

**RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA,**

October 1, 2024, 5:00 p.m.  
Community Services Building  
440 Civic Center Plaza  
Richmond, CA 94804

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

Open Session was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Mayor Eduardo Martinez.

**B. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Councilmembers Gayle McLaughlin, Doria Robinson, Cesar Zepeda, Vice Mayor Claudia Jimenez, and Mayor Eduardo Martinez. **Absent:** Councilmembers Soheila Bana and Melvin Willis arrived after the council adjourned to Closed Session.

**C. CLOSED SESSION**

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

- Thomas Butt v. Eduardo Martinez
- Thomas Butt v. Gayle McLaughlin

Norma Elias v. City of Richmond

**C.2 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Government Code Section 54957.6)**

- Agency Representatives: Sharrone Taylor and Jack Hughes

Employee organizations:

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

**C.3 CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR (Government Code Section 54956.8)**

- Property: 12th and Macdonald
- Agency Negotiators: Nannette Beacham Negotiating parties: SAA-EVI Richmond Partners, LLC
- Under negotiation: Price and terms of payment

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

Cordell Hindler stated that the 12th and Macdonald site would be a good location for affordable housing.

**E. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION**

Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 5:05 p.m. Closed Session adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

**G. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Eduardo Martinez led the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

**H. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Councilmembers Soheila Bana, Gayle McLaughlin, Doria Robinson, Melvin Willis, Cesar Zepeda, Vice Mayor Claudia Jimenez, and Mayor Eduardo Martinez.

**Absent:** None.

**I. STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None.

**J. AGENDA REVIEW**

Item P.4 - (*Presentation of the Richmond Green Blue New Deal Opportunities Report*) was heard after Item P.1. - (*Arts Corridor Project Strategic Plan Presentations*); continued Item N.5.a. - (*Amend the position control list and allocate the necessary funding as required*) to the October 15, 2024, City Council meeting.

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

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

- Thomas Butt v. Eduardo Martinez
- Thomas Butt v. Gayle McLaughlin

Tentative rulings were given in favor of the city. The final ruling in the matter of Thomas Butt v. Eduardo Martinez involved the signature of the vice mayor instead of then Mayor Thomas Butt on the Terminal 1 amended Land Disposition Agreement. The agreement was ruled valid and the lawsuit was ruled unfounded.

The matter of Thomas Butt v. Gayle McLaughlin involved a March 7, 2023, city council meeting where Mayor Butt was absent. The lawsuit claimed that due to term limits, Vice Mayor McLaughlin could not act as mayor. The city prevailed on procedural grounds and also on the fact that Vice Mayor McLaughlin was not serving as the mayor, rather in her capacity as vice mayor.

Norma Elias v. City of Richmond - **direction was given on a settlement agreement.**

**C.2 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Government Code Section 54957.6)**

- Agency Representatives: Sharrone Taylor and Jack Hughes

Employee organizations:

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

5. IAFF Local 188
6. Richmond Fire Management Association RFMA

**A status report was given. No reportable action was taken.**

**C.3 CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR (Government Code Section 54956.8)**

Property: 12th and Macdonald

Agency Negotiators: Nannette Beacham

Negotiating parties: SAA-EVI Richmond Partners, LLC

Under negotiation: Price and terms of payment

**A status report was given. No reportable action was taken.**

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

City Manager Shasa Curl presented a PowerPoint.

Link to view presentation: [CITY MANAGER'S REPORT](#)

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

Human Resources Director, Sharrone Taylor, gave the new employee report.

Link to review: [SEPTEMBER 2024 NEW EMPLOYEE REPORT](#)

**M. OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

Cordell Hindler gave comments regarding the city council's behavior at the last meeting.

Eugenia Lunnie, Felicia King, and Crystal Polidore gave comments regarding the murder of their loved one and stated that the Richmond Police Department was not trying to bring the persons responsible to justice.

Solomon Ervin gave comments about the upcoming 3 on 3 Basketball tournament and asked for a fee waiver to use city facilities to hold the event.

Antwon Cloird gave comments regarding the city providing relocation assistance for the family of a young lady murdered in Richmond.

Jamin Pursell stated that the Community Crisis Response Team, and the Office of Neighborhood Safety, are among some of the programs and services that assist victims of crime.

Soheila Bana Invited the community to Fire Station 64's Open House on Sunday, October 6, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Councilmember Bana also stated that she would not attend the October 15, 2024, City Council meeting.

Mark Wassberg gave comments regarding Islam and the upcoming November election.

Jessi Taran gave comments regarding the need for long term housing for the chronically homeless.

Ben Therriault gave comments regarding the effectiveness of community policing and how it could not be successful with the current number of officers and the defund the police movement.

**N. CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

The approval of the Consent Calendar did not include Item N.5.a - (*Amend the position control list and allocate the necessary funding as required*).

**Motion by** Vice Mayor Claudia Jimenez  
**Seconded by** Councilmember Cesar Zepeda

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 1)

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

N.1.a New Legal Services Agreement with Liebert Cassidy Whitmore for Employment Litigation

APPROVE a new legal services agreement with Liebert, Cassidy, Whitmore, for an amount not to exceed \$300,000, for a term beginning September 1, 2024, to June 30, 2026 – City Attorney's Office (Kimberly Chin 510-620-6709/Beth Arnese 510-620-6848).

**N.2 City Manager's Office**

N.2.a On-call List for Qualified Consultants for Grant Writing, Grant Seeking, and Other Grant Related Service

ADOPT a resolution approving eighteen (18) firms to provide on-call grant writing, grant seeking, or other grant-related services to City departments, on an as-needed basis, for a three-year term expiring September 30, 2027, with two one-year options to extend, and a not to exceed total expenditure of \$100,000 per firm annually – City Manager's Office (Patrick Seals 510-307-8016).

Adopted **Resolution No. 106-24**.

N.2.b 2024 Richmond Fund for Children & Youth Community Needs Assessment & Fiscal Year 2025-2028 Strategic Investment Plan

RECEIVE the Richmond Fund for Children and Youth 2024 Community Needs Assessment Report and the Fiscal Year 2025-2028 Strategic Investment Plan – City Manager's Office (Patrick Seals 510-307-8016/LaShonda White 510-620-6828).

N.2.c 2023 Richmond Community Survey Results

RECEIVE a report on the City of Richmond's 2023 Community Survey results – City Manager’s Office (Patrick Seals 510- 307-8016/LaShonda White 510-620-6828).

**N.3 Community Development**

N.3.a Repeal of Richmond Municipal Code Chapter 9.64 - Prohibition of Natural Gas Infrastructure in Newly Constructed Buildings

ADOPT an ordinance (second reading) repealing Chapter 9.64 to the Richmond Municipal Code (RMC), which bans natural gas infrastructure in new construction - Community Development Department (Lina Velasco/Avery Stark 510-620-6714).

Adopted **Ordinance No. 09-24 N.S.**

**N.4 Economic Development**

N.4.a Additional work to complete the 2024 Pavement Repair at Point Potrero Marine Terminal.

APPROVE a construction amendment with W.R. Forde and Associates in the amount of \$120,000 for additional improvements and maintenance at the Point Potrero Marine Terminal for a total amount of \$406,750 with a term ending June 30, 2025 - Economic Development Department (Charles Gerard 510-620-6792).

N.4.b Partial Funding of CARB-Approved Emissions Control Solution (CAECS) to Meet CARB At Berth Regulations for Roll-on/Roll-off Ships.

ADOPT a resolution to APPROPRIATE \$500,000 from the Port fund to the Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget to support the funding to deploy a CARB-Approved Emissions Control Solution (CAECS) barge at the Port of Richmond; and AUTHORIZE the Port to complete its evaluation of potential vendors and negotiate an agreement with the selected CAECS provider for an amount not-to-exceed \$500,000 – Economic Development Department (Charles Gerard 510-620-6792).

Adopted **Resolution No. 107-24.**

**N.5 Human Resources**

N.5.a Amend the position control list and allocate the necessary funding as required.

ADOPT a resolution to amend staffing and position control list and allocate the necessary salary, wages, and benefits as required – Human Resources Department (Nickie Mastay/Sharrone Taylor 510-620-6602).

**Item continued to the October 22, 2024, City Council meeting.**

**N.6 Library and Community Services**

N.6.a Contract with Epic Limousine for Youth Outdoors Richmond Transportation

APPROVE a contract with Epic Limousine to provide transportation services for the Youth Outdoors Richmond Program in the amount of \$29,300 for a term beginning October 1, 2024, to July 31, 2025 –

Community Services Department (Tetteh Kisseh 510-620-6919/ Ranjana Maharaj 510-620-6972/Jene Levine-Snipes 510-307-8132).

**N.7 Mayor's Office**

N.7.a Code Enforcement Officer Appreciation Week – Second Week of October

PROCLAMATION declaring the second week of October as Code Enforcement Officer Appreciation Week in the City of Richmond – Mayor's Office (Mayor Eduardo Martinez 510-620-6503).

N.7.b Appointment of Nathaniel Bates to the Richmond/Zhoushan Friendship Commission

APPOINT Nathaniel Bates to the Richmond/Zhoushan Friendship Commission with a term that expires December 31, 2026 - Mayor's Office (Mayor Eduardo Martinez 510-620-6503).

N.7.c Reappoint Mindy Pines to the Richmond-Shimada Friendship Commission

REAPPOINT Mindy Pines to the Richmond-Shimada Friendship Commission with a term that expires on January 18, 2027 – Mayor's Office (Mayor Eduardo Martinez 510-620-6503).

**N.8 Police Department**

N.8.a Crime Report from Police Chief

RECEIVE a written crime report from the Police Chief - Police Department (Chief Bisa French 510-621-1802).

N.8.b Three-year contract with Chaplin & Hill Investigative Services LLC

APPROVE a three-year contract with Chaplin & Hill Investigative Services LLC, for third-party administrative investigative services in an amount not to exceed \$300,000, for a term beginning October 2, 2024, and expiring on October 1, 2027 – Police Department (Chief Bisa French 510-621-1802).

**N.9 Public Works**

N.9.a Resolution to amend the contract with Ghilotti Bros., Inc. for the Yellow Brick Road Project

ADOPT a resolution to approve a second amendment to a construction contract with Ghilotti Bros., Inc. for the Yellow Brick Road Project in the amount of \$40,000 for the final change order that addresses unforeseen project conditions, for an amended total contract amount not to exceed \$7,717,134.37; ACCEPT the Yellow Brick Road Project as complete to enable the City to release the contractor's bonds and retention payment, transfer funds in the General Capital Fund from the Yellow Brick Road Project (29113) to the Yellow Brick Road – Clean, Green and Beautiful Project (23032) in the amount of \$23,521.36; and APPROPRIATE \$54,439.32 from General Capital Fund Balance for Project 23032 - Public Works Department (Robert Armijo 510-620-5477/Wendy Wellbrock 510-307-8108).

Adopted **Resolution No. 108-24.**

## O. BUDGET SESSION

### O.1 Fiscal Year 2023-24 Quarter 4 Financial Report and Administrative Budget Adjustments

RECEIVE the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 Quarter 4 report for the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024; ADOPT resolutions to APPROPRIATE proposed administrative year-end budget adjustments in FY 2023-24; ADOPT a policy regarding Unspent Funds Appropriations; and APPROPRIATE Unspent Funds in FY 2024-25 – City Manager’s Office/Finance Department (Shasa Curl 510-620-6512/Andrea Miller 510-620-6790/Mubeen Qader 510-412-2077).

City Manager Shasa Curl, Finance Director Andrea Miller, Deputy Finance Director Mubeen Quader, and Revenue Manager Antonio Banuelos presented a PowerPoint which highlighted the following: Fiscal Challenges; General Fund Revenue and Expenditure; Non-General Fund Revenue and Expenditure; Proposed Budget Adjustments; General Fund Reserve and Unspent Funds; and Unspent Funds Appropriations.

Link to view presentation: [QUARTER 4 FINANCIAL REPORT](#)

Cordell Hindler, Ralph Payton, and Daniel Barth gave comments in person. Jessi Taran gave comments via Zoom.

Discussion ensued. City Council requested storm drain funding for Parchester Village, street calming measures for sideshows, and an allocation of \$100,00 for a dog park in the El Sobrante area.

A motion was made to approve the item and to appropriate Option B for the unspent funds for FY 2024-25. Councilmember Robinson made a friendly amendment to allocate the \$13,000 from Poet Laureate to allocate \$2,000 to El Sobrante Pride and \$3,000 to El Sobrante Stroll. City Manager Curl stated that the entire \$13,000 would be allocated to the festivals budget line item. The friendly amendment was accepted.

**Resolution 109-24 and Resolution No. 110-24** were adopted.

**Motion by** Councilmember Gayle McLaughlin

**Seconded by** Vice Mayor Claudia Jimenez

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

Passed (7 to 0)

## P. NEW BUSINESS

### P.1 Arts Corridor Project Strategic Plan Presentations

RECEIVE a presentation from Ceres Policy Research team and Richmond Renaissance team regarding the Arts Corridor Project Strategic Plan; RECEIVE direction regarding the finalization of the criteria used by City Council to select the final vendor; and DIRECT staff to return to City Council on October 15, 2024, with results of the scoring and award of the contract to either the Ceres Policy Research team or the Independent Arts and Media as Fiscal Agent for Richmond Renaissance to develop a Strategic Plan for a sustainable Art Corridor, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 - Economic Development Department (Nannette Beacham/Winifred Day 510-620-6952).

Economic Development Director Nanette Beacham and Deputy City Manager LaShonda White gave an overview.

Link to view presentation: [ARTS CORRIDOR PROJECT](#)

Cordell Hindler, Kate Sibley, and Jamin Pursell gave comments in person. Ruthie Dineen, Amanda Eicher, and Jacob Brickens gave comments via Zoom.

Discussion ensued.

A motion was made to approve Richmond Renaissance for the Arts Corridor Project Strategic Plan.

**Motion by** Councilmember Soheila Bana

**Seconded by** Mayor Eduardo Martinez

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

Passed (7 to 0)

**P.2 Receive Performance Improvement Plan for the Measure J funded R-Transit Program and Lower the Cost Pool Rate for R-Transit**

RECEIVE a presentation regarding the Richmond Paratransit Audit commissioned by the Contra Costa Transportation Authority; APPROVE the City of Richmond's responses to the Audit and the Performance Improvement Plan; and AUTHORIZE the reduction of the cost pool amount allocated to the Richmond Paratransit Program by \$351,000 in Fiscal Year 2024-25 which would increase the General Fund's obligation by \$351,000 – Community Services Department (LaShonda White 510-620-6828). **This item was continued from the September 24, 2024, meeting.**

Deputy City Manager Lashonda White gave an overview.

Emily Ross gave comments via Zoom. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made to approve the item as recommended (RECEIVE a presentation regarding the Richmond Paratransit Audit commissioned by the Contra Costa Transportation Authority; APPROVE the City of Richmond's responses to the Audit and the Performance Improvement Plan; and AUTHORIZE the reduction of the cost pool amount allocated to the Richmond Paratransit Program by \$351,000 in Fiscal Year 2024-25 which would increase the General Fund's obligation by \$351,000. The council also requested a report at a future city council meeting on the Paratransit program.

**Motion by** Councilmember Gayle McLaughlin

**Seconded by** Councilmember Cesar Zepeda

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 1)

**P.3 Rename Virginia Playlot to Floria Evans Park**

ADOPT a resolution of intention to rename Virginia Playlot to Floria Evans Park and waive cost recovery fees, and SET a Public Hearing for October 15, 2024 – Councilmember Doria Robinson (510-620-6568).

Councilmember Robinson gave an overview.

Cordell Hindler, Charles Evans, Pam Saucer, Luther Evans, and Andre Jackson gave comments in person.

Adopted **Resolution of Intent No. 925**

**Motion by** Councilmember Doria Robinson

**Seconded by** Councilmember Gayle McLaughlin

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

Passed (7 to 0)

**P.4 Presentation of the Richmond Green Blue New Deal Opportunities Report**

RECEIVE presentation on the Richmond Green-Blue New Deal Opportunities Report; and RECEIVE the draft Richmond Green-Blue New Deal Implementation Plan - Economic Development Department (Samantha Carr 510-620-5407/Nannette Beacham 510-621-1306/Tamara Walker 510-307-8006/Lizeht Zepeda 510-620-6653).

Environmental Manager Samantha Carr and Justine Burk from Appraccel, LLC. presented a PowerPoint.

Link to view presentation: [RICHMOND GREEN BLUE NEW DEAL PRESENTATION](#)

Cordell Hindler, and Jamin Pursell gave comments in person. Diana Wear, Don Thompson, and Kerby Lynch gave comments via Zoom.

Discussion ensued.

*(At 10:52 p.m. - a motion made by Vice Mayor Jimenez, seconded by Councilmember McLaughlin, extended the meeting to complete Items P.4, P.5, and vote on Item P.2., passed by the unanimous vote of the City Council).*

Further discussion ensued.

*(At 11:29 p.m. - a motion by Councilmember McLaughlin, seconded by Vice Mayor Jimenez, suspended the rules to complete Item P.4, Item P.5. and vote on Item P.2., passed by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmembers Bana, McLaughlin, Robinson, Zepeda, Vice Mayor Jimenez, and Mayor Martinez. Noes: None. Absent: Councilmember Willis. Abstain: None.*

A motion was made to receive the presentation and the draft Richmond-Green Blue New Deal Implementation Plan, and authorized staff to move forward with the public process. The matter will return to a future city council meeting after the community input process with a more comprehensive implementation plan of various projects with the possibility of hiring a consultant to draft a marketing plan.

**Motion by** Councilmember Gayle McLaughlin  
**Seconded by** Vice Mayor Claudia Jimenez

Ayes (4): Councilmember Gayle McLaughlin, Councilmember Cesar Zepeda, Vice Mayor Claudia Jimenez, and Mayor Eduardo Martinez

Noes (1): Councilmember Doria Robinson

Abstentions (1): Councilmember Soheila Bana

Absent (1): Councilmember Melvin Willis

Passed (4 to 3)

**P.5 Iranian New Year known as Nowruz**

APPROVE the City’s celebration of Chaharshanbeh-Soori in tandem with Nowruz, supporting the cultural event and encouraging local food businesses to participate in showcasing the City’s diverse culinary offerings, and MOVE the March 18, 2025, City Council meeting to March 11, 2025 - Councilmember Soheila Bana (510-620-6743).

Councilmember Bana gave an overview.

A motion was made to approve the item. The council meeting schedule would be reviewed at a later date to determine if any adjustments to meeting dates would be made.

**Motion by** Councilmember Soheila Bana  
**Seconded by** Vice Mayor Claudia Jimenez

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 1)

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

None.

**R. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:20 a.m. in memory of Richard Stanley Kochan, to meet again on October 15, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

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Pamela Christian, Clerk of the City of Richmond

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Eduardo Martinez, Mayor

**From:** [Daniel Barth](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept User](#)  
**Cc:** [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#); [Doria Robinson](#); [Cesar Zepeda](#); [Soheila Bana](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment Item O.1  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 1, 2024 12:37:23 PM  
**Attachments:** [Status of SOS \\$1.56M unfunded balance 10.01.2024.docx](#)

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

City Clerk,

Please accept this letter from Safe Organized Spaces Richmond for Agenda Item Public Comment Item O.1.

Much appreciated,  
Daniel

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**Daniel Barth** | Executive Director

*he/him*

510.990.2686

Mail: 23 Maine Ave. #16, Richmond, CA 94804

[www.sos-richmond.org](http://www.sos-richmond.org)

Neighbor Care Line 510.806.8650





October 1, 2024

To: City Council members  
From: Daniel Barth, SOS Richmond

Dear City Council members,

This letter regards the reappropriation of \$1M back to the Unhoused Interventions. These baseline funds are intended as a safety net that closes on the huge gap between the demand for solutions to homelessness and the lack of resources supplied by the existing H3 continuum of care.

Safe Organized Spaces Richmond has demonstrated its ability to develop a unique set of solutions that are founded on workforce development, peer engagement and lifeline support at the encampment level. Now, SOS pilots three intervention models to support unhoused Richmond residents on their journeys from tent to home:

1. The Warm Hand Wellness & Resource Centers – 4 pop-up events/week for needs assessment and peer accompaniment to services
2. 90 Day Job Readiness Program – classroom learning and work experience for workforce development
3. Empowerment Villages – emergency, transitional, and permanent housing villages for community- and peer-based living that is safe, street-level and dignified

At the current pace of SOS's growth to deliver economies of scale, we project an available fund balance of \$265,000 of its contracted \$1.56M.

SOS is currently seeking permission with Community Development to secure and deliver peer accompaniment in a pilot emergency shelter village for 12+ unhoused individuals at a time.

For village start-up and 6 months of operations, assuming a commencement in January 2025, SOS's existing personnel skills can provide \$155k of onsite essential services, security and peer accompaniment support as part of its existing budget. A new SOS Workforce Coordinator and expansion of SOS's 90 Day Job Readiness Program would more than complete the spending on SOS's 2024-25 contract.

Assuming the dedication of \$75k that has been secured from Prologis and is now being earmarked for SOS, the pilot village will have an **unfunded balance of \$78,000** for these 6 months of Jan-Jun 2025.



Mail: SOS Richmond  
23 Maine Ave #16  
Richmond, CA 94804



Physical: 410 S. 2nd St.  
Richmond, CA 94804  
(under 580 freeway)



[sos-richmond.org](https://sos-richmond.org)



Neighbor care line  
510.806.8650



Villages play a central role as proposed and accepted by City Council in the original intent of Unhoused Interventions to help meet the city's strategic visioning to address homelessness.

The down payment of \$1.8M for Unhoused Interventions for addressing homelessness is an investment in reducing the costs of public safety interventions by city agencies. The one-time investments from the state are augmentations of this baseline investment in the street-level work coordinated between CORE, SOS, and CCRP to address critical public safety and public health needs. Emergency, transitional and permanent housing villages offer safe spaces will prove to be effective toward building a more enduring pathway to housing sustainability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Barth', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Daniel Barth  
Safe Organized Spaces Richmond



Mail: SOS Richmond  
23 Maine Ave #16  
Richmond, CA 94804



Physical: 410 S. 2nd St.  
Richmond, CA 94804  
(under 580 freeway)



[sos-richmond.org](https://sos-richmond.org)



Neighbor care line  
510.806.8650

**From:** [Ralph Payton](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept User](#)  
**Cc:** [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#); [Doria Robinson](#); [Cesar Zepeda](#); [Soheila Bana](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment Item O.1  
**Date:** Monday, September 30, 2024 4:30:58 PM  
**Attachments:** [PastedGraphic-1.tiff](#)  
[Greater Richmond Interfaith Program City Council Request For Support 9.30.24.pdf](#)

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Dear City Clerk -

I am aware that the City Council will be voting on appropriating some unspent funds at the Tuesday 10/1 meeting (Item O.1). Please see the attached letter from the Greater Richmond Interfaith Program requesting the Council's consideration in the allocation of these Unhoused Intervention funds.

Thank you,  
Ralph

**Ralph Payton**  
Executive Director  
*Pronouns: he/him*

**Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP)**  
[www.gripcares.org](http://www.gripcares.org)



September 30, 2024

Richmond City Council  
440 Civic Center Plaza  
Richmond, CA 94804

Dear Esteemed Members of the Richmond City Council,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP) to formally request a \$500,000 annual grant to support our Family Shelter and Food Program. As a vital community resource, GRIP has served the most vulnerable populations in Richmond for over five decades.

I am aware that the City Council will be voting on appropriating some unspent funds at your Tuesday 10/1 meeting (Item O.1). I know that at a meeting in June of this year, the Council committed \$1 million of these unspent funds to fill the gap in Unhoused Interventions. GRIP is working in partnership with SOS Richmond and Tiny Village Spirit in a coordinated continuum of care process. Both of these nonprofits understand GRIP's critical role in this continuum and supports GRIP's request for \$500k from this committed \$1 million in unspent city funds.

### **Current Homelessness Crisis in Richmond**

Recent data underscores the urgency of the homelessness situation in Richmond and across the Bay Area. According to the latest report from Contra Costa County's 2024 Point-in-Time (PIT) count, homelessness in the region has risen significantly. In Richmond alone, homelessness has surged by over 35% in the past few years. Many of these families lack access to stable shelter or essential services, increasing the need for intervention at both the local and county levels.

Furthermore, food insecurity rates have spiked during this period. According to local reports, over 20% of Richmond households are food insecure, unable to provide adequate nutrition for their families. This reality places further strain on community organizations like GRIP, which operates the only publicly-funded emergency family shelter in Richmond and provides over 70,000 meals annually to low-income residents.

### **Partnerships**

GRIP has developed strategic partnerships with key local organizations such as SOS Richmond and Contra Costa County's Coordinated Outreach, Referral, and Engagement

(CORE) program to enhance its impact on addressing homelessness and food insecurity. Through its collaboration with **SOS Richmond**, a grassroots organization that provides street-level outreach and essential services to the unhoused, GRIP ensures that individuals in need are connected to critical shelter and support systems. Meanwhile, GRIP works closely with the **CORE program**, which focuses on reaching and assisting unsheltered families and individuals throughout Contra Costa County by providing referrals to shelters and social services. Together, these partnerships enable GRIP to expand its outreach, streamline service delivery, and provide comprehensive, wraparound support for the homeless population in Richmond and beyond, ensuring that more individuals and families have access to the care and resources they desperately need.

### **Why Funding is Critical**

GRIP's family shelter and food program is one of the few resources in the city providing essential, comprehensive services to unhoused families. Our shelter provides temporary housing, supportive services, and case management to help families transition from homelessness to stable, long-term housing. In 2023 alone, we sheltered more than 50 families, including over 200 children. Over 60% of our shelter families were able to find a permanent home with our help. However, the increased demand has stretched our financial resources to their limit.

Our food program, which offers daily meals to those in need, has also seen a sharp rise in participants. We are now serving 40% more people than we did pre-pandemic. With inflation driving up food costs and a limited budget for operations, our program is in urgent need of financial assistance to continue meeting the community's needs.

Last year, GRIP increased the overnight shelter capacity in Richmond for single adults by opening a 25-bed Warming Center. Contra Costa County has agreed to fully fund the Warming Center year-round given the ongoing shelter need for unhoused single adults in the city.

### **The Impact of a \$500,000 Grant**

A \$500,000 grant from the Richmond City Council will allow GRIP to maintain its shelter capacity and food services. Specifically, these funds would be used to:

1. **Maintain the family shelter's capacity** by sustaining current staffing levels to ensure families with children have a safe, clean, and supportive environment.
2. **Provide case management services** to help families secure permanent housing, employment, and other critical services, reducing long-term homelessness and dependence on emergency shelters.

3. **Increase our food distribution program** to serve more families and individuals struggling with food insecurity, enabling us to purchase nutritious groceries and expand our meal services.

Currently, GRIP's annual budget is \$2M and is expected increase to \$2.1M next year to maintain current service levels. GRIP is presently receiving \$821,000 from Contra Costa County and only \$70,000 from the city through the Richmond Fund for Children and Youth.

The accompanying budget will show an anticipated shortfall of \$449,000 for this fiscal year and a revenue/expense gap of \$549,000 for FY25, beginning in January. 63% of the FY25 gap is attributed to our Family Shelter and 30% to our Food Program. A \$500,000 grant from the city would address a \$346,000 shortfall for the family shelter - which would be 70% of the grant amount. The remainder would support the Food Program, which feeds our shelter families and addresses food insecurity concerns in the broader community.

I want to emphasize, addressing this budget deficit would maintain our current number of shelter beds for families, not increase them. If GRIP is unable to identify a funding source for this budget deficit for next year, decreasing our family shelter capacity will have to be considered, which could correlate to an increase in unsheltered, unhoused families.

In previous years, GRIP has been able to sustain our family shelter program with support from charitable foundations, but foundations that have supported us in the past and new entities that we have reached out to have increasingly informed us of a pivot to advocacy and policy support rather than operational support for services on the ground. The consensus is that they believe these types of essential services should be supported by our local municipalities.

GRIP is currently receiving \$400,000 annually from foundations and corporate donations, a decrease from approximately \$700,000-\$800,000 in previous years.

### **Conclusion**

We strongly believe that investing in GRIP's family shelter and food program is an investment in the future of Richmond. By providing immediate relief to those in crisis, we are helping to create a more equitable and resilient community. While charitable foundations have pivoted from supporting essential unhoused services in recent years, with your support, GRIP will continue to serve as a beacon of hope for families in need, ensuring that no child in Richmond goes to bed hungry or without shelter.

We respectfully urge the Richmond City Council to consider our request for a \$500,000 grant for these essential services. Your support would make a substantial difference in the lives of the most vulnerable residents of our city.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to the opportunity to work together to address homelessness and food insecurity in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Payton". The signature is stylized and written over the printed name.

Ralph Payton

Executive Director

Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP)

[rpayton@gripcommunity.org](mailto:rpayton@gripcommunity.org)

510-233-2141 ext. 302

## Greater Richmond Inter-faith Program 2025 Draft Budget

As of Sep 2024	Total 2024 Projection	2025 Draft Budget	Shelter	Resource Center/Warming Center	Food Program/ Kitchen
<b>Revenue</b>					
4020* Individuals	40,534	45,000	45,000		
4024* Member Congregation	16,731	20,000			20,000
Board Members	6,000	6,000	6,000		
Century Club	6,000	6,000	6,000		
4026* Religious Organizations	8,400	8,500	8,500		
4028* Community Organizations	20,200	20,000	20,000		
4044* Contra Costa County	821,160	821,160	371,500	417,440	32,220
Total 4046* City of Richmond	135,000	50,000	50,000		
4048* Foundations/Trusts	355,000	425,000	300,000	25,000	100,000
4052* Harmony Walk, Net	37,913	50,000	50,000		
Corporate Donations	50,000	50,000	50,000		
4095 In-kind Donation	90,000	90,000	45,000		45,000
4214 485 Other Income	2,087	2,200	2,200		
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,589,025</b>	<b>\$1,593,860</b>	<b>\$954,200</b>	<b>\$442,440</b>	<b>\$197,220</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
6001* Automobile Expense	4,247	4,500	2,730	1,006	765
6002* Utilities	106,460	114,450	69,431	25,579	19,456
6007* Dues and Subscriptions	1,260	1,300	789	291	221
6010* Office Supplies	3,919	4,100	2,487	916	697
6013* Licenses and Permits	6,251	6,600	4,004	1,475	1,122
6018* Insurance	235,103	246,900	149,782	55,182	41,973
6032* Property Tax	8,006	8,400	5,096	1,877	1,428
6033* Contractual Services	128,878	135,300	82,080	30,240	23,001
6039* Repairs & Maintenance	50,952	53,500	32,456	11,957	9,095
6043 Payroll - Wages/Salaries	1,310,567	1,376,100	834,811	307,558	233,937
6055* Payroll Taxes	111,953	117,600	71,342	26,284	19,992
6061 Program Expense	62,441	65,600	39,796	14,662	11,152
6099* Harmony Walk Expenses	4,681	4,900	2,973	1,095	833
6112 617 Maintenance	199	200	121	45	34
6117* 770 Travel	2,745	2,900	1,759	648	493
6122* 704 Special Event Expense	1,068	1,100	667	246	187
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$2,038,730</b>	<b>\$2,143,450</b>	<b>\$1,300,324</b>	<b>\$479,061</b>	<b>\$364,386</b>
<b>Net Operating Gain/(Loss)</b>	<b>(\$449,705)</b>	<b>(\$549,589)</b>	<b>(\$346,124)</b>	<b>(\$36,621)</b>	<b>(\$167,166)</b>

**From:** [Sally Hindman](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#); [Doria Robinson](#); [Cesar Zepeda](#); [Soheila Bana](#)  
**Cc:** [Ralph Payton GRIP](#); [Daniel Barth](#); [Alison Gill](#); [Sally Hindman](#); [Deanne Pearn](#); [Clare Demer](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 0.1--Letter from Tiny Village Spirit  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 1, 2024 3:05:43 PM  
**Attachments:** [PublicCommentAgendaItem0.1TinyVillageSpirit100124.pdf](#)  
[Richmond Tiny House Village Capital Budget & Sources of Funds Updated 100124.pdf](#)  
[Three Year Operating Budget-TVS Richmond Tiny House Village Farm and Garden 093024.xlsx](#)

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Dear Mayor Martinez and Members of Richmond City Council:

Please accept the attached letter and accompanying budget items related to Agenda Item 0.1 Proposed Uses of \$1 Million in Funds for Unhoused Interventions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Faithfully yours,

Sally Hindman  
Executive Director, Tiny Village Spirit



October 1, 2024

To Mayor Martinez and Members of the Richmond City Council:

Tiny Village Spirit is aware that the City Council will be voting on appropriating some of the unspent funds from the last fiscal year at the meeting tonight, Item 0.1, October 1, 2024. We understand that at a June meeting Council committed \$1 million of these unspent funds to filling the gap in Unhoused Interventions. Tiny Village Spirit is working in concerted partnership with SOS-Richmond and GRIP in establishing a coordinated continuum of care program responding to the emergency shelter crisis in our community. I am writing to urge your support for our joint proposal making use of these unspent funds.

Each of the interventions proposed has been carefully thought out with significant input and involvement of the unhoused population being served, with concrete specific objectives and impact benefitting the whole Richmond community, as well as our unhoused neighbors.

Tiny Village Spirit is asking for a total of \$300,000 of these unspent funds to support our work completing and operating Richmond Tiny House Village, Farm and Garden, a project already underway, approved by Council in June of last year, which will be run by Hope Solutions, in an exciting eight-agency collaboration. See attached budgets detailing this request. Of these funds, \$203,721 will support Tiny Village Spirit's \$1 million in capital costs completing village construction (specifically funding our site work/utilities infrastructure build out at \$93,721, wheelchair accessible village pathways at \$40,000, and the village three unit restroom trailer at \$70,000) and \$96,279 will support first year operating costs of the village. Move-in for the village is scheduled for July 1, 2025.

As you may recall the Richmond Tiny House Village, Farm and Garden has strong neighborhood support and will double emergency housing serving homeless Richmond young people, ages 18 to 24. Eighty percent of the \$1 million in capital funds needed to complete the project are being raised from other sources and so a contribution of \$203,721 would serve as 20 percent of the capital costs, a reasonable contribution from the community being served.

Page 2 Public Comment Item 0.1

As our attached budget describes, Tiny Village Spirit and Hope Solutions are raising the Year 1 operating costs for the Village from a combination of funds including: Richmond Fund for Children and Youth, private foundations, and Encampment Resolution Fund rental subsidies, and so a contribution of \$96,279 from these City of Richmond unspent funds we hope will close the first-year spending gap.

Thank you for your consideration and commitment to ending the crisis of homelessness in the City of Richmond!

Gratefully,

Sally Hindman (she, her, hers)

Executive Director, Tiny Village Spirit

**Richmond Tiny House Village, Farm, and Garden--Capital Budget & Sources of Funds  
Updated 10/1/24**

**Capital Budget\***

<b>Contractual Services and Fees (secures site/tests/contracts/policies)</b>	<b>\$ 30,000</b>
<b>Site Work/Utilities/Electricity/Infrastructure</b>	<b>\$105,000</b>
<b>Parking Lot (24 spaces)</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>
<b>Kitchen Build Out/Appliances</b>	<b>\$ 30,000</b>
<b>Construction Materials (13 tiny houses, including RA house)</b>	<b>\$205,000</b>
<b>Fence (includes mural paint and supplies)</b>	<b>\$ 30,000</b>
<b>Common Room Buildings/Yurts (including hook ups)</b>	<b>\$ 55,000</b>
<b>Landscaping/Artistic Elements</b>	<b>\$ 20,000</b>
<b>Pathways (wheelchair accessible)</b>	<b>\$ 40,000</b>
<b>Gateway/Entrances (including signage)</b>	<b>\$ 7,000</b>
<b>Restroom Trailer (inc. hook ups and wheelchair ramp)</b>	<b>\$ 70,000</b>
<b>Security System</b>	<b>\$ 20,000</b>
<b>Murals/Art Work</b>	<b>\$ 15,000</b>
<b>Murphy Beds and Furnishings (not including in-kind donations)</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>
<b>Donated Security Cabin (hook ups and improvements)</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>
<b>Project Management/Community Organizing</b>	<b>\$132,000</b>
<b>Total Development Costs</b>	<b>\$824,000</b>
<b>Contingency (@ 8%)</b>	<b>\$ 65,920</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$889,920</b>
<b>Administration/Bookkeeping (@ 10%)</b>	<b>\$ 88,992</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$978,912</b>

**\*Assumes rounding, does not include In-Kind Volunteer Labor**

## Richmond Tiny House Village, Farm, and Garden--Sources of Funds Updated 08/01/24

<u>Government</u>		<u>Status</u>
Contra Costa County Measure X	\$ 65,000	Committed
City of Richmond	\$203,721	In Dev
Total	\$268,721	
<u>Corporations</u>		
Blue Shield	\$ 40,000	In Dev.
Chevron Corp. Fdn.	\$ 50,000	In Dev.
Google	\$ 15,000	In Dev.
Kaiser Family Fdn.	\$ 50,000	In Dev.
UPS	\$ 25,000	In Dev.
Total	\$180,000	
<u>Private Foundations</u>		
Anonymous Family Fdn.	\$ 15,000	Pending
Barretta Family Fdn.	\$ 50,000	Committed
Barretta Family Fdn.	\$ 70,000	In Dev.
East Bay Comm. Fdn.	\$ 2,500	In Dev.
Entertainment Industry Fdn.	\$ 10,000	In Dev.
Frederick J. Isaac Fund	\$ 12,000	In Dev.
Walter S. Johnson Fdn.	\$ 40,000	In Dev.
Miranda Lux Fdn.	\$ 15,000	In Dev.
Red Oak Opportunity Fund	\$ 8,000	½ Committed
SF Fdn. Emergency Response	\$ 15,000	Committed
SF Fdn.	\$ 75,000	In Dev.
Seelig Family Fdn.	\$ 5,000	Pending
Silicon Valley Comm. Fdn.	\$ 75,000	In Dev.
WWH Fdn.	\$ 5,000	In Dev.
Zellerbach Family Fdn.	\$ 8,000	In Dev.
Total	\$405,500	
<u>Religious Funders/Congreg. Gifts</u>		
Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints	\$ 77,000	Committed
Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting	\$ 5,000	Committed
Contra Costa Co. Midrasha	\$ 1,400	Committed
Other Congreg. Gifts	\$ 7,600	1/5 Comm.
Total	\$ 91,000	
<u>Individual Gifts</u>		
Diane Wilsey	\$ 12,000	In Dev.
Elaine Hooker & Herrick Jackson	\$ 12,000	In Dev.
boona cheema	\$ 5,000	Committed
GoFundMe	\$ 15,000	Pending
Robert Seelig	\$ 1,000	Committed
Other Individual Gifts	\$ 9,779	½ Committed
Total	\$ 54,779	
Grand Total	\$1,000,000	

**Tiny Spirit Village- Richmond**

**EXPENSES**

	<b>CY25 (9 mo of salaries, 6 month other costs)</b>	<b>CY26</b>	<b>CY27</b>	<b>Three year total</b>
<b>Personnel</b>				
.05 Program Director				21,593
.125 Program Manager				28,716
.5 FTE Village Manager				97,634
.5 FTE Case Manager				97,634
1 FTE Resident Ass't				129,222
subtotal salaries				371,154
taxes/benefits (23%)	22,296	30,917	32,153	85,365
subtotal personnel	119,233	165,337	171,950	456,520
<b>Program Expenses</b>				
youth program incentives	1,800	1,854	1,910	5,564
case management expenses	4,500	9,270	9,548	23,318
subtotal program	6,300	12,978	13,367	32,645
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
Site security trainees stipends sub (@\$18*24hours*365)	78,840	162,410	167,283	408,533
Site security supervision contract (@\$25/hr x 500 hours +23% fringe)	7,625	15,708	16,179	39,511
Cleaning and sanitizing	4,420	9,105	9,378	22,904
Site maintenance and stability	12,500	25,750	26,523	64,773
security deposit	3,000	6,180	6,365	15,545
maintenance/repairs	6,000	12,360	12,731	31,091
Youth work stipends (@\$18/hr x6 x3hrs/wk x46weeks)	7,452	29,808	29,808	67,068
Insurance	4,750	9,785	10,079	24,614
subtotal operating	124,587	271,106	278,345	674,038

<b>Adminstrative/Overhead (10%)</b>	25,012	44,942	46,366	116,320
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>275,132</b>	<b>449,421</b>	<b>463,662</b>	<b>1,163,203</b>
<b>SOURCES</b>				
Rental subsidies at \$800 per unit (from ERF grant)	28,800	115,200	115,200	259,200
RFCY (40%)	110,053	179,768	185,465	475,286
<b>To Be Raised</b>	<b>136,279</b>	<b>154,452</b>	<b>162,997</b>	<b>453,729</b>
<b>Prospective Funding</b>				
<i>Miranda Lux Foundation</i>	<i>15,000</i>			<i>15,000</i>
<i>Entertainment Industry Foundation</i>	<i>15,000</i>			<i>15,000</i>
<i>Bernard Wilkin Foundation</i>	<i>10,000</i>			<i>10,000</i>
<b>Total Prospective Funding</b>	<b>40,000</b>			<b>40,000</b>
<b>City of Richmond Unspent Funds Request 2024/25</b>	<b>96,279</b>			<b>413,729</b>

**From:** [Diana Wear](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept User](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment Item P.4  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 1, 2024 7:47:32 AM  
**Attachments:** [RGBND ltr of support 10.1.24 email.docx](#)

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October 1, 2024

To: Esteemed Mayor and Richmond City Council

Subject: Public Comment Item P.4

My name is Diana Wear and I serve on the Economic Development Commission. A Subcommittee of our commission reviewed the *Richmond Green-Blue New Deal (RGBND) Opportunities Report* and we strongly endorse this report. We urge you to adopt its recommendations and identify capacity-building resources to start the projects.

The RGBND has the promise of transforming Richmond's economy, workforce, and environment. These projects will fulfill national and state priorities of transitioning to clean renewable energy, eliminating waste, and electrifying our homes and businesses. This will result in a healthier, more prosperous and more beautiful Richmond. RGBND could revitalize port operations and re-animate our manufacturing legacy. The RGBND has the potential to create hundreds of green-blue jobs that uplift Richmond residents.

Richmond has a long industrial history of hosting large employers that manufactured explosives, chemicals, petroleum products, railcars, automobiles, and ships. This industrial legacy brought jobs and infrastructure to the city but also left enduring pollution. The burden of soil pollution at many brownfield sites is compounded by air pollution from stationary and mobile sources that contribute to respiratory and other diseases, giving a compelling reason to speed the Just Transition to a clean-energy, zero-waste future.

The *RGBND Opportunities Report* provides a menu of green-blue jobs projects in renewable energy, building electrification, sustainable transportation, zero waste, green infrastructure and urban forestry, land use, and water. Potential funders from the public and private sectors -- federal and state governments, philanthropy, private financial entities, etc. -- are interested in investing in projects in communities like Richmond. They are waiting for details about which projects the city and community would like to pursue and be open to hearing details about what Richmond needs to implement them. Capacity building to develop grant proposals and business plans is the next step for Richmond to pursue.

Commissioners of the EDC are excited about the opportunities outlined in the RGBND Opportunities Report that will expand our tax base which will in turn be invested in the local community.

Like building the WWII Victory ships, Richmond can again take pride in being the center of

excellence for fulfilling a critical national purpose. This report provides a blueprint for building a just, equitable, resilient, and sustainable future for Richmond...a future that Richmond deserves.

We appreciate the Richmond City Council's leadership on this topic and encourage the City Council to adopt recommendations in this report to catalyze work that protects and enhances the community, environment, and economy for current and future generations.

*Note: this email will also be delivered to the City Council on 10/1/2024.*

**From:** [EDWARD THOMPSON](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept User](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comments - Agenda Item P.4  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 1, 2024 9:39:55 AM

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Dear Richmond City Councilmembers,

The standing subcommittees of the Economic Development Commission - Planning, and Community Engagement reviewed the *Richmond Green-Blue New Deal (RGBND) Opportunities Report*. We strongly endorse this report and urge you to adopt its recommendations and identify capacity-building resources to start the projects.

The RGBND has the promise of transforming Richmond's economy, workforce, and environment. RGBND projects will fulfill national and state priorities of transitioning to clean renewable energy, eliminating waste, and electrifying our homes and businesses. This will result in a cleaner, healthier, more prosperous and more beautiful Richmond. RGBND could revitalize port operations and re-animate our manufacturing legacy. The RGBND will create at least hundreds if not thousands of new high-road green-blue jobs that uplift Richmond residents.

These expected benefits enable Richmond to meet strategic goals established by the City Council. Execution of the RGBND will materially contribute to the achievement of the following goals.

- Improving the quantity and quality of housing, especially low-income housing, and reducing homelessness
- Increasing revenue and improving economic development
- Improving the quality of life, community health, and social determinants of health
- Addressing shoreline issues and ecological sustainability

Like building the WWII Victory ships, Richmond will take pride in being the center of excellence for fulfilling a critical national purpose. This report provides a blueprint for building a just, equitable, resilient, and sustainable future for Richmond...a future that Richmond deserves.

/s/

Don Thompson,  
Commissioner,  
Richmond Economic Development Commission

**From:** [Kathleen Wimer](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept User](#)  
**Cc:** [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Doria Robinson](#); [Cesar Zepeda](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Soheila Bana](#); [Melvin Willis](#)  
**Subject:** Subject: Agenda Item P 4  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 24, 2024 4:21:18 PM

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I urge you NOT to adopt this recommendation which stipulates that appointees to city boards and commissions include no more than 35% members who may be political affiliates. This smacks a whole lot of McCarthyism. "Are you now or have you ever been ...?"

We are not going there either in electing our mayor and city council members to the nonpartisan offices they hold; nor are we going there with respect to the nonpartisan, volunteer service Richmond voters contribute to the operation of our fair city through their participation on boards and commissions.

Our elected city officials hold responsibility for appointing volunteers to boards and commissioners. The Mayor suggests appointments for council concurrence. If council members object to someone the mayor nominates for membership, they are free to register their objection and attempt to persuade other council members to vote with them on appointments.

That's the system we have, and it's a fine system. It permits council members the authority to exercise judgement and makes their role regarding any given appointment transparent. Item P 4 would circumscribe the option council members have regarding nominations to boards and commissions.

Kathleen Wimer  
518 Tremont Avenue  
Richmond, CA  
510-230-4600