

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA,

December 17, 2024, 4:30 p.m.
Community Services Building
440 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA 94804

A. OPEN SESSION TO HEAR PUBLIC COMMENT BEFORE CLOSED SESSION

The meeting was called to order at 4:34 p.m. by Mayor Eduardo Martinez.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Soheila Bana, Gayle McLaughlin, Doria Robinson, Cesar Zepeda, and Mayor Eduardo Martinez. **Absent:** Vice Mayor Claudia Jimenez arrived after adjourning to Closed Session. Councilmember Melvin Willis was absent from the entire meeting.

C. CLOSED SESSION

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

- Agency Representatives: Sharrone Taylor and Jack Hughes

Employee organizations:

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

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

- Winehaven v. City of Richmond

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

Cordell Hindler spoke in support of the labor negotiations and the Winehaven matter.

E. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

F. SPECIAL MEETING OF THE RICHMOND HOUSING AUTHORITY

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m. by Chairperson Eduardo Martinez.

G. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Eduardo Martinez led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

H. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Soheila Bana, Doria Robinson, Gayle McLaughlin, Cesar Zepeda, Vice Chairperson Claudia Jimenez, Chairperson Eduardo Martinez, and Housing Tenant Commissioner Jaycine Scott. **Absent:** Commissioner Melvin Willis.

I. STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

J. AGENDA REVIEW

None.

K. HOUSING AUTHORITY CONSENT CALENDAR

K.1 Nevin Plaza II Lease Disposition and Development Agreement (LDDA)

ADOPT a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a Lease Disposition and Development Agreement (LDDA) and to negotiate and execute any and all related documents and agreements, including the Ground Lease and Regulatory Agreement between the Richmond Housing Authority and EAH Housing for the development of the Nevin Plaza II affordable housing project (APN 515-261-014-2) - Richmond Housing Authority (Antoinette Terrell 510-620-6784/Nannette Beacham 510-621-1306).

Adopted **Resolution No. 2204.**

Motion by Commissioner Doria Robinson

Seconded by Vice Chairperson Claudia Jimenez

Ayes (7): Commissioners Bana, McLaughlin, Robinson, Zepeda, Vice Chairperson Jimenez, Chairperson Martinez, and Tenant Commissioner Jaycine Scott

Absent (1): Councilmember Melvin Willis

Passed

L. HOUSING AUTHORITY NEW BUSINESS

L.1 Nystrom Village Request for Qualifications (RFQ) Presentations, Potential Selection and Exclusive Rights to Negotiate Agreement (ERNA)

RECEIVE a presentation from the top two respondents for the redevelopment of Nystrom Village Request for Qualifications (RFQ); PROVIDE DIRECTION to staff, which may include the identification of a preferred developer; and if a preferred developer is identified, and ADOPT a resolution authorizing the Executive Director of the Richmond Housing Authority (RHA) to negotiate and execute an Exclusive Right to Negotiate Agreement (ERNA) with the selected affordable housing developer with a term not to exceed ninety (90) days with an option for one mutually approved extension of not more than thirty days – Richmond Housing Authority (Antoinette Terrell 510-620-6784/Nannette Beacham 621-1306).

CHDC and Eden Housing link to presentation Dixie Baus, Director of Real Estate Development; Joanna Griffith

Gorman Novin presentation: Kevin Kellog, Nikki Beasley, Iman Nevin, and Stefan Pellegrini

Link to view: [Presentation from EDEN Housing](#)

[Presentation from Gorman and Novin](#)

Discussion ensued.

The City Council requested that the following be included in the project: More electric and green buildings; and housing for the homeless. The council also requested details of the criteria for scoring the developers.

A motion was made to select Gorman & Novin as the developer for the redevelopment for Nystrom Village.

Adopted **Resolution No. 2205.**

Motion by Commissioner Robinson

Seconded by Vice Chairperson Jimenez

Ayes (7): Commissioners Bana, McLaughlin, Robinson, Zepeda, Vice Chairperson Jimenez, Chairperson Martinez, and Tenant Commissioner Jaycine Scott

Absent (1): Commissioner Willis

Passed

M. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

N. JOINT REGULAR MEETING OF THE SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE RICHMOND COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY/RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order at 8:09 p.m. by Mayor Eduardo Martinez.

O. ROLL CALL

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

P. STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

Q. AGENDA REVIEW

Item **V.8.a. - Draft Amendments to City Council Rules of Procedure and Order** was withdrawn from the agenda in order to appoint an ad-hoc committee and would return to the city council at a city council meeting in February 2025.

Items **V.11.a. - AB 481 "Military Equipment Use" Annual Report** and Item **V.11.b.- Sanctuary City Compliance Exception for software applications by LexisNexis** were continued to the January 7, 2025, City Council meeting.

Item **X.3. - Police Officer Retention and Lateral Police Officer Recruitment Program** was continued to a city council meeting in February 2025.

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

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

· Agency Representatives: Sharrone Taylor and Jack Hughes

Employee organizations:

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

Direction was provided. No final action was taken.

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

· Winehaven v. City of Richmond

Item discussed. No final action was taken.

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

City Manager Shasa Curl presented the report.

Link to presentation: [City Manager Report](#)

T. 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)

Cordell Hindler gave comments regarding the need to hire a Port Administrator.

Leah Simon Weisberg, Alma Ramirez, Yolanda Flores and Jane Courant, and David Sharples gave comments in support of the rental inspection program

Diana Wear, BK Williams, David Sharples, and Jamin Pursell thanked Councilmember McLaughlin for her time and dedication for over 20 years as a Richmond Mayor and Councilmember.

Mark Wassberg gave comments regarding transgenders.

Don Gosney gave comments regarding new businesses and residential developments that were built in neighboring cities.

LeJon Reese asked when the MLK teen center rebuild would begin.

Kelly Ferguson gave comments regarding an energy project between the City of Richmond and ENGIE.

Jeff Kilbrete, Marilyn Langlois, Kathleen Wimer, Michael Gliksohn, Jane Courant, Emily Ross, Sara Cantor, thanked Councilmembers McLaughlin and Willis for their service.

Keycha Gallon requested help for the Richmond youth

Raelyn Rose, Ashley, Scarborough, Emily Ross, Sara Cantor, and Jamin Pursell gave comments in support of Item V.3.f - Resolution declaring the City of Richmond a Sanctuary City for Transgender people.

Soheila Bana gave comments about the winter solstice celebration on December 21, 2024, at the El Sobrante Night Farmers Market

Ruthie Dineen thanked everyone for the success of the downtown main street holiday festival.

**U. SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE RICHMOND COMMUNITY
REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY CONSENT CALENDAR**

Motion by Mayor Eduardo Martinez

Seconded by Councilmember Gayle McLaughlin

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

U.1 Approval of the Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule (ROPS 25-26) and the Administrative Budget for the period July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026

ADOPT a resolution approving the Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule (ROPS 25-26) and the Administrative Budget for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026 - Community Development Department (Lina Velasco 510-620-67060.

Adopted **Resolution No. 24-1.**

V. CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

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

Motion by Councilmember Cesar Zepeda

Seconded by Councilmember Doria Robinson

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

V.1 City Attorney's Office

V.1.a Ordinance Creating New Business Activity Classification, "Class Q – Automobile Dealerships" and the Corresponding Rates

INTRODUCE an ordinance (first reading) amending Chapter 7.04.103 of the Richmond Municipal Code by creating a new Business Activity Classification, Class Q – Automobile Dealerships, and the corresponding rates – City Attorney’s Office (Dave Aleshire 510-620-5454/Andrea Miller 510-620-6790).

- V.1.b First Amendments to the Legal Services Agreements with Nevers, Palazzo, Packard, Wildermuth & Wynner, P.C., and Bertrand, Fox, Elliot, Osman, & Wenzel for Winehaven

APPROVE first amendments to the legal services agreements with: 1) Nevers, Palazzo, Packard, Wildermuth & Wynner, PC, to add \$200,000 for an amount not to exceed \$375,000 with term ending June 30, 2025; and 2) Bertrand, Fox, Elliot, Osman, & Wenzel to add \$200,000 for an amount not to exceed \$300,000 with term ending June 30, 2026 and APPROPRIATE \$400,000 from the General Fund to cover these fees – City Attorney’s Office (Shannon Moore 510-620-6505).

- V.1.c Appropriation of funds and first amendment to Legal Services Agreement for City Attorney with Aleshire & Wynder, LLP

APPROPRIATE \$154,626.48 from the General Fund to the City Attorney Department’s Fiscal Year 24-25 budget and APPROVE a first amendment to the legal services agreement with Aleshire & Wynder, LLP, to increase the compensation by \$154,626.48, for an amount not to exceed \$1,079,626.48, for City Attorney services - City Attorney’s Office (Shannon Moore 510-620-6509/Andrea Miller 510-620-6790).

V.2 City Clerk's Office

- V.2.a Canvass of Returns, November 5, 2024, General Election

ADOPT a resolution Declaring the Canvass of Returns and Results of the General Municipal Election held on November 5, 2024 – City Clerk’s Office (Pamela Christian 510-620-6513).

Adopted **Resolution No. 147-24.**

- V.2.b Amendments and Updates to the Boards and Commissions Handbook

APPROVE amendments to the Boards and Commissions Handbook to address members reapplying to the same board, commission, or committee after a waiting period and the process for members to obtain a Gmail account for City of Richmond business only – City Clerk’s Office (Pamela Christian 510-620-6513).

V.3 City Council

- V.3.a Amending the Richmond Municipal Code to Include Wildfire Hardening in Real Property Transfer Tax Exceptions

DIRECT the City Attorney’s Office to draft an ordinance to amend the Richmond Municipal Code, Real Property Transfer Tax Exceptions, to include a rebate for "wildfire hardening" expenses, encouraging property owners to implement proven fire prevention measures - Councilmembers Soheila Bana (510-672-3490) and Gayle McLaughlin (510-620-6636).

- V.3.b Authorize emergency financial support to sustain unhoused services at Richmond’s family shelter -GRIP (Greater Richmond Interfaith Program)

AUTHORIZE the city manager to negotiate and execute an emergency, short-term, no-interest loan agreement for \$500,000 with GRIP to ensure uninterrupted family homeless shelter and emergency warming center for Richmond's unhoused residents - Vice Mayor Claudia Jimenez (510-620-6565), Councilmembers Doria Robinson (510-620-6568), and Gayle McLaughlin (510-620-6636).

- V.3.c Create a plan to offer simultaneous Spanish-English translation during all Richmond City Council Meetings starting in FY 25-26

DIRECT city staff to: 1) research solutions other jurisdictions are using to offer simultaneous translation services during Council meetings; 2) create a plan to offer, at minimum, simultaneous Spanish-English translation in person, and on zoom at every council meeting; 3) set up a clear system for those who speak languages other than Spanish and want to participate in a City council meeting to request FREE translation support in advance of a City Council meeting. Translation service requests should offer an online, telephone and in person option through the clerk's office; 4) to make available by request translation of meeting agendas, within a reasonable time frame, into languages other than English; 5) to, at minimum, make sure that starting January 1, 2026, Spanish subtitles are available for all KCRT City Council meeting recordings; 6) to research, draft and include in the Fiscal Year 25 -26 budget the funding necessary to support this plan; and 7) to complete the execution of this plan by December 31, 2025, so that new language access services could start as soon as, or sooner than, January 1, 2026 - Vice Mayor Claudia Jimenez (510-620-6565), Councilmembers Doria Robinson (510-620-6568), and Gayle McLaughlin (510-620-6636).

The item would not be executed nor implemented until the total budget amount is known. A presentation by staff with research outcome and budget estimate would be made at a city council meeting in March 2025 and direction would be adjusted at that time if necessary.

- V.3.d Railroad Crossings Grant Writer -a multi district effort that prioritizes neighborhoods with limited emergency access

DIRECT staff to utilize a grant writer from the 18 pre-approved vendor list to provide on-call grant writing, grant seeking, or other grant-related services to pursue railroad crossing elimination program funding, federal funding, state funding, and funding from the Federal Railroad Administration, 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 and to come back to City Council with a selected grant writer by February 2025. DIRECT the city manager to designate a project manager to help manage the grant writer and manage funding for the projects at the various identified locations and to have grant writer identified and applied for grant by June 2025 - Councilmember Cesar Zepeda (510-620-6593).

- V.3.e Development of Parchester Area Infrastructure Plan and Interim Drainage Measures

DIRECT City staff to collaborate with Veolia to implement short-term measures addressing drainage challenges in Parchester Village during the

upcoming rainy season and DIRECT City staff to prepare the scope, timeline, and cost estimate for a comprehensive Parchester Area Infrastructure Plan to identify long-term solutions and present planning details and a timeline to the Water Recovery Ad Hoc Committee in Quarter 1 of 2025 and return to the City Council during the spring 2025 budget cycle for consideration as part of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) - Councilmember Cesar Zepeda (510-620-6593).

V.3.f Resolution Declaring the City of Richmond a Sanctuary City for Transgender People

ADOPT a resolution to declare the City of Richmond a sanctuary city for transgender individuals seeking gender-affirming care and to extend protections to providers who offer gender-affirming care and that no city resources - including staff time - would be used to detain individuals seeking or providing care, or otherwise to cooperate with jurisdictions seeking to enforce laws criminalizing gender-affirming care in other jurisdictions - Councilmember Cesar Zepeda (510-620-6593).

Adopted **Resolution No. 148-24.**

V.4 Community Development

V.4.a Encampment Resolution Funding Round 3 Award Acceptance and Appropriation

ADOPT a resolution accepting and appropriating a \$9,336,746 Encampment Resolution Funding Round 3 (ERF-3-R) award to provide services and support for people living in Citywide encampments onto paths to safe and stable housing, and employment opportunities – Community Development Department (Lina Velasco/Jesus Morales 510-620-6649).

Adopted **Resolution No. 149-24.**

V.4.b Acceptance and Appropriation of Hellman Foundation Grants

ADOPT a resolution accepting and appropriating two \$250,000 Hellman Foundation grants received by the City to support the development of an asset management system for parks and recreation centers, and supporting the design development of the Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center – Community Development Department (Lina Velasco 510-620-6841/LaShonda White 510-620-6828).

Adopted **Resolution No. 150-24.**

V.4.c Ocean Protection Council (OPC) SB 1 Grant

ADOPT a resolution accepting and appropriating a \$1.5 million SB 1 grant from the California Ocean Protection Council and AUTHORIZE the city manager to negotiate and execute a contract amendment No. 1 with Mithun, Inc. to modify the contract scope and increase the budget by \$1,010,000, for a not to exceed total amount of \$1,410,000, through June 30, 2027, to prepare the City's SB272-compliant Sub-regional Shoreline Adaption Plan – Community Development Department (Lina Velasco/Avery Stark 510-620-6714).

Adopted **Resolution No. 151-24.**

V.4.d Partnership for the Bay’s Future (PBF) Memorandum of Understanding

ADOPT a resolution authorizing the city manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the San Francisco Foundation and Coro Northern California for a Partnership for the Bay’s Future Housing Fellow to work on housing Preservation, Production, and Protection policies – Community Development Department (Lina Velasco/Jesus Morales 510-620-6649).

Adopted **Resolution No. 152-24.**

V.4.e Exempt Surplus Land Resolution for Homekey Ground Lease

ADOPT a resolution determining and declaring land to be acquired by the City and subsequently ground leased to 425 Civic Center LP to be Exempt Surplus Land pursuant to Government Code Section 54221(f)(1)(A) regarding the Homekey Project to convert an existing motel located at 425 24th Street (APN 515-200-003) to a 48-unit permanent supportive housing development for formerly homeless households – Community Development Department (Lina Velasco 510-620-6841/Nannette Beacham 510-621-1306).

Adopted **Resolution No. 153-24.**

V.4.f CSW/ST2 Contract Amendment No. 2 for Miraflores

APPROVE a contract amendment No. 2 with CSW/ST2 to modify the scope and budget related to the board up and securing of the historic structures at the Miraflores site, for a not to exceed amount of \$55,698.50, which further allows a contingency amount equal to 10 percent of the quoted price, for a term ending June 30, 2026 – Community Development Department (Lina Velasco 510-620-6841).

V.4.g Residential Rental Inspection Program Ordinance Amendments

INTRODUCE an ordinance (first reading) amending Richmond Municipal Code Chapter 6.40 Residential Rental Dwelling Unit Inspection and Maintenance to eliminate the self-certification process, expand units covered, including certain affordable housing units, and add other amendments to enhance the program – Community Development Department (Lina Velasco 510-620-6841/George Kabaivanov 510-620-6649).

V.5 Economic Development

V.5.a Port Performance Audit Management Update

RECEIVE management updates on the findings from the Government Performance & Policy (GPP) Analytics Port Management and Performance Audit; and ACCEPT the City’s plan to implement auditor recommendations – Port/Finance Department (Nickie Mastay 510-620-6565/Andrea Miller 510-620-6790/Nannette Beacham 510-621-1306/Charles Gerard 510-829-2253).

V.5.b Annual Solid Waste Rate Adjustment

ADOPT a resolution to update the 2025 solid waste collection rates for January 1, 2025, until the end of the current contract on June 30, 2025 –

Economic Development Department (Samantha Carr 510-620-5407/
Nannette Beacham 510-620-1306).

Adopted **Resolution No. 154-24.**

V.6 Finance Department

- V.6.a Investment and Cash Balance Report, Monthly Overtime Reports, and Documentary Transfer Tax Report for the Month of October 2024

RECEIVE the City's Investment and Cash Balance Report, Monthly Overtime Reports, and Documentary Transfer Tax Report for the month of October 2024 – Finance Department (Andrea Miller 510-620-6740).

V.7 Human Resources

- V.7.a City Holiday Closure from December 24, 2024, through January 1, 2025

ADOPT a resolution approving the Side Letters between the City of Richmond and Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 1021 (Full-Time and Part-Time Units) and International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE) Local 21 (Mid-Management and Executive Management Units) regarding the holiday closure for December 2024 – Human Resources Department (Sharrone Taylor/Nickie Mastay 510-620-6602).

Adopted **Resolution No. 155-24.**

- V.7.b Allocate \$48,325 for the Race Forward Equity Training Contract and four CPS Human Resources Consulting DEI training courses held in Oct. 2024

APPROPRIATE \$48,325 for Race Equity training courses and DIRECT staff to return to City Council with a update of the Race Equity Program by March 2025 - Human Resources Department/City Council Administration (Sharrone Taylor/Trina Jackson Lincoln 510-620-6581).

V.8 Internal Services

- V.8.a Draft Amendments to City Council Rules of Procedure and Order

DIRECT staff to prepare amendments the City Council Rules of Procedure and Order to: 1) hold two City Council meetings each month; 2) require Councilmembers to submit agenda items by noon two Fridays before the Thursday publication of the agenda; 3) commence the Council recess in July to better align with the school district's time off; and, 4) develop minor procedural changes to comport with how the meetings are currently conducted - City Manager's Office/City Clerk's Office/City Attorney's Office (Shasa Curl/Pamela Christian/Shannon Moore 510-620-6512).

Item withdrawn to a future city council meeting in February 2025 in order to appoint an ad-hoc committee.

V.9 Library and Community Services

- V.9.a Second Amended Contract between the City of Richmond and Trans Metro Inc. for On-Call Paratransit Services

APPROVE the second amended contract with Trans Metro Inc. (TMI), to support paratransit van services for seniors and individuals with disabilities residing in Richmond and in municipalities in West County, in

an amount not to exceed \$140,000, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$400,000, extending the term through December 31, 2025 - Community Services Department (LaShonda White 510-620-6828/ Lori Reese 510-620-6869).

V.9.b Contract with Bonterra Tech for Apricot 360 Case Management and Data Management Software Services

APPROVE a contract with Bonterra Tech for the Apricot 360 case management software for the Community Crisis Response Program for an amount not to exceed \$87,260, for a contract term from December 17, 2024, through December 16, 2027 - Community Services Department (Sam Vaughn 510-620-5404/Michael Romero 510-620-6791).

V.9.c FY 2025-2026 Environmental Community and Investment Agreement (ECIA) Competitive Grant Program

ACKNOWLEDGE the release of the Request for Application and Guidelines for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Environmental and Community Investment Agreement (ECIA) Competitive Grant Program for Categories 1-4, with an annual allocation of \$650,000 – City Manager’s Office (Patrick Seals/Nicholas Delgado/Guadalupe Morales 510-620-6512).

V.9.d Contract With All Seasons Ice Company To Provide Ice For Snow Day

APPROVE a three-year contract with All Seasons Ice Company in a not to exceed amount of \$21,000, to provide 10 tons of ice for a fee of \$7,000 annually, and a donation of 20 tons of ice during the Winter Break Camp in December of 2024, 2025, and 2026, with a contract term from December 17, 2024, through December 31, 2026 – Community Services Department (Tetteh Kisseh 510-620-6919/Ranjana Maharaj 510-620-6792/LaShonda White 510-620-6828).

V.9.e Acceptance of Five Grants Totaling \$1,743,360 in Grant Funds from Various Sources to Provide Occupational Skills Training, in High-Growth, High Wage Industries, for Richmond Youth and Adults

ACCEPT and APPROPRIATE \$1,743,360 in grant funds received from the U.S. Department of Labor YouthBuild, Office of Economic and Workforce Development, Construction Training Workforce Initiative, James Irvine Foundation, and the California Employment Training Panel; and AUTHORIZE the city manager or her designee to execute grant-related documents – Community Services Department (Tamara Walker 510-307-8006/LaShonda White 510-620-6828).

V.9.f Purchase of Library Delivery Van

APPROVE the purchase of a 2024 Ford Transit T-250 cargo van from National Auto Fleet Group in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$60,000 – Community Services Department (Christopher Larsen 510-620-5524/ Kate Eppler 510-620-5452).

V.10 Mayor's Office

V.10.a Appointment of Whitney Tipton to the Richmond Rent Board

APPOINT Whitney Tipton to the Richmond Rent Board with a term that expires on March 21, 2025 – Mayor’s Office (Mayor Eduardo Martinez 510-620-6503).

V.10.b Appointment of Xiomara Casias to the Human Rights and Human Relations Commission

APPOINT Xiomara Casias to the Human Rights and Human Relations Commission with a term that expires on March 30, 2025 – Mayor’s Office (Mayor Eduardo Martinez 510-620-6503).

V.11 Police Department

V.11.a AB 481 “Military Equipment Use” Annual Report

ADOPT a resolution accepting the 2023 annual military equipment report, determining that the military equipment in 2023 complied with Richmond Police Department Policy 707 and determining that policy 707 will be accepted with recommended amendments; and RECEIVE staff recommendations for additional resources - Police Department (Bisa French 510-621-1802).

Item continued to the January 7, 2025, City Council meeting.

V.11.b Sanctuary City Compliance Exception for software applications by LexisNexis

APPROVE a request for LexisNexis to waive the requirement to sign and comply with the Sanctuary City Compliance form, in order for LexisNexis to provide software application services to Richmond Police Department staff – Police Department (Chief Bisa French 510-621-1802).

Item continued to the January 7, 2025, City Council meeting.

V.11.c Second Contract Amendment with Axon Enterprise

APPROVE a five-year contract amendment with Axon Enterprise in an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000, which includes a 7.4 percent contingency, extend the contract term for five years for a total contract term October 1, 2016, to September 30, 2031, providing a cost savings of \$1,886,504.54 if the amendment is executed before December 31, 2024 - Police Department (Chief Bisa French 621-1802).

V.12 Public Works

V.12.a November 2024 Abatement Presentation

RECEIVE a presentation on the November 2024 Abatement activities – Public Works Department (Hugo Mendoza 510-231-3030/Tawfic Halaby 510-620-5482/Daniel Chavarria 510-620-5478)

V.12.b Resolution to Appropriate Funds in the Engineering Grant Fund and Approve a Contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

ADOPT a resolution to APPROPRIATE funds in the amount of \$292,000 from the Engineering Grant Fund 1054, and APPROVE a contract agreement with Kimley Horn and Associates, Inc. for the South Cutting Boulevard at-grade crossing at Carlson Boulevard Improvement Project in

an amount not to exceed \$550,841; and AUTHORIZE the director of public works to approve change orders, if necessary, for a contingency amount of up to \$82,630 which is 15 percent of the contract amount, for a potential total not to exceed contract amount of \$633,471, with a contract term from December 18, 2024, through June 30, 2027 – Public Works Department (Hillal Hamdan 510-621-1612/Robert Armijo 510-620-5477/Daniel Chavarria 510-620-5478).

Adopted **Resolution No. 156-24.**

- V.12.c Resolution to terminate West County Agency Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) and approve operating agreements between City of Richmond and West County Wastewater.

ADOPT a resolution agreeing to terminate the West County Agency Joint Powers Agreement and APPROVE the operating agreements between the City of Richmond and West County Wastewater for the operation and maintenance of assets owned by each agency - Public Works Department (Daniel Chavarria 510-620-5478/Robert Armijo 510-620-5477).

Adopted **Resolution No. 157-24.**

- V.12.d Resolution to Approve Three As-Needed Contracts for Vehicle Body Repairs

ADOPT a resolution approving three-year as-needed contracts with three vendors, Andy's Auto Body, Falcon Collision Repairs, Inc., and Ron DuPratt Ford, for vehicle body repairs in an amount not to exceed \$50,000, per year per vendor, beginning January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2027, with two optional one-year extensions in the amount not to exceed \$50,000, per year per vendor – Public Works Department (Tawfic Halaby 510-620-5482/Daniel Chavarria 510-620-5478).

Adopted **Resolution No. 158-24.**

W. STATE OF THE CITY

W.1 State of the City Address by Mayor Eduardo Martinez

RECEIVE the Annual State of the City Address from Mayor Eduardo Martinez – Mayor Eduardo Martinez (510-620-6503).

Mayor Martinez presented the State of the City Address.

Link to view presentation: [State of the City Address](#)

Cordell Hindler, Jamin Pursell, and Kirby Lynch gave comments.

X. NEW BUSINESS

X.1 BART presentation

RECEIVE a presentation from Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) regarding The Role in the Region Report - Mayor's Office (Mayor Eduardo Martinez 510-620-6503).

Bradley Dunn, Bay Area Rapid Transit Manager of Local Government and Community Relations presented the report.

Link to presentation: [BART Role in the Region Report](#)

Cordell Hindler gave comments.

(Councilmember Bana left the meeting at 10:45 p.m.)

X.2 Presentation on The Concept of Villages For The Unhoused

RECEIVE a presentation from Richmond’s Village Development Team on the benefit of villages for the unhoused – Councilmember Gayle McLaughlin (510-620-6636).

Daniel Barth presented a PowerPoint.

Link to presentation: [Villages for the Unhoused](#)

Discussion ensued.

*(At 10:57 p.m. - A motion by Councilmember McLaughlin, seconded by Vice Mayor Jimenez, extended the meeting until the end of Item X.2., passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers McLaughlin, Robinson, Zepeda, Vice Mayor Jimenez, and Mayor Martinez. **Noes:** None. **Absent:** Councilmembers Bana and Willis. **Abstain:** None).*

The Villages would not be considered as long-term housing.

*(At 11:28 p.m. - A motion by Councilmember McLaughlin, seconded by Mayor Martinez, suspended the rules and extended the meeting until the end of speakers for Item X.2., passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers McLaughlin, Robinson, Zepeda, Vice Mayor Jimenez, and Mayor Martinez. **Noes:** None. **Absent:** Councilmembers Bana and Willis. **Abstain:** None).*

Marcela Hidalgo, Angelina Pena, Jeff Wright, and Sara Cantor gave comments.

Further discussion ensued.

X.3 Police Officer Retention and Lateral Police Officer Recruitment Program

RECEIVE an update on police recruitment and retention promising practices to increase staffing beyond 121 sworn officers; and PROVIDE direction to staff – Police Department (Chief Bisa French 510-621-1802).

Item was continued to a February 2025, City Council meeting.

Y. 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.

Z. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:36 p.m., to meet again on January 7, 2025.

Clerk of the City of Richmond

Mayor



Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Name	Email	Comment	Position	Status
City Council						
12/17/2024 4:30 PM	Amending the Richmond Municipal Code to Include Wildfire Hardening in Real Property Transfer Tax Exceptions	Laurent Liscia	lliscia@gmail.com	Dear Council Members and Mayor, There is much to applaud on this agenda, from offering a safe haven to transgender people to training youth for better jobs, to focusing more vigorously on wildfire-related issues (and their corollary: the insane rise in insurance costs, which combined with Richmond's hefty property tax will soon make it impossible for regular people like me to live here). This is commendable work, thanks. I'm troubled, however, not to see enough effort going into reversing the effects of the misguided "defund the police" policy	For	Appro

that has devastated our communities with crime ever since. Between the skyrocketing insurance costs and the daily parade of crimes, it's as if there were an orchestrated plan to drive people out of this area. We are now actively considering moving to a zip code where it's not safe just for transgender people, but for everyone to live. I am asking Richmond to at the very least fill its police vacancies, and minimally restore policing to its former levels, and finally, expand policing to meet the needs of Richmond constituents. This, along with basic concepts like protecting citizenry from wildfire and insurance risks, will help us stay in

place and vote
more confidently.

12/17/2024 4:30
PM

Resolution
Declaring the City
of Richmond a
Sanctuary City for
Transgender
People

michael aholinbeck

Thank you for
considering this
Resolution. As
transgender folks
are targeted for
oppression and
erasure across the
country and the
world, I appreciate
that Richmond is
taking a stand in
this manner. The
upcoming years
are going to be
stressful at best.
Thank you!

For

Appro

From: [David Stevens](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Open Forum
Date: Tuesday, December 17, 2024 10:09:32 AM

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I would like to thank outgoing city council members Gayle McLaughlin and Melvin Willis for their service to Richmond. They have always kept the needs of the people of the city as their focus. They have also held the needs of the citizens above the needs of corporations.

David Stevens
Richmond resident

From: [Johanna Ferman](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Cc: [BK Williams Productions](#); [Tomas Moran](#)
Subject: Honoring Gail McLoughlin and Melvin Willis for their extraordinary contributions
Date: Tuesday, December 17, 2024 12:56:43 PM

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You don't often get email from jfermanmd@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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First and foremost, this is to put on record the enormity of our gratitude for the long-standing contributions of both Gail and Melvin. (We have been unable to locate this item on the Agenda)

I wish we were not traveling today into this evening -- literally as you convene for a Council meeting that is to be the last for both of these extraordinary public servants.

Specifically, on this their last public forum, we honor their efforts on behalf of bringing an Arts Corridor to life for Richmond -- being aware as we are of the significant impact that artists and the arts have had in not only restoring but revitalizing urban and other spaces in the United States and internationally. We have seen the impact of such efforts in the 18th and VIne Corridor in Kansas City, home to jazz great Charlie Parker and others -- and hope to see a similar outpouring of support for Richmond's multi-venue Arts Corridor.

With Richmond as home to numerous artists and arts organizations of long-standing, the Initiative now set in motion will redound to the benefit of the community into the future.

Thanking each of them for their vision and tenacity in standing behind this grass-roots effort, now underway through the leadership of BK Williams and those working alongside of her.

With every good wish for the future of this wonderful City --

Tomás Moran and Johanna Ferman
Residents of Richmond and deep supporters of the Arts Corridor

(please note: we were not able to find this item on the open forum for the agenda tonight)

--

Johanna Ferman, M.D.
Principal
Integrus Health Group



www.integrushealth.com
510.789.7270

From: [KarenKidwell](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: 2) public comments – Open Forum
Date: Tuesday, December 17, 2024 9:27:00 AM

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I would like to thank outgoing city council member Melvin Willis for your unwavering and heart-felt dedication to the people of Richmond, especially those who are often forgotten or have no voice. With your progressive and inclusive vision you have helped make Richmond a better place for all of its residents. You will be greatly missed by the many whose lives have been bettered, not just by what you have accomplished but by who you are as a person. Thank you for representing us as our council member for these many years. Wishing you all the best in your future endeavors.

From: [Karishma Johnson](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Agenda Items V.3.B, V.11.B
Date: Tuesday, December 17, 2024 11:08:18 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I am reaching out in regards to agenda items to be discussed during the City Council Meeting for December 17th, 2024.

V.3.B

In favor of V.3.B, to authorize emergency financial support to sustain unhoused services. The unhoused are equally our community members and deserve these opportunities to maintain their health and happiness.

V.11.B

- APPROVE a request for LexisNexis to waive the requirement to sign and comply with the Sanctuary City Compliance form, in order for LexisNexis to provide software application services to Richmond Police Department staff – Police Department (Chief Bisa French 510-621-1802).

Sanctuary City Ordinance are used to prevent authorities from collaborating with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

LexisNexis is responsible for millions of reports linking citizens and noncitizens alike and making these available to ICE as part of their \$22.1m contract.

This email is in direct opposition of V.11.B requesting exemption from the Sanctuary City Ordinance. We should continue to prohibit overlap of city resources, property, and personnel from being utilized in federal immigration enforcement.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Karishma Johnson
Richmond, CA

From: [Police Commission](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: FW: AGENDA ITEM V.11.B
Date: Monday, December 16, 2024 6:40:51 PM

Hello Clerks,

This was received in the Police Commission's email inbox.

Thank you,
Shané Johnson
City Manager's Office
450 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 300
Richmond, CA 94804
510-620-5458
510-620-6542 fax

From: Jacquelyne Espejo-Vera <jacky.vera@acterra.org>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 2:58 PM
To: Police Commission <cprc@ci.richmond.ca.us>
Subject: AGENDA ITEM V.11.B

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Hello City Council,

I am against the Richmond Police Department exemption. Richmond is a Sanctuary City and it needs to stay that way. We need to protect our undocumented community members and keep them safe. As the wife of a Richmond DACA recipient, the RPD putting that on the agenda greatly upset me. My husband now has a green card, but we will continue to advocate for our undocumented community. My husband would not have been able to study computer science at UC Santa Cruz without DACA and the support he received from Catholic Charities in Richmond. As Richmond residents, we urge the Richmond City Council to reject the Richmond Police Department exemption and emphasize that the city of Richmond will continue to be a Sanctuary City. We do not want families to be separated in our city.

Best,
Jacquelyne Marlene Espejo Vera
Pronouns: she/ her
Community Engagement Specialist

Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet

acterra.org | [*Subscribe*](#)

(619) 804-1959

From: [Madison Mennie](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: AGENDA ITEM V.11.b
Date: Tuesday, December 17, 2024 12:58:36 PM

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Good Afternoon,

I would like to express that I am against agenda item V.11.b. Please do NOT approve this item to sell data to ICE. I would like Richmond to remain a sanctuary city and a city that encourages peace and safety for everyone.

Thank you,
Madi Mennie
Zip Code: 94804

From: [Noel Rohayem](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Agenda item V.11.B
Date: Tuesday, December 17, 2024 10:58:09 AM

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A sanctuary city is just that, a sanctuary city. Any attempt to bypass this and work with ICE is a betrayal to the citizens of this city and oversteps the rights of local government. I implore the city council to vote against allowing the use of LexisNexis or any software that would compromise citizens' personal information.

From: [Alan Odom](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Soheila Bana](#); [City of Richmond](#); [City of Richmond](#)
Cc: [Alan B. Odom](#); [Simone Odom](#)
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item X.3
Date: Sunday, December 15, 2024 9:50:02 AM

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Dear Mayor Martinez,

On the Richmond City Council Meeting this Dec. 17th, Police Chief Bisa French will be bringing a proposal to your council to incentivize Richmond Police Department recruiting and retention efforts, Agenda Item X.3, know as the 'Police Officer Retention and Lateral Police Officer Recruitment Program'. Despite the best efforts of our Police Leadership, the city continues to be extremely short staffed on police officers. Since 2020/2021 there has been immense difficulty recruiting and retaining officers in the department. The hope that this plan will garner more interest from potential candidates and keep the officers that we've invested in from leaving.

Being a lifelong Richmond resident and 25 year homeowner I have seen firsthand the impacts of a diminished and beleaguered Police Force which Richmond currently has; this is a direct result of the defunding by the City Council in 2021. FYI, RPD used to have nearly 200 officers. Now it has a budget for 146 officers; currently, there are 20 vacancies. (The Matrix study shows we need 244 officers.) Chief French is requesting a budget for a lateral recruitment program to fill the vacancies.

In a public statement in support of this Program, Police Chief French further elaborates on the disabled and disorganized state of policing and states...

Quote

"...Since that time we have had difficulty recruiting and retaining officers in our department. In late 2020 is when the defund conversation initially began with the council and 2021 when positions were taken from the police department. I made it clear that if the defunding happened, there would be negative impacts to our response times and our ability to respond to calls for service. My concerns fell on deaf ears and the officers were left feeling devalued and unsupported. In 2021 alone, 26 officers left the department and in 2022, 27 officers left. This reduced staffing further impacted our department. Despite these challenges, my staff has continued to respond to calls and provide the best service they can. We've focused on violent crime and last year had the lowest homicide rate on record. However, just as suspected and expressed during the defunding conversation, we aren't able to address the quality of life issues that the community is regularly impacted by. Many times we have to try to address these concerns with officers working on overtime. The appeal for overtime used to draw officers in but they've been forced to work mandatory overtime for so long that they are burnt out and exhausted. They are going from call to call during their shifts and there isn't much time for proactive enforcement.

All of the ancillary units that supported our service response have been cut because we cannot staff them. We no longer have a stand alone traffic unit to address traffic safety issues. We no longer have a foot and bike patrol unit to proactively patrol and engage the business districts. We no longer have a narcotics unit to deal with illegal drug sales. We no longer have a regulatory unit, yet we are again tasked with the enforcement of smoke shops because they've been unregulated. We no longer have a violence suppression unit so when shootings and homicides occurred we force officers to work overtime to impact the areas to prevent additional shootings. We no longer have a parole or probation unit to make sure the people entering our community after incarceration are abiding by the terms of their release. We no longer have a school resource unit so beat officers are forced to respond to school issues. We no longer have a mental health response team to preventatively work with our community members with

mental health challenges and prevent mental health crisis'. Our investigations unit is less than half of what it used to be (from 50ish detectives to less than 15) so many cases do not receive the proper time and attention to solve. The lack of these resources leaves us in a position in which we are forced to be re-active to problems instead of proactively preventing problems.

I am just as frustrated with our situation as the community is. I want to be able to provide the same level of service as we were able to pre 2021 but I cannot do it with the amount of staff I have. We continue to work aggressively on hiring but we've been unable to fill our vacancies despite having hired 42 officers in the past two years."

Unquote

I sincerely urge you and the members of our council to pass and budget this proposal without hesitation. The health and safety of Richmonds residents' lies at your feet, and is in your hands. Please choose wisely this season of caring.

With gratitude,
Alan & Simone Odom
May Valley, Richmond, CA

From: [Carl Fritzsche](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item X.3
Date: Sunday, December 15, 2024 11:11:56 AM

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Richmond City Council Members:

Thank you for the work you are doing to maintain and enhance the quality of life and safety for all Richmond residents. I am writing to support Chief Bisa French's Police Officer Retention and Lateral Police Officer Recruitment Program.

As a relatively new resident of Richmond (I moved here from Alameda in 2022,) I am proud of the progress I have witnessed here in Richmond. However, the urgent challenges that the Richmond Police Department faces must be addressed immediately to prevent a severe and potentially long-term decline in safety and quality of life in our great city. I urge you to provide the funds necessary to implement this Police Officer Retention and Lateral Police Officer Recruitment Program.

In addition to supporting Chief French's Police Officer Retention and Lateral Police Officer Recruitment Program, I would support more comprehensive efforts, with the necessary funding, to increase the total number of sworn officers and ancillary staff to the levels recommended by the Matrix Consulting Group study.

Again, thank you all for the work you are doing to maintain and enhance the quality of life and safety of all Richmond residents.

Sincerely,

Carl Fritzsche
5300 Coach Drive
Richmond, CA 94803

From: agentlenest@comcast.net
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Cc: [Soheila Bana](#)
Subject: Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item X.3
Date: Tuesday, December 17, 2024 9:26:53 AM

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To: City Clerk
Re: Chief of Police Proposal on police officers' recruitment and retention program

We are residents of Richmond, CA. We strongly support Police Chief Bisa French's proposal to incentivize recruitment and retention of police officers in order to adequately provide crucial and vital services protecting the safety of residents in the City.

Respectfully,

Catherine Ma
Richard Hathorn
5365 Coach Drive
Richmond, CA 94803

From: [Deborah Sampson-Johannes](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: agenda item x.3
Date: Tuesday, December 17, 2024 9:24:49 AM

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To the city council:
It was a bad idea to defund the police, and I support re-funding them!
Resident homeowner
Deborah Sampson
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Don Lau](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Support for Item X3 on 12/17 agenda
Date: Monday, December 16, 2024 7:58:59 AM

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Dear Mayor and Richmond City Council members

I am in support of Chief Bisa French's proposal to increase recruitment efforts for RPD. The department is short staffed and unable to provide the support we need in the community. I strongly encourage you to support our Chief's proposal

Don Lau
17 Powder Bowl Ct,
Richmond, CA 94803

From: [Jeanette Beard](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public comment agenda item X.3
Date: Friday, December 13, 2024 8:37:44 PM

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The police department staffing has reached ridiculously low levels. There are other things that should be cut before police staffing. I know of a very scary incident where police were called, and they didn't respond for 45 minutes while a crazy man was trying to knock down a scared mothers door. A civilian had to come and take care of the situation. When police arrived, it had been dealt with. This has to stop. I am ashamed to admit I'm from Richmond. Get it together please. Jeanette Beard

From: [Lisa Donnelly](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item X.3
Date: Monday, December 16, 2024 9:47:56 AM

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Dear City of Richmond,
Regarding the meeting for Tuesday, 12/17, I want to strongly express my support for Chief French and the request for Police Officer Retention and Officer Recruitment (Agenda Item X.3).

Our city's police ranks have been gutted and need to be rebuilt. Retention, motivation and care are important for our officers. Without them the city does not work. It is one of the most important issues facing Richmond now.

As a long time home owner and taxpayer I support Chief French and her plans to grow the Police force and protect our city.

Thank you for your time,
Lisa Donnelly

From: [Nairi Hartooni](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Soheila Bana](#)
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item X.3
Date: Monday, December 16, 2024 1:39:07 PM

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To Whom It May Concern at the City Clerk Office

I would like to request the opportunity to speak in support of Chief French's agenda item under "New Business" regarding Police Officer Retention and Lateral Police Officer Recruitment Program. My apologies for emailing so late as I only contacted my council member Dr. Soheila Bana this past Friday and learned about the important agenda item this weekend. I understand you require two days' notice to amend the agenda, so if I am too late to speak, is it possible to record my support another way?
Please let me know how we could proceed.

What I would like to share in support of Chief French's program is below:

My name is Dr. Nairi Hartooni. My family and I moved to Richmond two years ago. Since moving to the Bay Area for my education, I have dreamed about living in the City of Pride and Purpose because not only did I instantly fall in love with this city's embrace of its diversity, but as an immigrant and a scientist, the city's motto resonated with me on a deeper level. This was where my husband and I wanted to establish ourselves and raise our family. Hence, after years of hard work, we bought our first home in Richmond, right at the edge of Wildcat Canyon in Hasford Heights, where Bonita Road meets the East Bay Regional Park.

Since moving in, we have enjoyed meeting neighbors from all around the city passing by our house for a hike in the canyon. Unfortunately, we have also seen our fair share of unfortunate activities. Due to the location of our home being at a dead end with the park, where it's dark at night, and private, we often get cars and young people loitering in front of our home. Often, it's harmless activity like a late night hike, but more often than not, it's folks dealing, doing drugs, etc.

In 2023, our fence and the sidewalk in front of our home were tagged by Norteno gang members. I filed a ticket on the City of Richmond app and Victor and Alfredo came by, quickly cleaned the sidewalk, and advised us on how to clean the fence. A couple weeks later, my four-year-old son, who often helps me pick up trash left behind by visitors, found a pair of women's pants turned inside out with the underwear entangled on the pants. I notified Richmond PD and an officer responded immediately to take the clothes. I was horrified by what could possibly be going on right in front of our home. The officer kindly advised me to put up security lights and cameras to deter the activity in the future, which I did. I also asked the city to consider installing a light post at the end of the street using the app, and Mr. Tawfic

Halaby personally called me to explain that although the city was considering my request, such a request could take years to complete, which I understand and respect. Hence, considering the advice I got from Richmond PD and Mr. Halaby, I installed lights on our fence, which various neighbors have thanked me for since it helps them find their way out of the park and to their cars.

In Summer of 2024, my lights started to disappear as someone kept breaking them off our fence to recreate a dark corner for their business. We responded by putting solar-powered lights on poles. We hoped this along with our cameras would result in a safer street and it did for a couple months.

On November 29th at 4:30am, I woke up to the sound of gunshots coming from the same dark corner. I ran over to my son's bedroom window to see two men in hoodies standing at the street's end, shooting into the canyon. Once they saw me, they went into their car and drove away. They fired a total of three shots, and after reaching out to several neighbors, they confirmed hearing them as well but none of us caught footage of the car's license plate with our security cameras. I immediately called Richmond PD to notify them of the activity. Since they were shooting into the park, I also notified East Bay Regional Parks. This time, I'm unsure if a police officer responded as I didn't see anyone and there was no follow up with me. My husband and I are extremely distraught by this activity. Several neighbors in Hasford Heights had been emailing about the sound of gunshots, and those in the unincorporated area next to us had reported it to the Sheriff, who told them it was likely fireworks as we don't have a gunshot detection system in our neighborhood. After seeing it with my own eyes, I think we have a bigger problem on our hands.

In the past, when I've asked for more patrol of our area from Richmond PD, I've been told that our neighborhood is part of a very large patrol area that includes all of Hilltop as well as Parchester Village, which seems rather challenging to cover. As a Hasford Heights resident, I would like to support Chief French's efforts to increase staff beyond 121 sworn officers. I hope Chief French's efforts result in safer streets throughout Richmond, including the tiny little corner of our wonderful city that my family and neighbors call home.

Best,

Nairi Hartooni, PhD
818.744.0152 | [LinkedIn](#)

--

Nairi Hartooni, PhD
818.744.0152 | [LinkedIn](#)

From: [Nancy Burke](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Police Department
Date: Saturday, December 14, 2024 7:58:00 AM

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You don't often get email from nlburke@sbcglobal.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I am writing to support Chief French and the Richmond Police Department. The defunding of the police department was short sighted and has left Richmond in reactive mode not preventative mode.

I encourage any support of the police department in recruiting and maintaining staff. When we had our business on 25th Street; the police department was stellar in support and prevention. This is not a police department that deserves the bad hand it has been dealt. And the people of Richmond are suffering for it.

Sincerely,
Nancy Burke

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail on Android](#)