.

There is no moral ambiguity anymore. It is not complicated. Please vote yes.

Sincerely,
[Name, district/affiliation]

Sent from my Galaxy

From: [A L M](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comment: #G1 Adding Restrictions to the City of Richmond's Investment Policy
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 10:50:42 AM

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Dear Mayor Martinez and Council Members:

What we know so far [\[1\]](#):

1. Killings at the Nova music festival and shelling Israeli homes: Israel admits it killed its own at Nova music festival. A police investigation shows that Israeli Apache helicopters opened fire on attendees of the Nova music festival during the 7 October Hamas attack. Israel initially claimed Hamas and Palestinians killed 1,400 Israelis on 7 October, including soldiers, police, and civilians, but later revised the count to 1,200. Israeli spokesperson Mark Regev acknowledged that 200 of the alleged victims were Hamas fighters or Palestinians whose bodies were burned so badly that Israeli authorities could not initially identify them and assumed them to be Israelis. Furthermore, Israel's military received orders to shell Israeli homes and even their own bases as they were overwhelmed by Hamas militants on October 7. As of now, the number of Israeli citizens said to have been "burned alive" and actually killed by friendly fire is unknown.

Several new testimonies by Israeli witnesses to the October 7 Hamas surprise attack on southern Israel adds to growing evidence that the Israeli military killed its own citizens as they fought to neutralize Palestinian gunmen.

Israel says that 1,200 soldiers and civilians were killed during the Al-Aqsa Flood Operation on October 7, but Israeli media published reports suggesting that many Israelis were killed on that day by 'friendly fire'. An

outraged Israeli mom has sparked an uproar after accusing the Israeli army of deliberately gassing her son to death while he was being held in a Gaza tunnel. Now she says the Israeli military had her son's gravestone removed after her critical message went viral. His killing follows a pattern of Israeli military attacks on Israeli captives in Gaza, raising questions about the existence of a friendly fire policy to prevent prisoner swaps. The killing of her son, she wrote, was caused "not from accidental gunfire, nor from crossfire, but from premeditated murder – bombing with poison gas." "Ron was kidnapped because of the criminal negligence of all the senior officials of the army and this damned government, who gave an order to eliminate him in order to settle a score with some terrorist from Jabalya," she added.

2. Sexual violence, beheading babies: Cochav Elkayam-Levy, the Israeli lawyer who played a central role in the campaign accusing Hamas of sexual violence on October 7 is now accused by Israeli media of scamming donors and spreading misinformation. Western media heavily promoted a UN report as proof Hamas sexually assaulted Israelis, but the report's authors admitted they couldn't locate a single victim. Israeli officials have been denounced for staging a rape scene and providing "inaccurate forensic interpretations." On January 3, 2024, A note explaining the retraction of the claim that Hamas militants had specific orders as to "which commander should rape which soldiers" indicates the publication censored itself at the behest of the Israeli government. In addition, The Washington Post quietly removed an outlandish claim by Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant that Hamas battle plans included specific instructions on which Israeli troops should be raped during their October 7 incursion. In addition, ZAKA, the ultra-Orthodox "rescue" group introduced false allegations that Hamas beheaded babies, cut fetuses from pregnant women, and had lunch in an Israeli family's home after killing and mutilating them. But ZAKA has been lambasted in Israeli media for serially mishandling evidence from the October 7 attacks and even staging atrocity scenes for fundraising purposes.

3. Death toll and imprisonment: The ongoing Israeli genocide in Gaza already claimed the lives of at least 34,535 Palestinians, including more

than 14,000 children and 9,000 women. Another 10,000 Palestinians remain missing. Their bodies have yet to be recovered and there's an urgent crisis of decomposing bodies. We should also count 77,704 wounded. All this is happening while Israeli real estate firm, Harey Zahav, heavily pushes to build more illegal settlements for Israelis in Gaza, in those very areas where Palestinians homes have been flattened by IDF's bombardments. The post says, "Wake up! A beach house is not a dream!"

Let us not forget that at least 27 Gaza detainees have died in custody at Israeli military facilities since the start of the war. Detainees who have been returned to Gaza testified about harsh treatment, including beatings and abuse by soldiers and during questioning. In fact, since October 7th, any semblance of restraint has been cast aside regarding the treatment of Palestinians in Israeli incarceration and detention facilities. Forced disappearances, torture, and severe violations of human rights, particularly in terms of health, are now inherent in the practices and policies of Israeli security bodies responsible for Palestinians in custody.

4. Famine: While Israel's assault on Gaza has caused a disastrous famine in the enclave, this is not the first time Israel has attempted to starve Palestinians in Gaza: Israeli government documents suggest this was an explicit policy between 2007 and 2010. In 2008, the Israeli Ministry of Defense presentation entitled "Food Consumption in the Gaza Strip – Red Lines" details the amount of food consumed, produced and distributed throughout the Gaza Strip. It was prepared to help the Israeli government achieve its stated goal: limiting the entry of food into the Gaza Strip. What triggered this decision? In response to Hamas' victory in the Palestinian elections (2007) and its political rivals' takeover of Gaza, the Israeli government implemented a permanent blockade of the Gaza Strip. While the primary objective of the blockade was to reduce the supply of fuel and electricity to Gaza, as well as to restrict the movement of people in and out of the Strip, total control was also an Israeli concern.

5. Witnesses reporting innocent victims killed by IDF: Eyewitnesses to the October 7 hostage standoff in Kibbutz Be'eri exposed Israel for

misleading the world about the killings of 12-year-old Liel Hetzroni, her family and neighbors. In a desperate call for international sympathy, the Israeli government sought to stir outrage over the killing of a 12-year-old girl during the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on October 7. However, the 12-year-old Hetzroni was not slain by Hamas. According to new testimony by an Israeli eyewitness to the girl's death, she was killed by an Israeli tank shell alongside several neighbors.

In Gaza City, three-year-old Emad Abu al-Qura was shot outside his home as he went to buy fruit with his cousin, Hadeel, a 20-year-old medical student, who was also killed. Hadeel's father, Haroon, saw the shooting, and the family know for a fact that they were targeted by an Israeli sniper. A video of the pair lying together in the street shows Emad still alive after he is first hit and trying to lift his head. More shots hit the ground close by including one that strikes a plank next to Emad. The boy's mother said he was hit again and this time killed. "The targeting of civilians is very clear. It is a deliberate direct targeting aimed at killing civilians without reason, without there being any events, without there being any resistance. They deliberately killed Hadeel and Emad," the father told reporters.

Other young victims include 14-year-old Nahedh Barbakh, who was hit by sniper fire alongside his 20-year-old brother, Ramez, as they followed Israeli military orders to evacuate an area west of Khan Younis in late January, according to the Geneva-based Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor. By now, testimonies and witnesses of senseless killings of innocent Palestinians by IDF snipers are way too numerous.

6. Looting by IDF soldiers: Rugs, cosmetics, motorbikes... Israeli soldiers are looting Gaza homes *en masse*. Soldiers describe how stealing Palestinian property has become totally routine in the Gaza war, with minimal pushback from commanders. Israeli soldiers fighting in Gaza have not been shy about posting videos on social media gleefully documenting their wanton destruction of buildings and humiliation of Palestinian detainees. Some of these clips were even exhibited in South Africa's presentation at the International Court of Justice last month as evidence of genocide. But there is another war crime being readily documented by Israeli soldiers that has garnered less attention and condemnation despite

its prevalence: looting. In November, the Palestinian singer Hamada Nasrallah was shocked to discover a TikTok of a soldier playing the guitar that his father had bought him 15 years earlier. Other videos uploaded to social media in recent months show Israeli soldiers boasting about finding wristwatches; unboxing someone's collection of soccer shirts; and stealing rugs, groceries, and jewelry.

7. Meanwhile, in Jerusalem: Jeremy Loffredo visited the Armenian Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City, where a community of Armenian Christians dating back to the 4th century face displacement at the hands of a shadowy Israeli corporation called Xana Capital and the violent settlers it uses as hired muscle. A climate of unprecedented repression has descended since October 7. The reporter documented settler terror attacks on businesses and spoke to local activists who told him they fear arrest and beatings from Israeli police if they speak out against the assault on Gaza.

8. Behind Israel's 'end game' for Gaza – Theft of offshore gas reserves:

In 1999, British Gas (BG) discovered the existence of natural gas in the Gaza Marine fields, 20 nautical miles off the coast of Gaza, at a depth of 610 meters below the surface. Further exploration by BG through two successful wells — Gaza Marine 1 and Gaza Marine 2 — determined the field could contain up to 1 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. ([EgyptOil-Gas.com](#), April 5, 2018)

The Palestinian Authority was "granted" the right to exercise sovereignty over its own maritime territory by the Oslo Accords in 1995. Four years later, following the findings of the offshore natural gas, the PA gave the international consortium BG a 25-year, 90% stake in a license to explore, develop any discovered fields, and install the required infrastructure. Since that time Israel has consistently blocked this development.

When Hamas won the Palestinian legislative elections in Gaza in 2007, Israel established a militarized naval blockade, prohibiting further offshore development. Around the same time, Yam Thetis, an Israeli gas

consortium, challenged the awarding of the contract to BG, further delaying the process.

In December 2008, in total contravention of international laws, Israel declared sovereignty over the Gaza Marine area, and BG closed its offices in Tel Aviv.

9. More on Israel's naval blockade: The small area Palestinian fishers can access under Israel's at-times violent blockade of the besieged enclave is usually overcrowded with people trying to make a living, resulting in overfishing that has depleted fish stocks. The demonstration in the besieged enclave came as a round of escalation in the last 10 days saw the arrest of at least six fisherfolk and the seizure of multiple boats, according to Zakaria Bakr, the head of Gaza's fishermen union. Fishers who operate off the coast of Gaza are constantly chased, harassed, intimidated and even killed by Israeli forces, he said.

10. Israel's settlers: In the West Bank, Israeli Settlers Are Burning Palestinians' Olive Trees. In the West Bank, the Israeli army has banned Palestinian farmers from reaching their land and groups of settlers are burning farmers' crops. Palestinian farmers have been especially struggling, as most have land, crops, and harvest in so-called Area C. This is the largest of three zones that the West Bank has been divided into since the Oslo agreements of the 1990s, which stipulated that the Palestinian Authority is meant to administer Areas A and B, while Area C is meant to be "progressively handed back to Palestinians." In reality, Area C, comprising nearly 70 percent of West Bank territory, remained under the complete military control of the Israeli army (Israel Defence Forces, IDF), and Israeli settlements have continually expanded there over the last three decades.

Attacks against farmers reached a peak on October 28, when Bilal Saleh, a farmer from southern Nablus, was shot by an off-duty Israeli soldier in front of his four children, dying instantly. The soldier has been arrested, but as the record shows in previous cases of settler and/or soldier attacks on Palestinian civilians, the Israeli perpetrators have been prematurely

released — protected by impunity.

11. My plea to the Richmond City Council: Yes, the City of Richmond should disclose and divest its investments in companies and organizations linked to Israel and its genocidal war on Gaza and the Palestinian people. Through the process of divestment, the City of Richmond can sell off its shares, assets or other investments for political, ethical or financial reasons. In the case of a genocidal war, to divest from companies and organizations presently linked to Israel is a vitally important ethical and humane action to take against decades of systematic maltreatment, apartheid practices and now, genocide.

Mayor Martinez and Council members, please, remove our City of Richmond from investments in companies that support, consciously or not, directly or not, Israel's occupation of Palestine and the genocide that is presently taking place in Gaza.

Thank you,

Alix Mazuet

From: [Andrea Valverde](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Soheila Bana](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#)
Subject: 1) Public comments: Vote YES on Agenda item G.1
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 12:35:35 AM

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I'm writing to urge you to vote YES on Tuesday's agenda item G.1: "DIRECT City staff to review and modify the City of Richmond Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of City funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid."

Richmond ignited a fire when it passed a ceasefire resolution just weeks after the the genocide of Palestinians began. Since October, nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been killed by the state of Israel, including 15,000 children. Over 7,000 Palestinians in the West Bank have been detained without charge. Settlers are burning down villages. Our federal government is complicit in genocide. Despite endless evidence of war crimes, millions of people protesting across the globe, a federal court case, and direct orders from the United Nations, Israel has not relented and President Biden continues to send billions of dollars and military aid to Israel.

There is no moral ambiguity anymore. It is not complicated. Please vote yes.

Sincerely,
Andrea Valverde

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Belinda Yu](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Soheila Bana](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#)
Subject: 1) Public comments: Vote YES on Agenda item G.1
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 9:25:46 AM

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There is no moral ambiguity anymore. It is not complicated. Please vote yes.

Sincerely,
Belinda

From: [Chris Cohen](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public comments agenda item #G1
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 12:30:02 PM

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I have a comment for the Richmond City Council on agenda item # G1.
I'm a resident of Richmond and would like to express my absolute support for the New Restrictions on Investment Policy.

As a Jewish American, I am appalled by the atrocities being committed by Israel against the people of Palestine, which would not be possible without US assistance. (And which by the way have nothing to do with Judaism or religion).

Just like Richmond has restrictions on investing in tobacco and fossil fuel companies, I am begging you to take the same approach when it comes to cutting off support for this genocide. As your constituents, we insist that our tax dollars not be invested in the murder of innocent civilians, many of whom are children. This is completely unethical and does not represent the will of the people. Myself and my friends in the Richmond community will be watching to see how our representatives vote in this matter and will remember when it comes to election time. Please draw this very obvious and basic moral line against genocide!

Thank you for your time. I am very proud to live in the city that was first in the US to call for cease- fire.

Chris Cohen
414 Dimm St
Richmond CA

From: [Genshu Chris Ro](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Soheila Bana](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#)
Subject: 1) Public comments: Vote YES on Agenda item G.1
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 6:51:32 AM

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I'm writing to urge you to vote YES on Tuesday's agenda item G.1: "DIRECT City staff to review and modify the City of Richmond Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of City funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid."

Richmond ignited a fire when it passed a ceasefire resolution just weeks after the the genocide of Palestinians began. Since October, nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been killed by the state of Israel, including 15,000 children. Over 7,000 Palestinians in the West Bank have been detained without charge. Settlers are burning down villages. Our federal government is complicit in genocide. Despite endless evidence of war crimes, millions of people protesting across the globe, a federal court case, and direct orders from the United Nations, Israel has not relented and President Biden continues to send billions of dollars and military aid to Israel.

There is no moral ambiguity anymore. It is not complicated. Please vote yes.

Sincerely,
Christopher Ro

From: [Dale Sophiea](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Soheila Bana](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#)
Subject: 1) Public comments: Vote YES on Agenda item G.1
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 12:35:07 AM

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I'm writing to urge you to vote YES on Tuesday's agenda item G.1: "DIRECT City staff to review and modify the City of Richmond Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of City funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid."

Richmond ignited a fire when it passed a ceasefire resolution just weeks after the the genocide of Palestinians began. Since October, nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been killed by the state of Israel, including 15,000 children. Over 7,000 Palestinians in the West Bank have been detained without charge. Settlers are burning down villages. Our federal government is complicit in genocide. Despite endless evidence of war crimes, millions of people protesting across the globe, a federal court case, and direct orders from the United Nations, Israel has not relented and President Biden continues to send billions of dollars and military aid to Israel.

There is no moral ambiguity anymore. It is not complicated. Please vote yes.

Sincerely,
Dale Sophiea

From: [Dan McMahon](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Soheila Bana](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#)
Subject: 1) Public comments: Vote YES on Agenda item G.1
Date: Monday, April 29, 2024 8:52:10 PM

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I'm writing to urge you to vote YES on Tuesday's agenda item G.1:
"DIRECT City staff to review and modify the City of Richmond Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of City funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid."

Richmond ignited a fire when it passed a ceasefire resolution just weeks after the the genocide of Palestinians began. Since October, nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been killed by the state of Israel, including 15,000 children. Over 7,000 Palestinians in the West Bank have been detained without charge. Settlers are burning down villages. Our federal government is complicit in genocide. Despite endless evidence of war crimes, millions of people protesting across the globe, a federal court case, and direct orders from the United Nations, Israel has not relented and President Biden continues to send billions of dollars and military aid to Israel.

There is no moral ambiguity anymore. It is not complicated. Please vote yes.

Sincerely,
Daniel McMahon, District 7

From: [Danish Farooq](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Urge Richmond to Divest
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 7:04:55 PM

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Dear Richmond City Clerk,

Thank you for your leadership in 2023 as the first local city council to pass a ceasefire resolution. You once again have the opportunity to lead, please vote yes on Item G.1., to review and modify the city's Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid.

Sincerely,
Danish Farooq
dfarooq@ucdavis.edu

From: [Dartanian Kaufman](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public comment
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 10:37:05 AM

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Hello,

Please vote yes on divestment in the city of Richmond! My name is Dart Kaufman and I would like to make public comment at the 4.30.24 Richmond city council meeting on new business item G.1

[Adding Restrictions to the City of Richmond's Investment Policy](#)

From: [Diana Portillo](#)
To: [Claudia Jimenez](#); [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#); [Soheila Bana](#)
Subject: 1) Public comments: Vote YES on Agenda item G.1
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 8:38:15 AM

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers, I'm writing to urge you to vote YES on Tuesday's agenda item G.1: "DIRECT City staff to review and modify the City of Richmond Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of City funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid." Richmond ignited a fire when it passed a ceasefire resolution just weeks after the the genocide of Palestinians began. Since October, nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been killed by the state of Israel, including 15,000 children. Over 7,000 Palestinians in the West Bank have been detained without charge. Settlers are burning down villages. Our federal government is complicit in genocide. Despite endless evidence of war crimes, millions of people protesting across the globe, a federal court case, and direct orders from the United Nations, Israel has not relented and President Biden continues to send billions of dollars and military aid to Israel. There is no moral ambiguity anymore. It is not complicated. Please vote yes.

Sincerely, Diana, district 6

From: [Doreen Leighton](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Agenda Item G.1
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 4:07:38 PM

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I support modifying the City of Richmond investment policy to eliminate investments into industries that facilitate violence, war, and apartheid. Our city needs to take a stand on this.

Sabrina Lundy

From: smamit d <smamit_d@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 4:19 PM
To: City Clerk Dept User; Eduardo Martinez; Soheila Bana; Claudia Jimenez; Gayle McLaughlin; Melvin Willis
Subject: Public comments: Vote YES on Agenda item G.1

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I'm writing to urge you to vote YES on Tuesday's agenda item G.1: "DIRECT City staff to review and modify the City of Richmond Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of City funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid."

As a Jewish Israeli myself, I urge you to do the right thing and send a clear message that the City of Richmond would not support genocide and Apartheid in Palestine or anywhere else in the world.

Our Oakland office of the American Friends Service committee can help you implement such a policy with integrity. Here is our research of companies supporting Israeli apartheid and genocide:
[This is not about taking sides. It is about NOT taking sides, stepping back from our complicity in the relentless and endless support for Israeli war crimes and human rights violations. As an Israeli who cares about my people and my country, we need to stop this war and force the stronger side, Israel, to agree to negotiate in good faith. It is not complicated. Please vote yes.](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flinkprotect.cudasvc.com%2Furl%3Fa%3Dhttps%253a%252f%252finvestigate.info%26c%3DE%2C1%2CantJaBFA4SgmgpACkpL2khcu4H1XnNZLol0TvboD-dwBjD_gWbaHdmU37Cr8CVlv1x319AfZu458uLNduJeNf63iHhntaOctZMoIShiQRq7vA%2C%2C%26typo%3D1&d ata=05%7C02%7CSabrina_Lundy%40ci.richmond.ca.us%7C6256511b68f54fa8406308dc68a2d01d%7C8ab93658f71f4926b380e0da1d18115a%7C1%7C0%7C638500297247580082%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljo iMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikk1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C40000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=mVXovY0 2Ih9eNU3ytMI6uPqIFQMo1Rsk8VBn6gQpYdU%3D&reserved=0, which includes a very concise Divestment list.</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Sincerely,
Dr. Dov Baum, American Friends Service Committee

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Ehsan Habib](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comment in Favor of item G-1
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 11:14:04 AM

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Hello,

My household strongly supports item G-1. Not only is it a moral imperative to support such a measure, but I see no reason for such a measure to harm the financial health of our city.

Sincerely,
Ehsan Habib
2553 Roosevelt Ave, Richmond, CA 94804
510.730.4516

From: [Elania Nanopoulos](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Soheila Bana](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#)
Subject: 1) Public comments: Vote YES on Agenda item G.1
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 12:18:54 AM

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I'm writing to urge you to vote YES on Tuesday's agenda item G.1: "DIRECT City staff to review and modify the City of Richmond Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of City funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid."

Richmond ignited a fire when it passed a ceasefire resolution just weeks after the the genocide of Palestinians began. Since October, nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been killed by the state of Israel, including 15,000 children. Over 7,000 Palestinians in the West Bank have been detained without charge. Settlers are burning down villages. Our federal government is complicit in genocide. Despite endless evidence of war crimes, millions of people protesting across the globe, a federal court case, and direct orders from the United Nations, Israel has not relented and President Biden continues to send billions of dollars and military aid to Israel.

There is no moral ambiguity anymore. It is not complicated. Please vote yes.

Sincerely,
Elania Nanopoulos

From: [Ellen Choy](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public comments agenda item #G1
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 11:46:54 AM

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Dear Richmond City Council Members,

As a Richmond resident, I urge you to support item G1 and vote to divest from harmful investments! I believe in a future for my children and my community where genocide, mass incarceration, violence on immigrant communities, and colonialism does not exist. Instead, I imagine a Richmond and a world where we feel safe and we are standing in solidarity to make sure other communities like those in Palestine are also safe. I'm proud to live in a city that is making history across the world by making bold stances for people and the planet.

Yes to divestment! Support item G1!

Sincerely,
Ellen Choy
35 Quail Hill Lane, Richmond 94803

From: [Emma Ishii](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Item G.1 (04/30/2024)
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 4:58:36 PM

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To: Richmond City Council Members

On Behalf of Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN), I am writing a letter of support for Item G.1. “[Adding Restrictions to the City of Richmond's Investment Policy](#)” by Mayor Eduardo Martinez, Councilmember Gayle McLaughlin, and Councilmember Soheila Bana that will prevent investment of City funds from going toward industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid.

Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN) is an environmental justice organization with deep roots in California’s Asian immigrant and refugee communities. We fight for the rights of all people to clean air, water, land, and a healthy environment where they can thrive. **Our members are Asian immigrants and refugees, many of whom came to California seeking refuge from colonial wars, military occupations, and land grabs for resources.**

For communities of color who live alongside big polluters that use our air, water, and land as a dumping ground for toxic pollution, the parallels between environmental racism in the United States and Israel’s environmental apartheid are undeniable.

These past five months, we have watched in horror as the Israeli military trapped over 2 million people in Gaza, an area of land smaller than the city of San Jose, and deliberately cut off access to water, food, and electricity. They’ve bombed hospitals, schools, markets, and refugee camps, killing over [90 journalists](#), over [220 humanitarian aid workers](#), and over [480 healthcare workers](#). Israeli officials have called Palestinians “animals,” dehumanizing them in an attempt to justify mass murder. Over [34,000](#) people have been killed, nearly half of them children. This is not a war. This is [genocide](#).

By passing restrictions, the City of Richmond has an opportunity to bring the City’s

budgetary policies into alignment with the previously passed resolution in October 2023 citing "The city of Richmond stands in solidarity with the Palestinian people of Gaza, who are currently facing a campaign of ethnic cleansing and collective punishment by the state of Israel."

We urge City Council members to pass this crucial item today. Divestment broadly from companies that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid and more specifically divesting from Israel's ongoing state violence, repression and occupation of Palestians, is an important way for us as a local community to stand by our commitment to justice and humanity.

Sincerely,

Emma Ishii, Local Policy Coordinator
Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN)

--



Emma Ishii (She, Her)
Local Policy Coordinator
[Asian Pacific Environmental Network](https://www.asianpacificenvironmentalnetwork.org)
emma@apen4ej.org
510-236-4616 X 337
3060 Hilltop Mall Rd, Richmond, CA 94806



We have big news: APEN is launching an organizing project in Los Angeles! Donate [here](#) to help us launch in 2023.

From: [Emma Regev](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: public comments agenda item #G1
Date: Monday, April 29, 2024 11:59:33 PM

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Hi Richmond City Council,

My name is Emma and I am a Jewish, anti-Zionist Richmond resident since 2007. I am writing to urge (beg, really) you to vote yes on item G1 -- to divest. We do not have to be complicit in the evil systems that destroy our community and uphold imperialism! We have a choice to make tangible changes that reflect the world we want to see, a world that is possible and within our reach. Richmond has time and time again stood on the right side of history and justice -- do it again this time!! Thank you so much for everything that you do.

Warmly,
Emma

From: [tennis2](#)
To: [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Soheila Bana](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: 1) Public comments: Vote YES on Agenda item G.1
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 12:16:50 AM

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I'm writing to urge you to vote YES on Tuesday's agenda item G.1: "DIRECT City staff to review and modify the City of Richmond Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of City funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid."

Richmond ignited a fire when it passed a ceasefire resolution just weeks after the the genocide of Palestinians began. Since October, nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been killed by the state of Israel, including 15,000 children. Over 7,000 Palestinians in the West Bank have been detained without charge. Settlers are burning down villages. Our federal government is complicit in genocide. Despite endless evidence of war crimes, millions of people protesting across the globe, a federal court case, and direct orders from the United Nations, Israel has not relented and President Biden continues to send billions of dollars and military aid to Israel.

There is no moral ambiguity anymore. It is not complicated. Please vote yes.

Sincerely,
Erika Andersen, Community Member

From: [Fahad Farooq](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Urge Richmond to Divest
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 11:12:21 AM

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Dear Richmond City Clerk,

Thank you for your leadership in 2023 as the first local city council to pass a ceasefire resolution. I respectfully request your support again on Item G.1. Please vote in favor of reviewing and modifying the city's Investment Policy. This will help eliminate the investment of funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid. Let us continue to lead by example and create a better future for our community.

Sincerely,
Fahad Farooq
ffarooqprime@gmail.com

From: [Hatem Albazian](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Soheila Bana](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#)
Subject: 1) Public comments: Vote YES on Agenda item G.1
Date: Monday, April 29, 2024 1:08:35 PM

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I'm writing to urge you to vote YES on Tuesday's agenda item G.1: "DIRECT City staff to review and modify the City of Richmond Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of City funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid."

Richmond ignited a fire when it passed a ceasefire resolution just weeks after the the genocide of Palestinians began. Since October, nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been killed by the state of Israel, including 15,000 children. Over 7,000 Palestinians in the West Bank have been detained without charge. Settlers are burning down villages. Our federal government is complicit in genocide. Despite endless evidence of war crimes, millions of people protesting across the globe, a federal court case, and direct orders from the United Nations, Israel has not relented and President Biden continues to send billions of dollars and military aid to Israel.

There is no moral ambiguity anymore. It is not complicated. Please vote yes.

Sincerely,
Hatem Bazian, UC Berkeley

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Quetzalcoatl Hernández](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Soheila Bana](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#)
Subject: 1) Public comments: Vote YES on Agenda item G.1
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 8:28:05 AM

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I'm writing to urge you to vote YES on Tuesday's agenda item G.1: "DIRECT City staff to review and modify the City of Richmond Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of City funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid."

Richmond ignited a fire when it passed a ceasefire resolution just weeks after the the genocide of Palestinians began. Since October, nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been killed by the state of Israel, including 15,000 children. Over 7,000 Palestinians in the West Bank have been detained without charge. Settlers are burning down villages. Our federal government is complicit in genocide. Despite endless evidence of war crimes, millions of people protesting across the globe, a federal court case, and direct orders from the United Nations, Israel has not relented and President Biden continues to send billions of dollars and military aid to Israel.

There is no moral ambiguity anymore. It is not complicated. Please vote yes.

Sincerely,
Hatuey Q Hernandez, District 6

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Henry Van Bommel](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Soheila Bana](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#)
Subject: 1) Public comments: Vote YES on Agenda item G.1
Date: Monday, April 29, 2024 5:07:50 PM

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I'm writing to urge you to vote YES on Tuesday's agenda item G.1: "DIRECT City staff to review and modify the City of Richmond Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of City funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid."

Richmond ignited a fire when it passed a ceasefire resolution just weeks after the genocide of Palestinians began. Since October, nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been killed by the state of Israel, including 15,000 children. Over 7,000 Palestinians in the West Bank have been detained without charge. Settlers are burning down villages. Our federal government is complicit in genocide. Despite endless evidence of war crimes, millions of people protesting across the globe, a federal court case, and direct orders from the United Nations, Israel has not relented and President Biden continues to send billions of dollars and military aid to Israel.

As we saw in the 1980s with calls to divest from apartheid South Africa, history will vindicate your "yes" vote as being on the side of justice and humanity.

There is no moral ambiguity anymore. It is not complicated. Please vote yes.

Sincerely,

Henry Van Bommel
Berkeley Law Student, Albany resident, and frequenter of Richmond roadways, businesses, and public amenities.

From: [Hilda Poulson](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments: Support for Divestment/item G1
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 10:01:48 AM

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Dear Richmond City Council members,

I am a current resident of Alameda, but grew up spending a lot of time in Richmond, where I have many family and friends.

I am writing to urge you to vote YES on divestment, specifically by eliminating the investment of City funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid.

We in Alameda have been inspired by Richmond's leadership on calling for Ceasefire in Gaza, and hope to see continued leadership on divestment so other cities around the Bay Area and across the country can be emboldened to take similar actions.

--

Hilda Poulson
(310) 251-9667

From: [Hind Boom](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Soheila Bana](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#)
Subject: 1) Public comments: Vote YES on Agenda item G.1
Date: Monday, April 29, 2024 11:25:11 AM

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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 Mayor and Councilmembers,

I'm writing to urge you to vote YES on Tuesday's agenda item G.1: "DIRECT City staff to review and modify the City of Richmond Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of City funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid."

Richmond ignited a fire when it passed a ceasefire resolution just weeks after the the genocide of Palestinians began. Since October, nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been killed by the state of Israel, including 15,000 children. Over 7,000 Palestinians in the West Bank have been detained without charge. Settlers are burning down villages. Our federal government is complicit in genocide. Despite endless evidence of war crimes, millions of people protesting across the globe, a federal court case, and direct orders from the United Nations, Israel has not relented and President Biden continues to send billions of dollars and military aid to Israel.

There is no moral ambiguity anymore. It is not complicated. Please vote yes.

Sincerely,
Concerned student

Sent on the go

From: [Jacquelyne McCormick](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Soheila Bana](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#)
Subject: 1) Public comments: Vote YES on Agenda item G.1
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 9:11:40 AM

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I'm writing to urge you to vote YES on Tuesday's agenda item G.1: "DIRECT City staff to review and modify the City of Richmond Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of City funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid."

Richmond ignited a fire when it passed a ceasefire resolution just weeks after the the genocide of Palestinians began. Since October, nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been killed by the state of Israel, including 15,000 children. Over 7,000 Palestinians in the West Bank have been detained without charge. Settlers are burning down villages. Our federal government is complicit in genocide. Despite endless evidence of war crimes, millions of people protesting across the globe, a federal court case, and direct orders from the United Nations, Israel has not relented and President Biden continues to send billions of dollars and military aid to Israel.

There is no moral ambiguity anymore. It is not complicated. Please vote yes.

Sincerely,
Jacquelyne McCormick, District 6

From: [Jaime Young](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Soheila Bana](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#)
Subject: 1) Public comments: Vote YES on Agenda item G.1
Date: Monday, April 29, 2024 8:18:21 PM

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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 Mayor and Councilmembers,

I'm writing to urge you to vote YES on Tuesday's agenda item G.1: "DIRECT City staff to review and modify the City of Richmond Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of City funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid."

Richmond ignited a fire when it passed a ceasefire resolution just weeks after the the genocide of Palestinians began. Since October, nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been killed by the state of Israel, including 15,000 children. Over 7,000 Palestinians in the West Bank have been detained without charge. Settlers are burning down villages. Our federal government is complicit in genocide. Despite endless evidence of war crimes, millions of people protesting across the globe, a federal court case, and direct orders from the United Nations, Israel has not relented and President Biden continues to send billions of dollars and military aid to Israel.

There is no moral ambiguity anymore. It is not complicated. Please vote yes.

Sincerely,
Jaime Young, Richmond resident, 94805

From: [Jane](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Please divest from companies profiting from genocide
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 8:19:06 AM

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Dear Richmond City Council,
Please divest from any company making money off the genocide of the Palestinian people. So many have been killed already, using weapons provided by the US tax payers. We must stop investing in these evil companies.
Thank you
Jane Jewell

From: [Kaelen Van Cura](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: 1) Public Comments Agenda item # G1
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 12:43:31 PM

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As a longtime Richmond resident, I am strongly in support of divesting our funds from harmful industries and companies that are involved in human rights abuses.

Kaelen Van Cura

From: [Laurie Wager](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Urge Richmond to Divest
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 11:06:52 AM

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Dear Richmond City Clerk,

As a Jewish Bay Area resident, I'm writing to thank you for being the first local city council to pass a ceasefire resolution. Now you have the opportunity to lead once again. Please vote yes on Item G.1., to review and modify the city's Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid. We are at an historic point in time where our actions have huge consequences. Please continue your valiant efforts towards justice.

Sincerely,
Laurie Wager
lwager@earthlink.net

From: [Lila Sheira](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Soheila Bana](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#)
Subject: 1) Public comments: Vote YES on Agenda item G.1
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 8:33:06 AM

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I'm writing to urge you to vote YES on Tuesday's agenda item G.1: "DIRECT City staff to review and modify the City of Richmond Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of City funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid."

Richmond ignited a fire when it passed a ceasefire resolution just weeks after the the genocide of Palestinians began. Since October, nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been killed by the state of Israel, including 15,000 children. Over 7,000 Palestinians in the West Bank have been detained without charge. Settlers are burning down villages. Our federal government is complicit in genocide. Despite endless evidence of war crimes, millions of people protesting across the globe, a federal court case, and direct orders from the United Nations, Israel has not relented and President Biden continues to send billions of dollars and military aid to Israel.

There is no moral ambiguity anymore. It is not complicated. Please vote yes.

Sincerely,

Lila A. Sheira
Richmond residen (94804)

Please excuse any typos. Sent from my telephone.

From: [Lisa Raffel](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comment in Support New Restrictions on Investment Policy
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 6:30:04 AM

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I am writing as a resident of Richmond and in support of the New Restrictions on Investment Policy. The mass incarceration complex, the production of weapons, and Israel's violation of Palestinian's human rights -- these should not be areas of investment for the City of Richmond. The great city of Richmond, California can find better, life affirming investment opportunities.

Lisa Raffel
Richmond, CA

From: [Mary Therese](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: 1) public comments
Date: Monday, April 29, 2024 12:07:31 PM

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Hello,

I'm writing to email you to vote yes on divestment from Israeli companies complicit in genocide.

This action is not only a stand for human rights but also a reflection of our community's commitment to ethical and responsible investment practices. Recent events and the ongoing genocide in Gaza have highlighted the urgent need for us to review and reconsider where our city's funds are invested. Divestment represents a clear statement that our community prioritizes human rights and opposes genocide. As an elected official, your support in this matter is crucial. A vote in favor of divestment is a vote for justice and ethical stewardship of our community's resources. Please stand with the many residents of Richmond who believe in promoting peace and human rights through our collective actions.

Thank you for considering this important issue. I trust that you will make a decision that aligns with our shared values and the moral integrity of our city.

Sincerely,
Mary Snyder

From: [Mettie Hoge](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Urge Richmond to Divest
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 11:08:30 AM

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Dear Richmond City Clerk,

Thank you for your leadership in 2023 as the first local city council to pass a ceasefire resolution. You once again have the opportunity to lead, please vote yes on Item G.1., to review and modify the city's Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid. We are witnessing genocide in real time. It is important to take action and to establish our Citizens as people with a conscience. Your courage and leadership are appreciated.

Sincerely,
Mettie Hoge
nettiehoge@sncglobal.ney

From: [Naaim Yahya](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public comments:
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 9:47:08 AM

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Public comment:

Please God!

Help us divest away from these genocidal Israeli manufacturing companies producing parts and equipment for inflicting injuries and suffering on the people of Gaza. They are making hell on earth real.

Sent from my iPhone

From: nadiabubtana@gmail.com
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Soheila Bana](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#)
Subject: 1) Public comments: Vote YES on Agenda item G.1
Date: Monday, April 29, 2024 8:40:00 PM

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I'm writing to urge you to vote YES on Tuesday's agenda item G.1: "DIRECT City staff to review and modify the City of Richmond Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of City funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid."

Richmond ignited a fire when it passed a ceasefire resolution just weeks after the the genocide of Palestinians began. Since October, nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been killed by the state of Israel, including 15,000 children. Over 7,000 Palestinians in the West Bank have been detained without charge. Settlers are burning down villages. Our federal government is complicit in genocide. Despite endless evidence of war crimes, millions of people protesting across the globe, a federal court case, and direct orders from the United Nations, Israel has not relented and President Biden continues to send billions of dollars and military aid to Israel.

There is no moral ambiguity anymore. It is not complicated. Please vote yes.

Sincerely,
Nadia Bubtana
Panhandle Annex co-President
District 5

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Nazanin](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Soheila Bana](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#)
Subject: 1) Public comments: Vote YES on Agenda item G.1
Date: Sunday, April 28, 2024 5:28:09 PM

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I'm writing to urge you to vote YES on Tuesday's agenda item G.1: "DIRECT City staff to review and modify the City of Richmond Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of City funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid."

Richmond ignited a fire when it passed a ceasefire resolution just weeks after the the genocide of Palestinians began. Since October, nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been killed by the state of Israel, including 15,000 children. Over 7,000 Palestinians in the West Bank have been detained without charge. Settlers are burning down villages. Our federal government is complicit in genocide. Despite endless evidence of war crimes, millions of people protesting across the globe, a federal court case, and direct orders from the United Nations, Israel has not relented and President Biden continues to send billions of dollars and military aid to Israel.

There is no moral ambiguity anymore. It is not complicated. Please vote yes.

Sincerely,
Naz Akbaroff, resident

From: [Noor Bilbeisi](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Urge Richmond to Divest
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 7:14:22 PM

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Dear Richmond City Clerk,

I am writing today to let you know I and all citizens of the Bay Area that I know are in favor of a ceasefire resolution! Thank you for your leadership in 2023 as the first local city council to pass a ceasefire resolution. We know and are excited about your opportunity to lead the Bay Area again, please vote yes on Item G.1., to review and modify the city's Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid.

Sincerely,
Noor Bilbeisi
drnoorb@gmail.com

From: [nuzi alavi](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Line 1 Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 9:54:38 AM

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Line 1 public comments
For the city council of Richmond.
I profusely request you to vote yes
on the divest from the Israeli
companies which are implicit in
genocide in Gaza.
Thank you
Nuzi Alavi |

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Reimagine Richmond](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Letter of Support for G1- investment policy
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 9:18:52 AM
Attachments: [Letter of Support for G1- Investment Policy.pdf](#)

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Greetings Richmond Mayor and City Councilmembers,

Thank you Mayor Martinez, Councilmember McLaughlin and Councilmember Bana for bringing forth the proposed restrictions to the city's investment policy.

Reimagine Richmond urges the council to support item G1. Attached letter provides more detail about our support for this proposal.

In community,
Reimagine Richmond



April 30th, 2024

To the Richmond Mayor and City Council,

We write to express our full support for the proposed expansion of restrictions to the City of Richmond's investment policy, Agenda Item G-1. Investment decisions are a powerful tool for the City to take a stance on important ethical issues. The City has known this for years: that's why it has already divested from certain harmful industries like fossil fuels and tobacco. We believe the proposed set of new restrictions is just as aligned with Richmond's values. Investor-owned companies are profiting off the exploitation and oppression of people around the world, and we do not want Richmond to be complicit in letting these corporations make enormous profits from the suffering of our people.

In particular, we lend our wholehearted support to new Restriction 3, which would require the city to divest from companies involved in human incarceration. The prison industrial complex represents the vast network of entities that either operate detention facilities or profit from them—some by selling products and services to prisons, others by relying on the forced labor of incarcerated people. The United States prison population has increased by [500% since 1970](#) (far outpacing population growth and crime), and we now have the [highest incarceration rate](#) of any country in the world. Mass incarceration has devastating effects on the health and wellbeing of [individuals, families, and communities](#). These harms are especially profound for Black folks and other communities of color, who are vastly overrepresented in this country's prisons. In the United States, Black Americans are 13% of the population, but represent 37% of the prison or [jail population](#).

Richmond would be in good company if it adopted Restriction 3. There is a growing movement to divest from the prison industrial complex. For instance, cities such as [New York City](#) and [Philadelphia](#) have divested from private prisons. Many other institutions such as universities and faith based organizations have likewise rearranged their investment portfolios to exclude entities that profit from incarceration. These investment decisions send a powerful message: our resources will not be used to uphold an unjust system, however lucrative it might be.

For similar reasons, Reimagine Richmond also supports the other investment restrictions the City is considering. We believe in the liberation of all people and see all forms of oppression as interconnected. New Restriction 1 would take Richmond's resources away from the destructive military-industrial complex, which has long treated the loss of black and brown lives as a justifiable tradeoff for profit. New Restriction 2 would require the City to divest from the

surveillance technologies that are used to criminalize our communities and separate families at the border. And New Restriction 4 would keep our City's funds out of the US-backed Israeli occupation of Palestine, one of the most pressing humanitarian crises of our times. In a nutshell, we do not want Richmond dollars funding war, genocide and surveillance.

Divestment from industries that profit from oppression and injustice is not just a moral imperative; it aligns with the City's fiduciary duty to maintain a smart and sustainable investment portfolio. Responsible stewardship of the City's assets requires evaluating the long-term viability and risks of each investment. While harmful, exploitative industries may seem highly profitable in the short term, they are at the whims of changing political and societal priorities. As an example, companies that profit off the criminalization of communities are likely to be impacted financially by changing political tides and nationwide efforts to reform the carceral system. By divesting from those industries now, Richmond can avoid the future losses that would otherwise result from evolving social mores around this issue.

We urge you to support item G-1, a proposal that puts Richmond on the right side of history and also makes good financial sense.

From: [Richard Muro - Salazar](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments Agenda Item # G-1
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 12:58:03 PM

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Hello,

As a life-long Richmond community member, public artist, educator, social justice advocate, parent, and small business owner, I support the proposed set of new restrictions on the City of Richmond's investments, agenda item # G-1. Our focus as a community should not involve investing in harmful sources that bring about further oppression. We must invest in community care, we must invest in alignment of our morals and values.

Sincerely,

Richard Muro

Bay Area EV LLC/ R.M. Salazar--

[Richard M. Salazar](#)

Murals + Custom Fabrication

M: [510.221.7221](tel:510.221.7221)

E: rmurosalar@gmail.com



From: [Rocky C](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Soheila Bana](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#)
Subject: Public comments: Vote YES on Agenda item G.1
Date: Monday, April 29, 2024 1:51:14 AM

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I'm writing to urge you to vote YES on Tuesday's agenda item G.1: "DIRECT City staff to review and modify the City of Richmond Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of City funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid."

Richmond ignited a fire when it passed a ceasefire resolution just weeks after the the genocide of Palestinians began. Since October, nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been killed by the state of Israel, including 15,000 children. Over 7,000 Palestinians in the West Bank have been detained without charge. Settler-colonizers are burning down villages. Our federal government is complicit in genocide. Despite endless evidence of war crimes, millions of people protesting across the globe, a federal court case, and direct orders from the United Nations, Israel has not relented and President Biden continues to send billions of dollars and military aid to Israel.

There is no moral ambiguity anymore. It is not complicated. We need to divest from genocide. Please vote yes.

Sincerely,
Rocky Chau
Animal Rights For Palestine

From: [Rohan Sabnis](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Soheila Bana](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#)
Subject: 1) Public comments: Vote YES on Agenda item G.1
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 12:28:58 AM

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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 Mayor and Councilmembers,

I'm writing to urge you to vote YES on Tuesday's agenda item G.1: "DIRECT City staff to review and modify the City of Richmond Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of City funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid."

Richmond ignited a fire when it passed a ceasefire resolution just weeks after the the genocide of Palestinians began. Since October, nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been killed by the state of Israel, including 15,000 children. Over 7,000 Palestinians in the West Bank have been detained without charge. Settlers are burning down villages. Our federal government is complicit in genocide. Despite endless evidence of war crimes, millions of people protesting across the globe, a federal court case, and direct orders from the United Nations, Israel has not relented and President Biden continues to send billions of dollars and military aid to Israel.

Hayward is already divesting \$1.6 million from companies that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid and Richmond should follow suit.

There is no moral ambiguity anymore. It is not complicated. Please vote yes!

Sincerely,

Rohan Sabnis

From: [Rose Gelfand](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments Agenda Item #G1
Date: Monday, April 29, 2024 10:15:48 PM

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Dear Richmond City Council,
Hello, my name is Rose Gelfand. I am writing to express my strong support of the Richmond City Council's G-1 investment restriction policy.

As an anti-Zionist Jew raised in Richmond my entire life, I am extremely proud to be from the first American city to pass a ceasefire resolution. I will be even prouder to be from the first city to divest from mass incarceration, arms manufacturing and Israeli apartheid/genocide!

Divestment is one of the most powerful tools we have to make material change, to dismantle the violence of colonialism and racial capitalism. All institutions and localities with financial stake in weapons manufacturing, the prison industrial complex, and the Israeli state are directly profiting from mass death and dehumanization. By choosing to divest from these vile industries, Richmond will live up to its values, prioritizing the lives of its citizens, and of people around the globe, over profit.

I strongly urge you to please pass this historic resolution, so we may invest in care and community, and divest from all forms of oppression. Please be on the right side of history once again!

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,
Rose Gelfand

From: [Saira Shakeel](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Urge Richmond to Divest
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 11:21:02 AM

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Dear Richmond City Clerk,

Richmond, the city of pride and purpose, has the opportunity to once again make history. Thank you for your leadership in 2023 as the first local city council to pass a ceasefire resolution. You once again have the opportunity to lead, please vote yes on Item G.1., to review and modify the city's Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid. This will be historic movement and a great step forward for the city of Richmond.

Sincerely,
Saira Shakeel
sshakeel@berkeley.edu

From: [Salah Elbakri](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Urge Richmond to Divest
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 7:06:22 PM

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You don't often get email from civinput@newmode.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Richmond City Clerk,

In total support of G1.
Richmond is doin' it again.
A city with intact moral compass!

Sincerely,
Salah Elbakri
salahelbakri@icloud.com

From: [Sharig Alavi](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Line one public comment
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 11:44:52 AM

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Dear Mayor and city council members of Richmond,

We applaud your efforts to divest your investments to ethical choices. The consideration of divesting and moving away from countries and industries that commit genocide is moral.

Thank you.

From: [Shayna Keyles](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public comments agenda item #1
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 12:29:07 PM

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Dear Richmond City Council,

I strongly support Agenda Item G-1, which calls for four new restrictions related to our city's investments. As a city whose population is nearly 19% African American and 45% Latino--two of the demographics most represented in prisons and jails in the US--it's in the best interest of our community to divest from any industry that supports the prison-industrial complex. To continue creating a city that is safe and equitable for all those who live here, we must move away from mass surveillance, detention, and prison labor as the norm and move toward models of healing justice. Moreover, to ensure Richmond remains a place of safety for migrants and immigrants, and that Richmond upholds its name as a "Human Rights City," we must invest away from arms, weapons, surveillance, and prison industries.

I also support Restriction 4, which calls for divestment from Israeli violations of Palestinian rights. Richmond was among the first in the nation to call for a ceasefire and to support Palestinian autonomy. It would be a showing of integrity to further denounce the mass murder and incarceration of Palestinian people by divesting from Israeli militarization. Israel relies on funding from the United States to maintain its power over Palestine, and if Richmond and other cities choose to withhold funding, we can make real change: look to the history of divesting from the tobacco industry, or divestment during South African Apartheid.

With gratitude,
Shayna Keyles
Richmond, CA

From: [Sonila Shakeel](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Urge Richmond to Divest
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 12:05:03 PM

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Dear Richmond City Clerk,

I am proud to be a resident of the city of Richmond, where my leaders are being mindful of the unjust and inhumane behaviors taking place across the globe, and particularly in occupied Palestine. Thank you for your leadership in 2023 as the first local city council to pass a ceasefire resolution. You once again have the opportunity to lead, please vote yes on Item G.1., to review and modify the city's Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid. Please do not let this go unnoticed. It is important that we take this stance as a city so that no more innocent lives can be taken at the hands of the oppressors, the murderers, the genocidal freaks.

Sincerely,
Sonila Shakeel
sonila.shakeel@berkeley.edu

From: [Sophia Ritchie](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Soheila Bana](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#)
Subject: 1) Public comments: Vote YES on Agenda item G.1
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 12:00:33 AM

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I'm writing to you as a former Richmond resident and urge you to vote YES on Tuesday's agenda item G.1: "DIRECT City staff to review and modify the City of Richmond Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of City funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid." As a resident, I was trained in and active in the city's CERT program. I write this because I think frequently of Palestinian first responders in Gaza who have been targeted and killed simply for trying to save lives. I think about overwhelmed civil response teams, and of civilians digging through rubble with their bare hands looking for survivors. We are looking at a man-made disaster of exorbitant proportions that the US has helped fund from day 1, but brave actions such as divestment can push the arc of justice in the right direction, not only in Gaza, but across all of occupied Palestine and Israel.

Richmond showed its moral leadership when it passed a ceasefire resolution just weeks after the genocide of Palestinians began. Since October, nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been killed by the state of Israel, including 15,000 children. Over 7,000 Palestinians in the West Bank have been detained without charge and West Bank residents are facing increased violence from both Israeli settlers and soldiers, including burning villages. Our federal government is complicit in genocide. Despite endless evidence of war crimes, millions of people protesting across the globe, a federal court case, and direct orders from the United Nations, Israel has not relented and President Biden continues to send billions of dollars and military aid to Israel.

There is no moral ambiguity anymore. It is not complicated. Please vote yes.

Sincerely,
Sophia Ritchie, former Richmond Annex resident

From: [Sophie Khouri](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments Agenda Item #G1
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 8:22:06 AM

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Good morning,

My name is Sophie, I'm 16-years-old, and I'm Palestinian. I am urging the City of Richmond to pass Item #G-1 which would put restrictions on the City's investments, including their investment of companies that are supporting the genocide and occupation in Palestine. Being Palestinian, my family has been largely affected by the U.S.-backed occupation of Palestine. Richmond's divestment would be a step closer to ending that occupation. Richmond is considered a "Human Rights City" being one of the first to adopt the Declaration of Human Rights in 2009. Additionally, Richmond was one of the first cities in the U.S. to pass a ceasefire resolution. Adopting these restrictions on how it can invest its resources would continue Richmond's legacy as a "Human Rights City" and encourage neighboring cities to take similar steps. Additionally, this divestment would allow for Richmond to better invest in its population and benefit the people of Richmond. Thank you for your time.

In Solidarity,

Sophie Khouri (she/her)

President | M.E.N.A. Student Union

Secretary | Muslim Student Association

Phone: (510) 617-8490

"If they don't want us to protest, they shouldn't give us a reason to protest."

From: [Susan Hopp](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments - APR30 Meeting
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 10:51:48 AM

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Dear Richmond City Council,

Regarding agenda G1. Adding Restrictions to the City of Richmond's Investment Policy, I urge you to adopt this resolution. Who could have imagined we'd be living in a time of censure and a McCarthy era resurrection against free speech - all in protest of a genocide our US government is enabling. Now is the time for sane people of goodwill who understand the immorality of mass murder and maiming of innocent civilians to come forth and take action.

I applaud the courage and wherewithal of Richmond - it sends a message and makes a difference.

Thank you,
Susan Hopp
Mill Valley, CA

--

Susan Hopp
hlpearth@fastmail.fm
415-602-9830

“Nature is not a place to visit. It is home.” Gary Snyder, Poet

From: [Tariq Ibrahim](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Soheila Bana](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#)
Subject: 1) Public comments: Vote YES on Agenda item G.1
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 7:34:43 AM

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Dear Mayor and Council members,

I'm writing to urge you to vote YES on Tuesday's agenda item G.1: "DIRECT City staff to review and modify the City of Richmond Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of City funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid."

Richmond ignited a fire when it passed a ceasefire resolution just weeks after the the genocide of Palestinians began. Since October, nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been killed by the state of Israel, including 15,000 children. Over 7,000 Palestinians in the West Bank have been detained without charge. Settlers are burning down villages. Our federal government is complicit in genocide. Despite endless evidence of war crimes, millions of people protesting across the globe, a federal court case, and direct orders from the United Nations, Israel has not relented and President Biden continues to send billions of dollars and military aid to Israel.

There is no moral ambiguity anymore. It is not complicated. Please vote yes.

Sincerely,
Tariq

From: [ursula floden](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Soheila Bana](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#)
Subject: 1) Public comments: Vote YES on Agenda item G.1
Date: Monday, April 29, 2024 8:38:37 PM

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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 Mayor and Councilmembers,

I'm writing to urge you to vote YES on Tuesday's agenda item G.1: "DIRECT City staff to review and modify the City of Richmond Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of City funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid."

Richmond ignited a fire when it passed a ceasefire resolution just weeks after the the genocide of Palestinians began. Since October, nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been killed by the state of Israel, including 15,000 children. Over 7,000 Palestinians in the West Bank have been detained without charge. Settlers are burning down villages. Our federal government is complicit in genocide. Despite endless evidence of war crimes, millions of people protesting across the globe, a federal court case, and direct orders from the United Nations, Israel has not relented and President Biden continues to send billions of dollars and military aid to Israel.

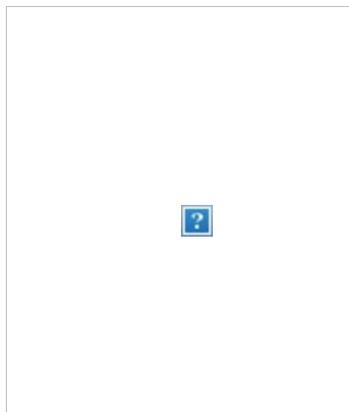
There is no moral ambiguity anymore. It is not complicated. Please vote yes.

Sincerely,
Ursula Floden
Northern District 7
Richmond Heights

From: [Vish Soroushian](#)
To: [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Soheila Bana](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#); [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: 1) Public comments: Vote YES on Agenda item G.1
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 8:21:14 AM
Attachments: [24.04.29 Richmond City Council Support for Divestment.pdf](#)

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April 29, 2024

RE: Support for Item G1 (Adding Restrictions to the City of Richmond's Investment Policy)

Dear Mayor Martinez and Esteemed Members of the Richmond City Council:

We, the Bay Area Legal Aid Workers (BALAW), National Organization of Legal Services Workers, UAW Local 2320 (NOLSW), write to urge you to modify Richmond's investment policy to eliminate the investment of public funds in companies and industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, occupation, colonization, *or* apartheid. We also implore you to further amend the policy to prevent the city from investing in Israeli bonds or, at least, in the financial instruments of any country that regularly enables any of the aforementioned atrocities.

NOLSW is a labor union with over 4,500 members nationwide. As a unit of NOLSW, BALAW represents over a hundred legal services professionals who live and work throughout the Bay Area, including in Richmond. In December 2023, BALAW passed a [resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and an end to U.S. aid to Israel and the occupation of Palestine](#). BALAW also endorsed the [Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement \(BDS\)](#). In February 2024, NOLSW followed suit and passed a similar resolution

endorsing BDS, resolving to divest from any Israel bonds it holds, and demanding, *inter alia*, a [cessation of all U.S. aid to Israel](#).

As legal services professionals, we are appalled at the failure of our elected officials to hold Israel accountable for the blatant violations of international law it commits daily. As workers and people of conscience, we insist that the taxes we contribute to our governmental entities not go towards enriching those who profit from the repression of others no matter where they live. We work hard for our earnings, and we believe that it is quite reasonable to expect that funds in the city treasury be used to improve the lives of Richmond residents, not to fatten the pockets of weapons manufacturer executives and investors.

We applaud Richmond for once again putting to action its progressive values by prioritizing divestment from companies and industries that bring out the worst in humanity and cause immense suffering. We hope that other institutions will follow your lead and also do their part in helping end the oppression of the Palestinian people once and for all.

We also implore you to recognize that many of the [companies that profit from Israel's genocide in Gaza](#) and enable the ongoing Israeli occupation of and apartheid in Palestine also cause harm on other fronts. For example, municipal governments often hold securities in companies such as Caterpillar (CAT) and the Toyota Motor Credit Corporation, the financing arm of the Toyota Motor Corporation. While CAT machinery is best known for reprehensibly being used to destroy Palestinian homes and infrastructure and to run over Palestinian civilians and activists, [CAT also has had contracts with the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Customs and Border Protection, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement for construction projects involving prisons and immigration detention facilities](#). Similarly, [Toyota trucks serve as the base of light armored vehicles that are used routinely and extensively by the Israeli military while committing human rights violations](#) in the occupied West Bank. Toyota also has a horrific [impact on global climate policy](#). As such, investments in such companies already contravene the spirit of the [city's prohibition on investing in Fossil Fuel companies and those that violate](#) its Sanctuary City Ordinance.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Vish Soroushian

Treasurer
Bay Area Legal Aid Workers
UAW Local 2320

From: [yoli aceves](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Soheila Bana](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#)
Subject: 1) Public comments: Vote YES on Agenda item G.1
Date: Monday, April 29, 2024 8:20:32 PM

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I'm writing to urge you to vote YES on Tuesday's agenda item G.1: "DIRECT City staff to review and modify the City of Richmond Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of City funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid."

Richmond ignited a fire when it passed a ceasefire resolution just weeks after the the genocide of Palestinians began. Since October, nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been killed by the state of Israel, including 15,000 children. Over 7,000 Palestinians in the West Bank have been detained without charge. Settlers are burning down villages. Our federal government is complicit in genocide. Despite endless evidence of war crimes, millions of people protesting across the globe, a federal court case, and direct orders from the United Nations, Israel has not relented and President Biden continues to send billions of dollars and military aid to Israel.

There is no moral ambiguity anymore. It is not complicated. Please vote yes.

Sincerely,
Yolanda Aceves, concern resident, district 6

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Yvonne Marroquin](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments Agenda Item # G-1
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 11:02:53 AM

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Hola a Todos, I'm Yvonne Marroquin Venegas.

I grew up in Richmond, where as a youth I witnessed so much community violence and crime-the mission was to survive.

Now, as a mother-educator-small business owner, I feel the shift- I get to watch so many of us thrive.

This is purely thanks to the dedicated work of our collective community, leaders and policy choices that invest in our people and are rooted in COMMUNITY CARE.

As the first city in the NATION to pass a resolution for a ceasefire in solidarity with the Pueblo Palestino, Richmond is now more aligned than ever with the morals of our diverse community.

The work is to keep going in this aligned direction.

As a people, we understand that not investing in the prison industrial complex- that does nothing to contribute to society and exploits inmates for slave labor while inflicting generational trauma, is essential.

Not investing in border and mass surveillance industries that criminalize desperate migrants FORCED to leave their homes to ESCAPE the consequence of US imperialism, destabilization, exploitation, etc- throughout Central America, for example, is essential.

Not investing in companies and their subsidiaries that are involved with the occupying state of Israel in Palestine, actively carrying out a genocide/an ecocide/the most horrific crimes against innocent humans witnessed in our lifetimes against the Pueblo Palestino, is essential.

We stand firmly with all of the students within the nation and throughout the world resisting and demanding for divestment from Israel. No more blood money.

I whole-heartedly support the proposed set of new restrictions on the city's investments, agenda item G-1, let's keep it moving in the right direction/on the right side of history!

Sincerely,

Yvonne Marroquin Venegas

White Rabbit Remedies



Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Name	Email	Comment	Position	Status
Special City Council Meeting						
4/30/2024 5:30 PM	Adding Restrictions to the City of Richmond's Investment Policy	Graves Sperry		it's the duty of the City to prevent violence and harm as much as possible, and that includes divesting from apartheid states, as much of America did in the eighties and nineties and should do again to prevent Israel's genocide against the Palestinian people.	For	Appro

