

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, May 20, 2025

Community Services Building
440 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA 94804

A. OPEN SESSION TO HEAR PUBLIC COMMENT BEFORE CLOSED SESSION

The Richmond City Council Open Session was called to order at 3:31 p.m. by Mayor Eduardo Martinez.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Jamelia Brown, Claudia Jimenez, Sue Wilson, and Mayor Eduardo Martinez. **Absent:** Councilmembers Soheila Bana, Doria Robinson, and Vice Mayor Cesar Zepeda arrived after the roll was called.

C. CLOSED SESSION

C.1 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT (Government Code Section 54957.6)

- Title: Confidential Investigative and Appeals Officer

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

- Two Cases

C.3 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Government Code Section 54957.6)

- Agency Representatives: Sharrone Taylor, Jack Hughes, Lisa Charbonneau

Employee organizations:

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

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

Cordell Hindler gave comments in person. Carlos Cardon gave comments via teleconference.

E. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

The Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 3:34 p.m. Closed Session adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

F. REGULAR MEETING OF THE RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL

The Regular Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by Mayor Martinez.

G. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Martinez led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

H. ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Soheila Bana, Jamelia Brown, Claudia Jimenez, Doria Robinson, Sue Wilson, Vice Mayor Cesar Zepeda, and Mayor Eduardo Martinez.

Absent: None.

I. STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

J. AGENDA REVIEW

Item O.3.a (2024 Housing Element Annual Progress Report) was continued to the May 27, 2025, City Council meeting.

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

Item C.1 (Public Employee Appointment, Confidential Investigative and Appeals Officer) - a report would be placed on the next public meeting agenda.

Item C.2 (Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation) - the matter of two cases was not discussed.

Item C.3 (Conference with Labor Negotiators) - the matter was deferred to a future closed session.

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

City Manager Shasa Curl presented the report. [Link to City Manager Report presentation](#)

M. COMMENDATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND PROCLAMATIONS

M.1 Proclamation Declaring National Public Works Week

PROCLAMATION declaring May 18–24, 2025, as National Public Works Week in the City of Richmond - Mayor Eduardo Martinez (510-620-6503).

Mayor Martinez introduced the matter and presented the proclamation. Director of Public Works Daniel Chavarria presented a PowerPoint announcing Public Works Week events and theme. [Link to Public Works Week presentation](#). Mr. Chavarria called for a moment of silence in memory of Public Works employees, Stefen Cincera and Sean Harrison. Mr. Chavarria gave closing remarks recognizing retired and present public works employees. Cordell Hindler gave comments in person.

N. OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

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

The following individuals gave comments in person:

Cordell Hindler expressed concerns regarding the lack of lighting at Miller Knox Park. Mr. Hindler provided information regarding a streamlined hiring process and recruitment. Mr. Hindler requested three additional trash containers and "no littering" signage at the Nevin Plaza apartments building.

Katherine Lee, Lola Abdugapparov, Kerry Guerrin, Princess Robinson, Audrey Thiphakhinkeo-Paun, Alya Alazzani, Chris Karnsouvong, Martine Johannsen, Abtehal Alazzani, Baljaa Borgil, Harsheet Subedi, Zenaida Gomez, Elsa Stevens, Martha Gruelle, Michelle Chan, and Shiva Mishek gave comments regarding the Chevron Refinery's \$550 million settlement to the city. Various members of the group expressed concerns regarding air pollution and urged the council to invest in a just transition away from fossil fuels by incorporating community input.

Ahmad Anderson, Kia Walton, and Oscar Garcia urged the council to commit \$3 million to fund the completion of the Harbor 8 Pogo Park project. Mr. Anderson thanked the council for attending the Laurel Park Neighborhood Council's Walk in the Park event.

Mark Wassberg gave comments regarding the Chevron Refinery, city pension benefits, and the unhoused community.

Irania De La Mora invited the community to hear her sing on June 6, 2025, at the city's Mobile Vendor Plaza. Ms. De La Mora suggested that the city hire her to fill the empty planters near the plaza.

Jamin Pursell invited the community to the 11th Annual Richmond Rainbow Pride event on June 1, 2025. Mr. Pursell emphasized the importance of investing in the community's future and expressed gratitude for the city's support.

Bradley Dunn gave comments in support of item O.2.a (Strong State Government Support for Local Public Transportation Service). Mr. Dunn advised the council of the Bay Area Rapid Transit's budget deficit and the potential for service cuts if funding was not secured.

Liz Woods reported overgrown vegetation and trash across from the Nevin Plaza apartment building. Ms. Woods advised that she and other residents were maintaining the area at their own expense. Ms. Woods urged the council to place three additional trash containers in the area.

The following individuals gave comments via teleconference:

Ben Therriault acknowledged the council for its continued commitment to public safety and the community's well-being. Mr. Therriault highlighted findings from the 2024-2025 Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury report regarding the Richmond Police Department's understaffing, funding reallocation, crime trends, and impacts. Mr. Therriault listed recommendations for a call to action.

O. CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

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

Motion by Vice Mayor Cesar Zepeda

Seconded by Councilmember Jamelia Brown

To approve all Consent Calendar items except Item O.3.a (2024 Housing Element Annual Progress Report).

Ayes (7): Councilmember Soheila Bana, Councilmember Jamelia Brown, Councilmember Claudia Jimenez, Councilmember Doria Robinson, Councilmember Sue Wilson, Vice Mayor Cesar Zepeda, and Mayor Eduardo Martinez

Passed (7 to 0)

O.1 City Clerk's Office

O.1.a Meeting Minutes

APPROVE the minutes of the April 29, 2025, special City Council meeting and the May 6, 2025, regular meeting - City Clerk's Office (Pamela Christian 510-620-6513).

O.2 City Council

O.2.a Strong State Government Support for Local Public Transportation Services

ADOPT a resolution calling on state legislators to improve regional public transit by adopting legislation and appropriating budget to: (1) provide enough funding to preserve and increase public transit service levels across the region and distribute the funds equitably, (2) fund measures primarily with progressive sources rather than a sales tax, and (3) prioritize funding for transit operations that do not increase carbon emissions - Councilmember Sue Wilson (510-609-2111)/Mayor Eduardo Martinez (510-620-6503).

Adopted Resolution No. 52-25

O.3 Community Development

O.3.a 2024 Housing Element Annual Progress Report

ADOPT a resolution accepting the 2024 Annual Progress Report for the City's Housing Element (2023-2031) - Community Development Department (Lina Velasco/Avery Stark 510-620-6714).

Continued to the May 27, 2025, City Council meeting.

O.4 Economic Development

O.4.a District Office Lease Agreement with U.S. Congress Member John Garamendi's Office

APPROVE a lease with United States House of Representatives to allow Congressman John Garamendi to utilize approximately 845 square feet of office space, four cubicles, and a conference room on the second floor of 440 Civic Center Plaza as his Congressional District Office, at a rate of \$1,140.75 per month (\$13,689 per year), for a two-year term from January

3, 2025, through January 2, 2027 – Economic Development Department (Craig Murray 510-307-8188). **This item was continued from the March 25, 2025, and April 15, 2025, meetings.**

O.5 Finance Department

O.5.a Setting Tax Rate for Tax Override Pension Fund

INTRODUCE an Ordinance (first reading) setting the tax rate for the Pension Tax Override for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 at 0.14 percent – Finance Department (Andrea Miller/Mubeen Qader/Antonio Banuelos 510-620-6741).

O.6 Human Resources

O.6.a Annual Compensation Adjustment for the City Clerk

APPROVE a five percent (5%) salary adjustment for the City Clerk effective March 2, 2025, in accordance with the IFPTE Local 21 Executive Management Memorandum of Understanding Section 6.4D – Human Resources Department (Nickie Mastay/Sharrone Taylor 510-620-6602).

O.7 Information Technology

O.7.a Contract with Superior, LLC, for Continued Support of TRAKiT

APPROVE a contract with Superior, LLC for the continued use, support and maintenance of TRAKiT, with a term beginning April 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026, and a total payment limit of \$60,925.70 - Information Technology Department (Sue Hartman 510-620-6874).

O.8 Library and Community Services

O.8.a Contract with Daniel McMahon for Sierra Integrated Library System Software Support

APPROVE a sole-source contract with Daniel McMahon, for a term beginning May 1, 2025, and ending April 30, 2028, to provide consulting and operations support for the Sierra Integrated Library System Software, for a total payment limit of \$38,000 – Community Services Department (Kate Eppler 510-620-5452).

O.9 Mayor's Office

O.9.a Reappointment of Scarlett Perez to the Richmond Youth Council

REAPPOINT Scarlett Perez to the Richmond Youth Council, term expires October 1, 2025 – Mayor's Office (Mayor Eduardo Martinez 510-620-6503).

O.10 Police Department

O.10.a Crime Report from Police Chief

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

O.11 Public Works

O.11.a Abatement Report from the Public Works Director

RECEIVE a written abatement report from the public works director - Public Works Department (Daniel Chavarria 510-620-5478).

O.11.b Construction Agreement with Bauman Landscape & Construction Inc. for the Soccer Fields-Restrooms-Parks Project

ADOPT a resolution to approve a construction agreement with Bauman Landscape & Construction Inc. for the Soccer Fields-Restrooms-Parks Project at Wendell Park with a payment limit of \$1,543,925, and AUTHORIZE the director of public works to approve change orders, if necessary, for a contingency amount of up to \$154,392.50 which is 10 percent of the bid amount, for a total construction phase payment limit of \$1,698,317.50 - Public Works Department (Darcie DeLashmutt 510-672-3944/Robert Armijo 510-620-5477/Daniel Chavarria 510-620-5478).

Adopted Resolution No. 53-25

O.11.c Appropriation of Funds for the Long-Range Transportation Infrastructure Planning Study

ADOPT a resolution to APPROPRIATE funds in the amount of \$315,000 from Measure J Fund 2002 to complete a long-range transportation infrastructure planning study – Public Works Department (Janney Lockman 510-307-8097/Robert Armijo 510-620-5477).

Adopted Resolution No. 54-25

O.11.d Lease Amedment for Hilltop Landscape District Office Trailer and Yard

APPROVE the amendment to lease agreement with North Richmond Properties, Inc. for the rental of two office trailers and storage space for containers and landscaping equipment used by the Parks and Landscaping Division, for a five-year term expiring June 30, 2030, at a monthly cost of \$2,810.54, for an additional increased five-year total amount not to exceed \$404,718 – Public Works Department (Tawfic Halaby 510-620-5482/Jason Lacey 510-620-6920/Tyron Nesbit 510-231-3019).

O.11.e Agreement with West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee (WCCTAC) for I-80/Central Avenue Improvement Project Funding

ADOPT a resolution to ACCEPT and APPROPRIATE the Subregional Transportation Mitigation Program funds in the amount of \$1,811,000 to the City of Richmond and AUTHORIZE the city manager to sign the cooperative agreement with West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee - Public Works Department (Hillal Hamdan 510-621-1612/Robert Armijo 510-620-5477/Daniel Chavarria 510-620-5478).

Adopted Resolution No. 55-25

P. BUDGET SESSION

P.1 Cost-of-Service Analysis and Fee Study for Community Services-Recreation

RECEIVE a presentation on Recreation’s Cost-of-Service Analysis and Fee Study, and PROVIDE direction regarding Fiscal Year 2025-26 Recreation fees – Community Services Department/Finance Department (LaShonda White/Ranjana Maharaj/Antonio Banuelos/Hope Lattell 510-620-6972).

Deputy City Manager of Community Services LaShonda White introduced the matter. Mrs. White, Jesse Myott of BerryDunn, Deputy Director of Community Services Recreation Ranjana Maharaj, and Accounting Manager Antonio Banuelos presented a PowerPoint with three options for the council to consider. [Link to Recreation Cost of Service Analysis \(RCSA\) presentation](#). Discussion ensued. The council requested the following: an estimate for auditorium repairs;

list parks as a line item under general recreation; a utilization report for all recreation resources and facilities; upload the final draft of the RCSA presentation to the city's website; consider non-resident fees; and provide an implementation plan to expand aquatics open hours. The council suggested removing fee waiver barriers that require an incorporated non-profit status and including the costs for security, insurance, and food service licenses with the use of the building. Cordell Hindler and Jamin Pursell gave comments in person. Arto Rinteela gave comments via teleconference. Further discussion ensued.

Motion by Councilmember Claudia Jimenez

Seconded by Vice Mayor Cesar Zepeda

To approve option one, no changes to current recreation fees.

Ayes (7): Councilmember Soheila Bana, Councilmember Jamelia Brown, Councilmember Claudia Jimenez, Councilmember Doria Robinson, Councilmember Sue Wilson, Vice Mayor Cesar Zepeda, and Mayor Eduardo Martinez

Passed (7 to 0)

Q. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Q.1 Master Fee Schedule Update

HOLD a public hearing; and INTRODUCE an ordinance (first reading) establishing certain fees for the proposed Master Fee Schedule, and after the second reading of the ordinance, ADOPT a resolution setting the dollar amount for the new fees and adjusting the dollar amount for current fees – Finance Department (Andrea Miller/Mubeen Qader/Antonio Banuelos 510-620-6741).

City Clerk Pamela Christian announced that pursuant to public notice that it was time to hold a public hearing establishing certain fees for the proposed Master Fee Schedule. She also announced that the recommended action to adopt a resolution would be returned to the council with the second reading of the ordinance.

Accounting Manager Antonio Banuelos introduced the matter and presented a PowerPoint. [Link to Master Fee Schedule Update presentation](#). Discussion ensued. Staff acknowledged a duplication error on slide seven of the presentation for Public Works and agreed to publish a revised version after the meeting. Mayor Martinez opened the public hearing. Cordell Hindler gave comments in person. Mayor Martinez closed the public hearing.

Motion by Councilmember Claudia Jimenez

Seconded by Councilmember Jamelia Brown

To introduce the ordinance for first reading and lay over for two weeks for the second reading.

Ayes (7): Councilmember Soheila Bana, Councilmember Jamelia Brown, Councilmember Claudia Jimenez, Councilmember Doria Robinson, Councilmember Sue Wilson, Vice Mayor Cesar Zepeda, and Mayor Eduardo Martinez

Passed (7 to 0)

R. NEW BUSINESS

R.1 Retain an Independent Legal Expert to Investigate Allegations of Ethical Breaches and Bias in the Community Police Review Commission (CPRC)

Direct City Staff to hire an independent third-party legal expert to:

1. Investigate the allegations and ethical concerns raised by Jerry Threet, former Confidential Investigative and Appeals Officer (CIAO) of the CPRC, in his resignation letter dated September 10, 2024; and
2. Determine whether the CPRC has engaged in conduct that reflects bias, or a failure to meet its semi-judicial obligations—particularly as they pertain to due process protections and adherence to objective investigative standards.

Until the findings of the third-party legal expert are finalized and submitted to the City Council, the CPRC may continue its work but shall be advised to refrain from adjudicating any cases involving police officers. In addition, the CPRC, as an advisory commission, shall not bring forward any recommendations, findings, or policy proposals to the City Council during this period - Councilmember Soheila Bana (510-672-3490) and Councilmember Jamelia Brown (510-412-2050).

Councilmember Bana introduced the matter and presented an oral report. Discussion ensued. The following individuals gave comments in person: Cordell Hindler, Daniel Lawson, Don Gosney, Elsa Stevens, Jamin Pursell, Ben Therriault, Harry Wiener, Anne Norton, Jocelyn, Andrew Melendez, Lorayne, Angelica Rendon, Rosie Rendon, Jass Guzman, Ray Wendell, Carlos, and Eric Smith. The following individuals gave comments via teleconference: Oscar Garcia, Carol Hegstrom, Alex Caine, Don, Amber Hatfield, Sara Cantor, Savitri Khalsa, and Kevin Lemus. Further discussion ensued. The council requested staff to provide a training plan for the CPRC at a future meeting. Staff agreed to distribute to the council the administrative record of trainings that had been historically provided.

Motion by Councilmember Soheila Bana

Seconded by Councilmember Jamelia Brown

To direct City Staff to hire an independent third-party legal expert to:

1. Investigate the allegations and ethical concerns raised by Jerry Threet, former Confidential Investigative and Appeals Officer (CIAO) of the CPRC, in his resignation letter dated September 10, 2024; and
2. Determine whether the CPRC has engaged in conduct that reflects bias, or a failure to meet its semi-judicial obligations—particularly as they pertain to due process protections and adherence to objective investigative standards; and

OMIT the portion of the recommendation stating, "Until the findings of the third-party legal expert are finalized and submitted to the City Council, the CPRC may continue its work but shall be advised to refrain from adjudicating any cases involving police officers. In addition, the CPRC, as an advisory commission, shall not bring forward any recommendations, findings, or policy proposals to the City Council during this period."

Ayes (3): Councilmember Soheila Bana, Councilmember Jamelia Brown, and Vice Mayor Cesar Zepeda

Noes (4): Councilmember Claudia Jimenez, Councilmember Doria Robinson, Councilmember Sue Wilson, and Mayor Eduardo Martinez

Failed (3 to 4)

S. REPORTS OF OFFICERS: REFERRALS TO STAFF, AND GENERAL REPORTS (INCLUDING AB 1234 REPORTS)(limited to two minutes per Councilmember)

Councilmember Bana thanked the Fire Department for the National Wildfire Prevention Month Fire Station 63 Open House.

Vice Mayor Zepeda reported on the following events: Parchester Dumpster Cleanup Day; Shields Reid Neighborhood Council's building community and kite-flying; the Literacy Fair; and the Art Center's new art exposition.

Councilmember Wilson reported on the Library Commission meeting regarding the renovation plan for the Main Library and the Laurel Park Neighborhood Council party at Braxton Park. Councilmember Wilson thanked staff for the funding that enabled neighborhood councils to host events and Councilmember Bana for coordinating the town hall meeting regarding fireworks.

Mayor Martinez reported on the Literacy Fair and events in the Laurel Park and Shields Reid neighborhoods.

Councilmember Brown reported on the following events: United Business Organization's Mother's Day Celebration; Literacy Fair; Fire Station 63 Open House; and Mental Health Action Day.

T. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m., in memory of former Contra Costa County District 5 Supervisor Federal Glover, to meet again on June 17, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

Pamela Christian, Clerk of the City of
Richmond

Eduardo Martinez, Mayor

From: [Arwa Asif](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments - Open Session
Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 12:58:15 PM

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Greetings,

My name is Arwa Asif, and I am the West County Alcohol Policy Coalition Coordinator. I haven't submitted a public comment in person before, so I'm unsure what a pink speaker's card is. I'm assuming it's filled out in person at the meeting. I would like to still submit an e-comment for the record in case I am mistaken:

Start of official public comment:

Good evening, and thank you to the Richmond City Council for recognizing last April as Alcohol Awareness Month. As we continue into May, which is Mental Health Awareness Month, it's important to remember how closely these issues are connected. Studies show that people with mental health conditions are more likely to misuse alcohol, and alcohol misuse can in turn worsen mental health—both of which impact overall community safety and well-being.

The Coalition is deeply grateful for the Council's continued commitment to community health, especially through your support of initiatives like proclamations and your role as advocates for youth safety. Your visible leadership is the public face of the behind-the-scenes work our coalition is doing every day to build a safer, healthier community.

Thank you.

END OF COMMENT:

Thank you so much!

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Arwa Asif

She/Her

West Contra Costa Alcohol Policy Coalition Coordinator

[Bay Area Community Resources](#)

M [\(510\) 559-3077 ext. 94123](tel:5105593077) **E** aasif@bacr.org

W www.bacr.org



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From: [Davjane](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: R.1 Retain an Independent Legal Expert to Investigate Allegations of Ethical Breaches and Bias in the Community Police Review Commission (CPRC)
Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 12:18:33 AM

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Hello Mayor Martinez and Council Members,

My name is Davjane Tillis. I am a Richmond resident. I am writing to oppose agenda item R.1. I feel like the investigation is taking multiple steps backwards when it comes to police accountability in Richmond. This investigation would not only stop the progress of the CPRC but it wastes resources that could be used to support and uplift the community. I feel that if accountability and transparency for the CPRC is the goal there are better ways to go about it. I am concerned about the passing of R.1. because it leaves the community in a vulnerable situation where there are no checks and balances for an entity with militarized weapons and a history of malpractice. It also neglects the community's voice because it goes against the reforms that community members asked for in CPRC meetings.

I think it is truly underestimated how the CPRC helps enhance trust in the Richmond Police Department. CPRC helps hold police that abuse their power accountable. I feel safer knowing CPRC is functioning and that there is a police oversight body in place to stop cops, like Srgt Caine.

I also want to say as a community member I notice that there seems to be a pattern of RPOA supporting anything that stops the progress of CPRC or allows the community to reimagine public safety. Whether it's stalling the progress of the Community Intervention Specialist or supporting an agenda item like R.1..

The Community Police Review Commission is needed. That way we can truly empower the community to speak up against any abuse or misconduct to make sure that there aren't any more stories like Kwesi Guss or Pedie Perez. It is hard to serve and protect a community you don't listen to.

I truly hope that you all reject Agenda Item R.1 and stand with Richmond residents in support of police oversight and police accountability.

Thank You
Davjane

From: marisoltaskforce@gmail.com
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#)
Subject: Public Comments for Agenda Item R-1
Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 11:53:00 AM

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To Richmond Mayor, City Council, and the City Clerk,

My name is Marisol Cantu, and I serve as a commissioner on the Community Police Review Commission.

I want to be clear: I am not here to oppose transparency, accountability, or even investigation if it is truly warranted and done in good faith. The public has a right to expect integrity from every public body, including the CPRC. But what deeply concerns me—and what I hope this Council will reflect on tonight—is that **Agenda Item R.1 is being brought forward while critical recommendations that the CPRC has already passed are being stalled.**

We have created and approved well-researched, community-informed recommendations that address real issues in Richmond policing—recommendations that families impacted by police violence have waited years to see enacted. These include recommendations around use-of-force review, annual reports and audits for RPD and the commission, and community involvement in oversight. Yet we see deliberate efforts not to advance them.

Moreover, the chief conclusion of Jerry Threet's letter is that the Commission needs more comprehensive training. Commissioners agree! We have spent many hours crafting a proposed training program to address the deficiencies Threet's letter identified. Rather than hiring an independent investigator to reinvent the wheel, city resources would be put to better use by considering this recommendation and moving forward with improved training.

Investigations should not be used to stall progress, silence oversight, or undermine the voices of those who step up to serve on this commission.

We commissioners are community members too. We show up, we listen to families, we dig through case files, we deliberate thoughtfully, and we make recommendations to help this city heal and move forward. We deserve your support, not suspicion.

I respectfully urge the Council: if you believe in police accountability, start by acting on the

CPRC's recommendations. Investigations should never come at the cost of progress.

Thank you,

Commissioner Cantu

From: [Reimagine Richmond](#)
To: [Eduardo Martinez](#); [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments Against Item R-1
Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 11:49:50 AM
Attachments: [LetterAgainstR-1.pdf](#)

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Hello City Clerk, Mayor, and Council Members,

We hope this email finds you well. Reimagine Richmond would like to share a letter against Agenda Item R-1. The various concerns raised by our membership and leadership are shared in the letter attached. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Reimagine Richmond

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In Community,
RR Organizing Team



www.reimaginerichmond.org

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Eduardo Martinez, Mayor
Soheila Bana, Councilmember
Jamelia Brown, Councilmember
Claudia Jimenez, Councilmember
Doria Robinson, Councilmember
Sue Wilson, Councilmember
Cesar Zepeda, Vice Mayor

May 20th, 2025

Dear Mayor Martinez and City Council,

Reimagine Richmond, a movement of people reimagining community safety in Richmond. We believe in a system of care that is rooted in us, not in criminalization and policing. Through organizing, researching, and educating, we fight for a future where everybody can truly feel safe. To this end, we have been working with families impacted by police brutality and violence in Richmond. We support them in seeking justice and accountability through police oversight systems like the Community Police Review Commission (CPRC).

The CPRC exists to advise the City Council, City Manager, and Chief of Police on matters related to the administration of the Richmond Police Department (RPD). It also receives, investigates, and hears complaints against Richmond police officers involving excessive or unnecessary force, discrimination, and sexual misconduct. The CPRC reviews serious use-of-force incidents, including officer-involved shootings and deaths or serious injuries resulting from police action. It also handles appeals from the Office of Professional Accountability and makes formal recommendations to the Chief of Police.

Through this critical commission, families, residents, and community members build trust and confidence in the Richmond Police Department. The commission is a beacon of hope and justice for those most impacted by police misconduct in Richmond. Its work is vital to growing public trust in the city's law enforcement systems.

We strongly recommend that you **vote NO on Agenda Item R.1**, which proposes hiring an independent legal expert to investigate allegations of ethical breaches and bias within the CPRC. This item would undermine the commission's advisory role, waste valuable city resources and time, and leave residents without a trusted mechanism for filing complaints.

This proposal appears unnecessary, politically motivated, and damaging to the integrity and independence of the CPRC. Subjecting the commission to a legal investigation based on vague or unsubstantiated allegations risks weakening its effectiveness and discouraging civic engagement.

If there are legitimate concerns, they should be addressed through the existing oversight framework, transparency, and open dialogue—not through expensive legal processes that may be used to discredit commissioners or suppress their work. This sets a dangerous precedent where volunteer oversight bodies are targeted simply for doing their job.

Rather than pursuing an external investigation, we urge the City Council to invest in strengthening the CPRC by improving procedures, providing training, and increasing support. Civilian oversight commissions are essential to building accountability and community trust in law enforcement—and they must be protected, not punished.

Thank you for your time and your continued service to our community. We respectfully urge you to reject Agenda Item R.1 and stand with Richmond residents in supporting genuine police oversight and public accountability.

From: [Richmond Taxpayers](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); daleshire@awattorneys.com
Cc: [Dave Aleshire](#); [Karen R. Becker](#)
Subject: Public Comment Item R1, City Council 5/20/2025 - Request for Independent Investigation and Councilmember Recusals — CPRC Conflicts of Interest and Ethical Concerns
Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 1:01:13 PM
Attachments: [Screenshot 2025-05-20 at 11.43.31 AM.png](#)
[Screenshot 2025-05-20 at 12.38.58 PM.png](#)

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Dear City Clerk,

Please include the below comments in the public record for the supplementary meeting minutes for today's city council meeting.

Thank you.

Richmond Taxpayers

Dear City Attorney Aleshire,

Regarding City Council Agenda Item R.1 on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, I would first like to commend Councilmembers Bana and Brown for their integrity and leadership in bringing this matter forward for public discussion.

However, it is profoundly troubling that your office failed to act eight months ago when Independent Investigative and Appeals Officer Jerry Threet resigned, citing serious ethical and procedural concerns regarding the Community Police Review Commission (CPRC). **By definition, Mr. Threet is a whistleblower and covered by all associated protections.**

Commissioner Oscar Garcia, the RPOA and community members — myself included — have also raised similar alarms.

It is troubling to observe Commissioner Garcia be summarily dismissed at CPRC meetings when he's raised Mr. Threet's resignation letter/email and whether his allegations will be investigated. Additionally, when he has spoken at City Council with his legitimate concerns about certain CPRC appointments by Mayor Martinez, he has been the subject of public ad hominem attacks and false statements from RPA and Reimagine Richmond members, constituting harassment and public safety risks to he and his family given where they live.

To date, your office has not initiated any meaningful review or response. This lack of action has severely undermined public trust in both the CPRC and the City Attorney's Office.

At its core, this matter implicates foundational principles of good governance: ethics, transparency, due process, and the right of both the public and Richmond Police Department officers to a fair, impartial system of oversight. The continued tolerance of overlapping political, financial, and personal relationships that appear to compromise this process risks further eroding the integrity of public institutions.

If Richmond is to ever distance itself from its historical and growing perceptions of cronyism and insider influence — at times referred to as "Chicago West" — then meaningful accountability must begin with this long overdue investigation.

Legal Duty to Uphold Ethical Standards

As your fellow attorney Pam Lee rightly noted in 2023, “Each Commissioner is required to take an oath of office to uphold the duties of their office.” The same obligation applies to City Councilmembers. Your office, as the chief legal advisor to the City, bears responsibility to uphold the public interest and ensure that violations of ethical and statutory obligations are not ignored. This includes enforcing proper recusal standards, addressing clear conflicts of interest, and ensuring compliance with the California Political Reform Act, FPPC requirements, and relevant municipal codes.

Formal Requests

In light of the information set forth below, I respectfully request the following:

- 1. That Councilmembers Claudia Jimenez and Sue Wilson recuse themselves from all deliberations and the vote on Item R.1**, as both they and their husbands are clearly entangled in matters that merit investigation and review by an independent third party. **If they and/or their spouses have any a remote possibility of being subject to any potential third-party investigation, how can they vote on it?**
- 2. That the Council immediately approve and initiate a fully independent, third-party investigation** into the ethical and financial conflicts of interest involving the CPRC and associated Councilmembers, spouses, and political entities, with subpoena power and full access to the allegations raised by Mr. Threet in his resignation and all relevant documentation and communications.

Summary of Conflicts and Ethical Concerns Requiring Review

1. Overlapping Influence Between the Richmond Progressive Alliance (RPA), Reimagine Richmond (RR), and City Officials/Governance

RR and RPA are functionally indistinguishable, operating out of the same headquarters and sharing several leaders, including current CPRC Commissioners (Chair Martinez and Cantu) and at least one Councilmember (Jimenez).

RR evolved alongside the now-defunct Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force (RPSCTF), formed by RPA-aligned Councilmembers in 2020 to defund RPD and promote anti-police policy agendas. Task Force members included individuals affiliated with Reimagine Richmond, the RPA, Safe Return Project, and the CPRC — some of whom held roles in multiple groups.

RR and the RPA maintain a coordinated strategy: RR & RPA co-draft policies, budgets & media framing; RR handles public mobilization & media framing; and the RPA-aligned officials pass corresponding legislation. This mutual dependency creates both a political and financial incentive structure that undermines the impartiality expected of CPRC members and elected officials.

The CPRC must remain independent of undue influence by outside political organizations like the RPA, whose elected officials — current (Mayor Martinez and Councilmember Jimenez) and former (Gayle McLaughlin and Melvin Willis) — are also on the public record as being members of the Democratic Socialists of America East Bay. As members, they ascribe to their platform, which includes defunding police (and prisons) to \$0.

The mission of the CPRC is not to defund the police but rather to provide **fair, impartial, unbiased and ethical oversight and ensure accountability** of sworn officers within the Richmond Police Department.

2. Councilmember Claudia Jimenez

- Paid Commissioner Carmen Martinez as a consultant to manager her re-election campaign while Martinez was actively serving on the CPRC.
- Received significant compensation from the Safe Return Project in 2024 (>\$100K) as well as 2022 & 2023 (between \$10K - \$100K each year) while simultaneously serving as CPRC liaison.
- Employed or was politically supported by multiple organizations and individuals that should be subject to any independent, third-party investigation as it pertains to the CPRC, including RR, RPA, and Richmond LAND — co-founded by her husband, Eli Moore. Some examples including but not limited to:
 - Safe Return Project is tightly aligned with the RPA and RR, and simultaneously employed both Marisol Cantú and Councilmember Claudia Jimenez in 2022 and 2023.
 - Safe Return Project founder, Tamisha Torres-Walker, and Marisol Cantú co- served on RPSCTF.
 - RR also advocates for Safe Return Project on its [website](#).
- Appointed her own allies with financial and political ties to herself to the CPRC, including Chair Martinez and Commissioners Marisol Cantú, Dan Lawson, and Rachel Lorber.
 - Jimenez has received multiple campaign contributions from Contra Costa County Public Defenders. Commissioner Lorber’s reporting relationship into those senior attorneys in the CCC PD’s office is unclear.
- Appointed her own allies with financial and political ties to herself — Commissioners Martinez and Lawson — to the CIAO hiring Ad Hoc Committee.
 - She overrode Commission protocol by making these appointments behind closed doors. It was only after Commissioners Oscar Garcia and Carol Hegstrom raised concerns, especially given RR’s anti-police policy advocacy and public

statements, that Jimenez “allowed” Hegstrom to be part of the Ad Hoc Committee.

- Exchanged real-time texts with RR leadership during at least one CPRC meeting, including disparaging remarks about Commissioner Garcia.
- Maintained connections with former CPRC Commissioner Randy Joseph, who received nearly \$100K in 2023 from Richmond LAND — yet failed to report that income on his Form 700.
- Should not vote on an investigation that may include her and/or her spouse as a subject.

3. Councilmember Sue Wilson

- Also retained Carmen Martinez as a paid campaign consultant and manager during Martinez’s service on the CPRC.
- Together with her spouse, Commissioner Dan Lawson, donated to Councilmember Jimenez’s campaign — raising significant ethical questions given the intersecting roles of each party.
- Has not yet submitted her 2024 Form 700 as of 5/20/2025, a serious transparency lapse.
- Should not vote on an investigation that may include her and/or her spouse as a subject.

4. Commissioner Carmen Martinez

- Received between \$23,000 and \$113,000 in income **while serving on the CPRC** — including from RR (fiscally sponsored by Richmond Community Foundation) and from political consulting fees paid by current (and former) RPA Councilmembers, one of whom’s husband also serves on the CPRC and is a member of RR.
- Inaccurately disclosed her income source as RCF, masking RR’s role and violating FPPC disclosure requirements.
 - [RCF confirmed they have been the fiscal sponsor for RR for 3 years.](#)
 - RR has neither registered with the state or City of Richmond as a business entity nor taken out a business license.
 - RR has no record with the IRS.
- Has no visible City-issued business license despite listing long-term consulting services on LinkedIn.
- Is a RPA Steering Committee member, RR leader & organizer, and political campaign operative — all while claiming impartiality on the CPRC.

5. Commissioner Marisol Cantu

- Also lists RCF rather than RR as her income source on her 2024 Form 700.
 - [RCF confirmed they have been the fiscal sponsor for RR for 3 years.](#)
 - RR has neither registered with the state or City of Richmond as a business entity nor taken out a business license.
 - RR has no record with the IRS.
- Has worked for Safe Return Project, RR, and RPA.
- Co-authored a majority of CPRC ordinance amendments.
 - Along with Martinez (with support from Dan Lawson and Oscar Flores on a few), Cantu drafted the majority (at least 7) of the 13 amendments to the CPRC ordinance — apparently through a de facto Ad Hoc group never authorized by a Commission vote or transparency.
- Lacks a valid business license per the City’s iMS database.

6. Commissioner Dan Lawson

- Together with his spouse, now Councilmember Sue Wilson, donated to Councilmember Jimenez’s campaign — raising significant ethical questions given the intersecting roles of each party.
- Is a [member of Reimagine Richmond](#).

7. Former Commissioner Randy Joseph

- Simultaneously served on both CPRC and RPSCTF while receiving nearly \$100K from Richmond LAND, co-founded by Councilmember Jimenez’s spouse.
- Failed to report this conflict on his Form 700, disclosing only income from RYSE.
- Retained longstanding personal and professional relationships with CPRC members, RPA, and City Councilmembers now implicated in these matters.
- Is a [member of Reimagine Richmond](#).

Broader Pattern of Policy Collusion and Financial Incentives

The repeated alignment of legislative outcomes, financial benefits, and coordinated public messaging between RPA and RR represents more than coincidence. It reflects a systemic arrangement where nonprofits, political campaigns, and government policy-making are interconnected — often without the public’s full understanding or consent.

- RR now openly [offers \\$50 to residents for reporting negative stories about RPD](#), demonstrating a bias wholly inconsistent with neutral oversight.
- The RPA’s switch from a 501(c)(3) to a 501(c)(4) — and RR’s use of fiscal sponsorship — obscure financial transparency.
- Substantial foundation funding from The California Endowment, Heising-Simons Foundation, and Zellerbach Foundation, among others, is routed through loosely regulated vehicles like RCF and Commonwealth Foundation.

Without independent review, these interdependencies will continue to corrode the legitimacy of both oversight and policymaking in Richmond.

Conclusion

Richmond now stands at a crossroads. We can either enable further erosion of public trust through inaction or we can restore confidence in our institutions by taking the necessary — and legally required — steps to ensure accountability and transparency.

I urge your office to advise the City Council to recuse conflicted members and to authorize a fully independent, third-party investigation into the matters outlined above, including those cited by Mr. Threet in his resignation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Richmond Taxpayers

RR Member Highlight

Member Highlight



Dan Lawson
Community Member and
CPRC Commissioner



Dan Lawson was born in San Jose and lived in several Bay Area cities before buying a home in Richmond 15 years ago. In his work as a math instructor at Merritt Community College, Dan has been recognized for his teaching skills and commitment to public service. He is passionate about helping people who consider themselves "bad at math" discover their hidden skills and realize their educational goals.

As more people began talking about public safety in recent years, Dan became interested in using his skills, including his background in statistics, to advocate for the programs and institutions that actually keep people safe. He appreciates being part of Reimagine Richmond because it lets him connect with others who have been doing this work in our community for a long time.



Member Highlight



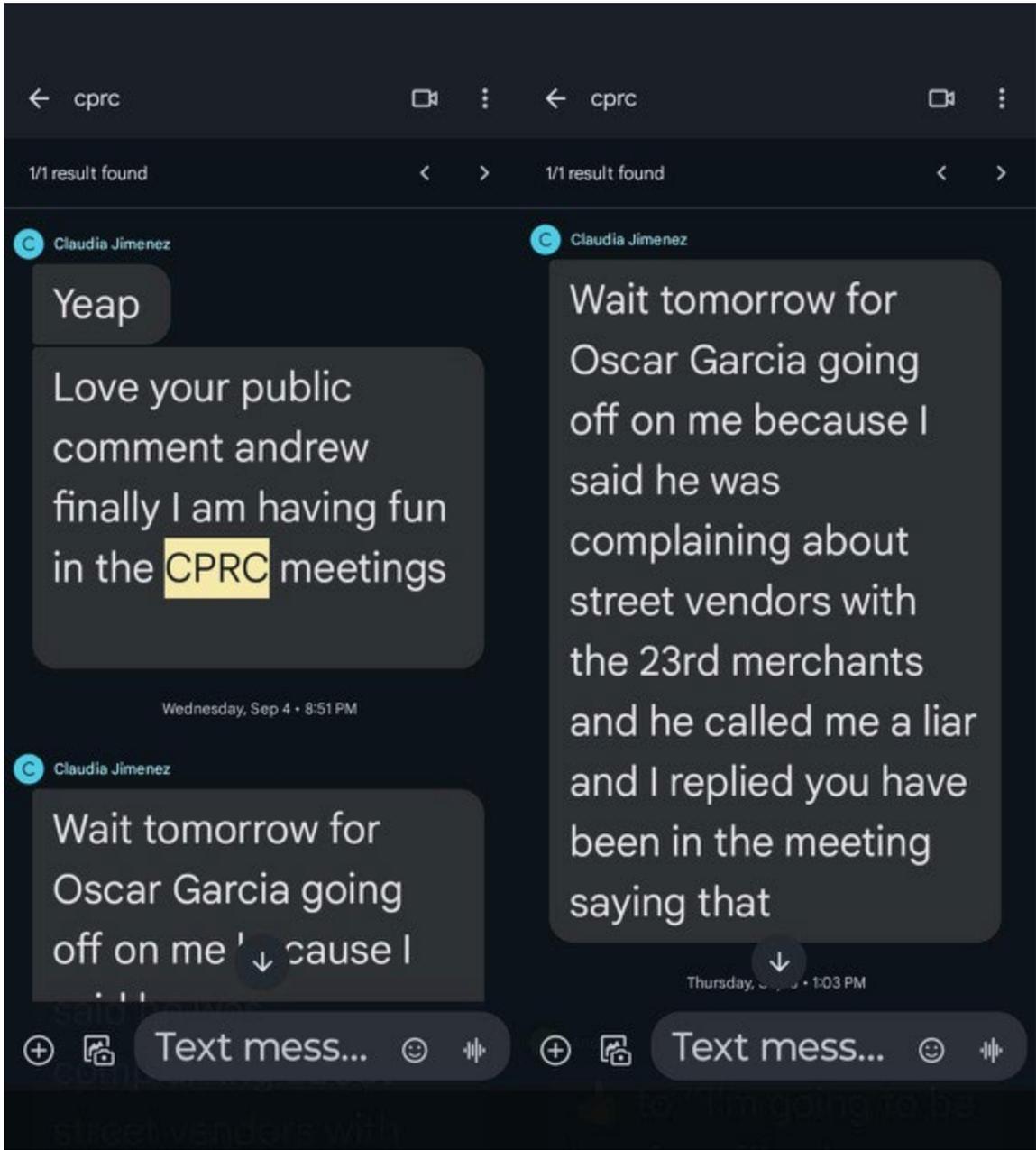
Randy Joseph
Community Member



I moved to Richmond when I was 14 years old and fell in love with the city. I work at the RYSE Center as the Health Justice Case Manager and am on the Community Police Review Commission, The Reimagining Public Safety Task Force, Board Member of Richmond LAND and Collaborizing.



I joined RR to change the direction of how the city operated. For far too long we let corporations and businesses dictate how we operate as a city with no input from the whole community and no real investment in the community either. I believe with RR we can build a city based on a community approach and input with investment in the people.



← cprc



← cprc



1/1 result found



1/1 result found



C Claudia Jimenez

Yeap

Love your public comment andrew finally I am having fun in the CPRC meetings

Wednesday, Sep 4 • 8:51 PM

C Claudia Jimenez

Wait tomorrow for Oscar Garcia going off on me ' ↓ cause I

C Claudia Jimenez

Wait tomorrow for Oscar Garcia going off on me because I said he was complaining about street vendors with the 23rd merchants and he called me a liar and I replied you have been in the meeting saying that

Thursday, Sep 5 • 1:03 PM



Text mess...



Text mess...



From: [Terri Hinte](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: public comments item R.1, 5/20/25
Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 12:36:30 PM

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----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Re: item R.1, 5/20/25 - recusal

Date: Tue, 20 May 2025 11:10:46 -0700

From: Terri Hinte <hudba@sbcglobal.net>

To: Dave Aleshire <daleshire@awattorneys.com>

CC: Shannon Moore <Shannon_Moore@ci.richmond.ca.us>, Shasa_Curl@ci.richmond.ca.us <Shasa_Curl@ci.richmond.ca.us>, Soheila Bana <soheila_bana@ci.richmond.ca.us>, Jamelia Brown <jamelia_brown@ci.richmond.ca.us>, Cesar Zepeda <cesar_zepeda@ci.richmond.ca.us>, Eduardo Martrinez (<eduardo_martinez@ci.richmond.ca.us> <Eduardo_Martinez@ci.richmond.ca.us>, Sue Wilson <sue_wilson@ci.richmond.ca.us>, Claudia Jimenez (<Claudia_Jimenez@ci.richmond.ca.us> <Claudia_Jimenez@ci.richmond.ca.us>, Doria Robinson <doria_robinson@ci.richmond.ca.us>

Dear City Attorney Aleshire,

Thank you very much for taking the time to respond in detail to my concerns about the impartiality of Councilmembers Wilson & Jimenez with respect to the proposed third-party investigation of the CPRC to be discussed this evening by the council. I'm glad to know that a legal defense can be made of their positions, I suppose, but it offers the narrowest of narrow defenses. These councilmembers' biases are well known, they have never made any efforts to conceal them, so how is the public supposed to trust that they can put those biases aside to reach an unbiased decision?

In Item 1: "known financial interest." "Known" - there's the rub. We don't know! We know about apparent past financial interests (campaign donations, payment for campaign management services, God knows what else), but *we do not know* how these past interests may have colored or are presently coloring any interactions between the councilmembers & the CPRC commissioners. We see the *appearance of conflict and bias*. That should be enough for recusal, because elected officials are supposed to be held to a higher standard.

In Item 2: We're relying here on a hair-splitting issue of the timing of an appointment, but the fact remains that Councilmember Wilson's husband is a CPRC commissioner. We see the

appearance of conflict and bias. That should be enough for recusal, because elected officials are supposed to be held to a higher standard.

In Item 3: Heavy hair-splitting here. This is not "a formal public hearing or adjudication," so "if a decision maker can be shown to be bias [stet]," then all's well? What? There's the whole separate matter of WHETHER the decision maker can be shown to be biased, and these two decision makers have publicly exhibited bias, so how can we gloss over that? We see the *appearance of conflict and bias*. That should be enough for recusal, because elected officials are supposed to be held to a higher standard.

In Item 4: The council liaison [Jimenez] "would then be presumed to be able to add history & insight to a Council discussion" etc. "Presumed" - ! Councilmember Jimenez can be presumed to add bias as well? We see the *appearance of conflict and bias*. That should be enough for recusal, because elected officials are supposed to be held to a higher standard.

We all remember when Henry Kissinger was named by George W. Bush to head the 9/11 commission. Why was there such a public uproar, to the extent that the appointment was withdrawn? After all, it was perfectly legal! But everyone could see that, with Kissinger, the fix was in. His biases would carry the day, would cover the a**es of those whose a**es needed covering.

More sunlight, more transparency is called for here, not less. *Elected officials are supposed to be held to a higher standard.*

Thank you again for your time.

Terri Hinte

On 5/19/2025 7:02 PM, Dave Aleshire wrote:

The issue of recusal from Council agenda matters has a number of different rules governing them. Members may recuse themselves for a number of different reasons. I will only comment on those where recusal may be required by law.

1 Legal Conflict of Interest. This only applies where one has a financial conflict of interest. Neither of the two council members you mentioned has a known financial interest in the various measures being proposed by the CPRC.

2 Nepotism. Councilmember Wilson does not violate the City's nepotism ordinance as her husband was appointed to the Commission before she was elected to council. The City's ordinance allows the commissioner to serve out their term as opposed to ending the term of the Councilmember or immediate termination of Commission member term.

3 Violation of Due Process. In cases of formal administrative hearings when the rights of particular parties are being adjudicated, there is a thing known as due process protected by the US and California Constitutions. Then if a decision maker can be shown to be bias, they should recuse themselves from the hearing so as to not bias the decision. This is not the case here as there is not a formal public hearing or adjudication.

4 Legislative Decision Making. This more a case of ordinary legislative decision-making. The request is that legislative rules recommended by the CPRC not be advanced until

after an investigation is conducted. The reason is that certain council have advocated for certain issues and are bias. The rule is different where we have ordinary legislative advocacy rather than where due process concerns prevail. Here all the recommendations of the CPRC are legislative proposals to be enacted by the Council. Imagine in the common case where councilmembers campaign for office and are elected due to their policy stands. It would be contrary to the policies of elective democracy if they could not thereafter vote for issues they have campaigned for. It does not violate due process to vote for a position you advocated for in getting elected. So due process only arises in the case of administrative cases involving rights of advocates.

5 Council Liaison. The Council has had a longstanding process of appointing commission Council Liaison--the position is intended to monitor commissions and keep the Council informed as to what is going on. It has never been the rule or practice of then prohibiting them from the discussions which they are reporting on. Council member Jimenez is Liaison to CPRC and would then be presumed to be able to add history and insight to a Council discussion of the Commission's recommendations.

Accordingly, looking at the possible reasons for recusal on the particular agenda item, I see no such legal requirement pertaining to any councilmembers.

I have taken the time to respond to your questions as they are somewhat complex and could be misunderstood by the general public and are likely to be of some interest tomorrow night, and deserve a full response.

Feel free to call me if you have further questions.

Dave

-----Original Message-----

From: Terri Hinte <hudba@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Saturday, May 17, 2025 5:55 PM
To: Dave Aleshire <daleshire@awattorneys.com>
Cc: Shannon Moore <Shannon_Moore@ci.richmond.ca.us>;
Shasa_Curl@ci.richmond.ca.us; Soheila Bana
<soheila_bana@ci.richmond.ca.us>; Jamelia Brown
<jamelia_brown@ci.richmond.ca.us>; Cesar Zepeda
<cesar_zepeda@ci.richmond.ca.us>
Subject: item R.1, 5/20/25 - recusal

*** EXTERNAL SENDER ***

Dear City Attorney Aleshire,

I'm writing about item R.1 on Tuesday's city council agenda (5/20), with concerns about the obvious lack of impartiality of Councilmembers Claudia Jimenez and Sue Wilson with respect to the proposed investigation of "Allegations of Ethical Breaches and Bias in the Community Police Review Commission (CPRC)."

Due to their many personal, political, and financial ties with several CPRC commissioners, Wilson and Jimenez ought to recuse themselves from voting and also from any discussion on this item.

How does that work exactly? Because I doubt that they would willingly recuse. Can you compel them to do so?

Thank you,

Terri Hinte

--

Terri Hinte
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