

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, December 2, 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 Evening Open Session was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Mayor Eduardo Martinez.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Claudia Jimenez, Doria Robinson, Sue Wilson, Vice Mayor Cesar Zepeda, and Mayor Eduardo Martinez. **Absent:** Councilmembers Soheila Bana arrived at 3:31 p.m., and Jamelia Brown was absent for the entire meeting.

C. CLOSED SESSION

C.1 LIABILITY CLAIMS (Government Code Section 54956.9)

- Claimant: Terminal One Development, LLC
Agency Against: City of Richmond
- Claimant: Armando Moreno
Agency Claimed Against: City of Richmond
- Claimant: Robert Aiavao
Agency Claimed Against: City of Richmond

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

- Agency Representatives: Sharrone Taylor, Jack Hughes, and 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

C.3 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION (Government Code Section 54957)

Title: City Attorney

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

Cordell Hindler gave comments in person regarding labor negotiations and the city attorney's performance evaluation.

E. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

The Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 3:33 p.m. Closed Session adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

F. JOINT REGULAR MEETING OF THE SURPLUS PROPERTY AUTHORITY/RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL

The Joint Regular Meeting of the Surplus Property Authority/Richmond City Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Eduardo Martinez.

G. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Martinez led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

H. ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Soheila Bana, Claudia Jimenez, Doria Robinson, Sue Wilson, Vice Mayor Cesar Zepeda, and Mayor Eduardo Martinez. **Absent:** Councilmember Jamelia Brown was absent for the entire meeting.

I. STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Councilmember Robinson declared a conflict of interest for Item O.2.b (Regional Measure 3 Funding Allocation for Neighborhood Complete Streets and Richmond Wellness Trail Phase II) and recused herself from the discussion and vote.

J. AGENDA REVIEW

The following items were removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion:

Item O.3.b (Third Quarter 2025 Update for Projects within Richmond's Green Blue New Deal)

Item O.5.a (Contract with WR Forde for the Richmond Art and Light Project)

Item O.5.b (Bayview Avenue Grade Separation Safety & Bike Lane Improvements Project - Union Pacific Railroad Company Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement)

Emergency Item Added to the Agenda:

Motion by Mayor Martinez

Seconded by Councilmember Jimenez

To add the following emergency item for discussion as the first New Business item:

DIRECT the City Manager to (1) work with relevant City departments to identify and implement short-term support for Richmond parents and children affected by the United Teachers of Richmond and West Contra Costa Unified School District labor negotiations; and (2) authorize the use of up to \$50,000 in available funds for emergency programming, services, or other appropriate items as determined by staff – Mayor Eduardo Martinez (510-620-62503) and Councilmember Claudia Jimenez (510-620-6565).

Ayes (6): Councilmember Bana, Councilmember Jimenez, Councilmember Robinson, Councilmember Wilson, Vice Mayor Zepeda, and Mayor Martinez

Absent (1): Councilmember Brown

Passed (6 to 1)

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

Chief Assistant City Attorney Shannon Moore gave the following report:

Item C.1 (liability claims) was discussed. No reportable action was taken.

Item C.2 (conference with labor negotiators) was discussed. No reportable action was taken.

Item C.3 (public employee performance evaluation) was discussed. No reportable action was taken.

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

City Manager Shasa Curl presented a PowerPoint. [Link to view City Manager's Report](#)

L.1 NEW EMPLOYEE REPORT - 1st Tuesday

Director of Human Resources Sharrone Taylor presented a PowerPoint. [Link to view New Employee Report](#)

M. 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 gave comments regarding the former Richmond Community Redevelopment Agency's Fiscal Year 2008-2009 budget and housing affordability. Mr. Hindler urged the council to reinstate the Economic Development position to assist with posting Economic Development Commission agendas and other tasks. Mr. Hindler suggested the council acknowledge Salesian College Preparatory students for their spring community cleanup efforts.

Janice Haugan gave comments regarding accidents and fires caused by illegal fireworks that occurred in June and July 2025. Ms. Haugan urged the council to enact a stronger ordinance to deter the use of illegal fireworks.

Claudia Citroen expressed concerns regarding the city's spending priorities, communication practices, placement of project items on the consent calendar, roads and infrastructure, and service fees. Ms. Citroen also reported inoperable lighting and electric vehicle chargers and expressed concerns regarding unhoused senior citizens.

Mark Wassberg shared an audio recording from family members of homicide victims and gave comments regarding the city's homicide rates.

Andrea Chinchio and Chadwick Spell gave comments in support of Item N.1 (lease agreements at 1325 Canal Boulevard), expressing gratitude for the assistance their businesses received from the city during the Riggers Loft landlord transition.

The following individuals gave comments via teleconference:

Michael Mejia shared the results of a survey conducted by the Stop Illegal Fireworks group. Mr. Mejia expressed concerns regarding the auditory effects of fireworks, physical danger, and the lack of a programmatic resolution.

Nathan Lonso, Benjamin Therriault, and Khoa Nguyen expressed concerns regarding the Police Department's morale and stability, bargaining negotiation delays, low staffing levels impacting new officer training, and diminishing voluntary police assignments.

N. SURPLUS PROPERTY AUTHORITY CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Councilmember Robinson

Seconded by Mayor Martinez

To approve the Surplus Property Authority Consent Calendar.

Ayes (6): Councilmember Bana, Councilmember Jimenez, Councilmember Robinson, Councilmember Wilson, Vice Mayor Zepeda, and Mayor Martinez

Absent (1): Councilmember Brown

Passed (6 to 1)

N.1 Lease Agreements between the Surplus Property Authority and Far West Cider, LLC, CDK Wines, LLC dba Carica Wines, and KARIBU Lounge, Inc. at 1325 Canal Boulevard

APPROVE lease agreements with: (1) Far West Cider, LLC in the amount of \$74,232 annually; (2) CDK Wines, LLC dba Carica Wines in the amount of \$10,500 annually; and (3) KARIBU Lounge Inc. (formerly The Wachira Group, LLC dba Wachira Wines) in the amount of \$10,500 annually; commencing December 1, 2025, ending November 30, 2026 – Economic Development Department/Port/Surplus Property Authority (Charles Gerard 510-620-6792).

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 Mayor Martinez

Seconded by Councilmember Jimenez

To approve all items on the City Council Consent Calendar, **excluding:**

Item O.3.b (Third Quarter 2025 Update for Projects within Richmond's Green Blue New Deal)

Item O.5.a (Contract with WR Forde for the Richmond Art and Light Project)

Item O.5.b. (Bayview Avenue Grade Separation Safety & Bike Lane Improvements Project - Union Pacific Railroad Company Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement)

Councilmember Robinson was recused from the vote on **Item O.2.b** (Regional Measure 3 Funding Allocation for Neighborhood Complete Streets and Richmond Wellness Trail Phase II).

Ayes (6): Councilmember Bana, Councilmember Jimenez, Councilmember Robinson, Councilmember Wilson, Vice Mayor Zepeda, and Mayor Martinez

Absent (1): Councilmember Brown

Passed (6 to 1)

O.1 City Attorney's Office

O.1.a Contract Amendment to legal services agreement with Best Best & Krieger LLP

APPROVE a first amendment to the Best, Best & Krieger LLP legal services agreement, adding \$150,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$160,000, with term ending December 31, 2027, to provide advice and representation in general municipal law matters – City Attorney's Office (Kimberly Chin 510-620-6709/Shannon Moore 510-620-6509).

O.2 Community Development

O.2.a Legal Services Agreement with Goldfarb & Lipman, LLC

APPROVE a legal services agreement with Goldfarb & Lipman, LLP to assist the Community Development Department regarding land use, housing, and real estate matters, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$250,000, with a term ending June 30, 2028 – Community Development Department (Lina Velasco 510-620-6841).

O.2.b Regional Measure 3 (RM3) Funding Allocation for Neighborhood Complete Streets and Richmond Wellness Trail Phase II

ADOPT a resolution to: (1) REQUEST an allocation for Regional Measure 3 (RM3) funds from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and (2) ACCEPT and APPROPRIATE \$10,000,000 in Regional Measure 3 (RM3) funding for construction of Neighborhood Complete Streets for \$7,500,000, and Richmond Wellness Trail Phase II for \$2,500,000 – Community Development Department (Lina Velasco/Beatriz Guerrero Auna 510-620-5450).

Ayes (5): Councilmember Bana, Councilmember Jimenez, Councilmember Wilson, Vice Mayor Zepeda, and Mayor Martinez

Recused (1): Councilmember Robinson

Absent (1): Councilmember Brown

Passed (Passed 5 to 2)

Adopted Resolution No. 164-25

O.3 Economic Development

O.3.a Bill Credit from Richmond Sanitary Service (dba Republic Services) for the Solidarity Strike in July 2025

ACCEPT and AUTHORIZE the city manager or their designee to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Richmond and Richmond Sanitary Service, Inc (dba Republic Services) settling claims for service interruptions that occurred during the solidarity strike in July 2025 – Economic Development Department (Samantha Carr 510-620-5407/Nannette Beacham 510-621-1306/Shasa Curl 510-620-6512).

O.3.b Third Quarter 2025 Update for Projects within Richmond's Green Blue New Deal (GBND)

RECEIVE a report on the status of the Richmond Green-Blue New Deal projects - Economic Development Department (Jesson de Leon 510-412-2023/Junne Garcia 510-620-6524/ Nannette Beacham 510-620-1306).

Claudia Citroen gave comments via teleconference. Economic Development Senior Assistance Business Officer Jesson de Leon presented a PowerPoint. [Link to view Quarterly Update for the GBND.](#) Discussion ensued. The council requested the following: publish the PowerPoint slides on the city's website; include with future reports the city's participation in the Green Empowerment Zone Committee; provide hyperlinks in the reports for additional information regarding the Buy Local Campaign and Small Business Beautification Pilot Program; consider adding battery storage and onshore wind to the plan; provide the Electric Vehicle Fleet Report; and consider battery storage safety.

Motion by Councilmember Robinson
Seconded by Councilmember Jimenez

To receive the report.

Ayes (6): Councilmember Bana, Councilmember Jimenez, Councilmember Robinson, Councilmember Wilson, Vice Mayor Zepeda, and Mayor Martinez

Absent (1): Councilmember Brown

Passed (6 to 1)

O.3.c Accept Grant Funding and Approve Contract Amendment No. 1 with Momentum for Port Dock Restoration

ADOPT a resolution to ACCEPT and APPROPRIATE, contingent upon award, \$11,224,449 in grant funds from the U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration (MARAD) and \$2,806,112 in Port Enterprise Fund matching contributions into the Port Enterprise Fund budget; and to APPROVE the first amendment to the Fiscal Year 2025–26 on-call contract with Momentum in the amount of \$140,000, contingent upon grant award, for post-award grant administration and management services for the Dock Restoration for Improved Vehicle Entry (DRIVE) Project – Economic Development Department/Port (Charles Gerard 510-620-6792).

Adopted Resolution No. 165-25

O.4 Human Resources

O.4.a Year-End Closure from December 24, 2025, through January 1, 2026

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 2025 – Human Resources Department (Sharrone Taylor/Nickie Mastay 510-620-6602).

Adopted Resolution No. 166-25

O.4.b Contract Amendment with Bob Murray and Associates for Recruitment Services

APPROVE a contract amendment with Bob Murray & Associates to increase the payment limit by \$34,000 for a total payment limit of \$68,000, and extend the term through December 31, 2026, for the purpose of conducting recruitments for specialized positions - Human Resources Department (Nickie Mastay/Sharrone Taylor 510-620-6602).

O.4.c Amendments to the Position Control List

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

Adopted Resolution No. 167-25

O.4.d Memorandum of Understanding between IFPTE Local 21 Mid-Management

ADOPT a resolution to APPROVE a successor Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Richmond and International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE) Local 21 Mid-Management for the term of July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2028, and DIRECT the city manager or their designee to update the publicly available salary schedule with the adopted wage increases during the term of the MOU – Human Resources Department (Nickie Mastay/Sharrone Taylor 510-620-6602).

Adopted Resolution No. 168-25

O.4.e Memorandum of Understanding between IFPTE Local 21 Executive Management

ADOPT a resolution approving a successor Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Richmond and International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE) Local 21 Executive Management for the term of July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2028, and DIRECT the city manager or their designee to update the publicly available salary schedule with the adopted wage increases during the term of the MOU – Human Resources Department (Nickie Mastay/Sharrone Taylor 510-620-6602).

Adopted Resolution No. 169-25

O.5 Public Works

O.5.a Contract with WR Forde for the Richmond Art and Light Project

ADOPT a resolution to APPROVE a construction contract with WR Forde for the Richmond Art and Light Project in the amount of \$374,000, with a term from October 1, 2025, to July 1, 2026, and AUTHORIZE the public works director to approve change orders up to \$37,400 or 10 percent contingency – Public Works Department (Jene Levine Snipes 510-307-8132/Robert Armijo 510-620-5477).

Claudia Citroen gave comments via teleconference. Deputy Director of Public Works Operations and Maintenance Tawfic Halaby introduced the matter. Assistant Administrative Analyst Jene Levine-Snipes and Consultant Jessie Maran of CSWST2 presented a PowerPoint. [Link to view Safety, Art, and Lighting Project](#). Discussion ensued. The council

requested staff to consider improvements to the Carlson Boulevard Highway I-80 underpass, and a light plan for dark walking and bike paths, such as the 23rd Street Bay Area Rapid Transit underpass.

Motion by Councilmember Jimenez

Seconded by Vice Mayor Zepeda

To adopt said resolution.

Ayes (5): Councilmember Jimenez, Councilmember Robinson, Councilmember Wilson, Vice Mayor Zepeda, and Mayor Martinez

Absent (2): Councilmember Bana and Councilmember Brown

Passed (5 to 2)

Adopted Resolution No. 170-25

- O.5.b Bayview Avenue Grade Separation Safety & Bike Lane Improvements Project – UPRR Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement.

ADOPT a resolution to APPROVE the Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement with Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) for the Bayview Avenue Grade Separation Safety & Bike Lane Improvements Project; AUTHORIZE the public works director to execute the agreement and approve minor amendments, provided the total cost does not exceed \$25,000; and transfer and APPROPRIATE \$37,376 in unspent funds from Project 29105 – 37th Street Improvement Close-out to Project 23040 – Bayview Avenue Grade Separation Safety & Bike Lane Improvements Project in the General Capital Fund – Public Works Department (Hillal Hamdan 510-620-1612/Robert Armijo 510-620-5477).

Claudia Citroen gave comments via teleconference. Deputy Director of Public Works Operations and Maintenance Tawfic Halaby introduced the matter. Project Manager/Senior Civil Engineer Hillal Hamdan provided a project overview. Discussion ensued. The council requested staff to continue providing project update videos with links to additional project information in the city's newsletter. The council advised that community members could review the most recent community meeting presentation slides and provide feedback at: bit.ly/bayviewavenueproject

Motion by Councilmember Jimenez

Seconded by Mayor Martinez

To adopt said resolution.

Ayes (5): Councilmember Jimenez, Councilmember Robinson, Councilmember Wilson, Vice Mayor Zepeda, and Mayor Martinez

Absent (2): Councilmember Bana and Councilmember Brown

Passed (5 to 2)

Adopted Resolution No. 171-25

- O.5.c Real estate agreements with property owners and City of Richmond, I-80/Central Avenue, Interchange Improvements (phase 2) Project.

ADOPT a resolution to ACCEPT the required right-of-way acquisitions, including easements and grant deeds, for the I-80/Central Avenue Improvements (Phase II) Project and AUTHORIZE the city manager or designee to execute all necessary documents and DIRECT the city clerk to

record executed instruments with Contra Costa County - Public Works Department (Hillal Hamdan 510-621-1612/Robert Armijo 510-620-5477).

Adopted Resolution No. 172-25

P. NEW BUSINESS

Emergency Item Added during Agenda Review

DIRECT the City Manager to (1) work with relevant City departments to identify and implement short-term support for Richmond parents and children affected by the United Teachers of Richmond and West Contra Costa Unified School District labor negotiations; and (2) authorize the use of up to \$50,000 in available funds for emergency programming, services, or other appropriate items as determined by staff – Mayor Eduardo Martinez (510-620-62503) and Councilmember Claudia Jimenez (510-620-6565). [Link to view Staff Report.](#)

Mayor Martinez introduced the matter. Don Gosney and Mark Wassberg gave comments in person. Francisco Ortiz and Gabrielle Micheletti gave comments via teleconference. Discussion ensued.

Motion by Councilmember Jimenez
Seconded by Councilmember Bana

To approve said emergency item as recommended.

Ayes (6): Councilmember Bana, Councilmember Jimenez, Councilmember Robinson, Councilmember Wilson, Vice Mayor Zepeda, and Mayor Martinez

Absent (1): Councilmember Brown

Passed (6 to 1)

P.1 Contract with RDH Building Science for Craneway Pavilion Condition Assessment

APPROVE a contract with RDH Building Science to perform a condition assessment of the Craneway Pavilion, located at the historic Ford Assembly Plant, with a payment limit of \$169,500, for a term ending December 31, 2026, and AUTHORIZE the city manager, with assistance of the City’s Attorney’s Office, to negotiate and execute the contract - Community Development Department (Lina Velasco 510-620-6706).

Planning Manager Avery Stark introduced the matter and presented a PowerPoint. [Link to view Craneway Update.](#) Discussion ensued.

Motion by Mayor Martinez
Seconded by Councilmember Jimenez

To approve said contract.

Ayes (6): Councilmember Bana, Councilmember Jimenez, Councilmember Robinson, Councilmember Wilson, Vice Mayor Zepeda, and Mayor Martinez

Absent (1): Councilmember Brown

Passed (6 to 1)

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

Vice Mayor Zepeda reported attending various training sessions with the National League of Cities in Salt Lake City. He also reported attending the Tree Lighting and Turkey Shoot on Thanksgiving Day in Point Richmond.

Councilmember Robinson acknowledged staff for expediting the lighting repairs at Martin Luther King Jr. Park. Councilmember Robinson reported attending meetings of the Macdonald Avenue Corridor Task Force, Governing Board of the Green Empowerment Zone, and Urban Forest Advisory Committee (UFAC). She also reported that the UFAC raised concerns regarding Integrated Pest Management and repetitive injuries from hand-pulling weeds.

Councilmember Jimenez announced that community members wishing to support teachers during the strike may do so from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 4, 2025, at Veterans Memorial Park, and on Friday, December 5, 2025, at Marina Bay Park.

Mayor Martinez reported attending the Marin Clean Energy Board meeting, where the board voted to create a Finance Committee. He also acknowledged staff for the Tree Lighting event at the Civic Center Auditorium.

R. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m. to meet again on December 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Pamela Christian, Clerk of the City of
Richmond

Eduardo Martinez, Mayor

From: sparkles724@me.com
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Shasa Curl](#); [Dave Aleshire](#); [Jamelia Brown](#); [Cesar Zepeda](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Soheila Bana](#)
Subject: Open forum public comment OR new business O.5.a. O.5.c
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 5:42:14 PM

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Dear Mrs City Clerk, I am at odds where to place it in the required headline since both items are still in the consent calendar and I am supposed to hand in emails by midday Tuesday. I requested both items to be removed, alas, I am asking if your office has the ability to correctly allocate this email within the council agenda package. —

-> Legal challenges associated with Richmond’s patchwork of bike path approvals without midpoint data collection on usage and environmental impact in surrounding communities.

-> Approving segmented or “patchwork” bike-path projects without baseline or midpoint data collection creates several real, legally recognizable risks for the City of Richmond. These risks arise under CEQA, the Brown Act, procedural due process requirements, equity law, state transportation guidelines, and general municipal liability standards.

1. CEQA Vulnerabilities (California Environmental Quality Act)

a. Inadequate Environmental Review If the city approves bikeway elements without usage or environmental data, opponents may argue that the city failed to conduct a project-level CEQA analysis or improperly relied on a categorical exemption without the factual support required for traffic, safety, and cumulative impacts.

b. Segmentation (“piecemealing”) violations CEQA prohibits dividing a larger transportation corridor into small pieces to avoid full review. Patchwork approvals can be challenged as unlawful segmentation if they form a single integrated corridor project.

c. Lack of baseline conditions CEQA requires analysis of existing conditions as the baseline. Without pre-installation counts, the environmental document may be attacked for baseline error, unsubstantiated traffic and safety assumptions, and lack of evidence for “no significant impact.” A project approved with an incomplete baseline is one of the most common reasons CEQA challenges succeed.

2. **Brown Act & Procedural Due Process Issues**

a. Consent calendar misuse Placing significant transportation redesigns on the consent calendar—especially before a holiday weekend or after late agenda posting—can create claims of inadequate notice, claims that the city effectively prevented meaningful public participation, and challenges that required findings were made without public hearing.

b. Late posting & accessibility barriers If agendas or supporting documents are posted at 5:15 pm before a long weekend, working-class residents may argue denial of fair opportunity to review, disparate impact on people with inflexible schedules, and violations of Gov. Code §§ 54954.1–54954.2.

3. **Equal Protection & Equity-Based Legal Risks** When the city does not collect usage or demographic data, it risks approving corridors that do not equitably serve low-income or transit-dependent neighborhoods and risks violating adopted equity principles and federal Title VI requirements.

4. **Funding and Grant Non-Compliance** Most state and federal transportation funds require pre-project data, post-project data, performance monitoring, and safety outcomes for vulnerable users. Approving segments without data can trigger audit findings or repayment of grant funds.

5. **Negligence & Safety Liability Exposure** When a city installs facilities without data showing they will operate safely, it increases exposure under Gov. Code § 835 (Dangerous Condition of Public Property). Patchwork bikeways with abrupt transitions create recognized hazards, and failure to study usage intensifies liability.

Plain and short: “You expose Richmond to avoidable legal risk when you approve patchwork bike-path segments without collecting baseline or midpoint data. Without usage counts, environmental baselines, or equitable-impact analysis, the city is vulnerable to CEQA challenges for segmentation and inadequate review, Brown Act claims for inadequate notice, funding violations under state/federal grant requirements, and negligence exposure when inconsistent segments cause crashes. Richmond deserves evidence-based mobility planning—not legally fragile approvals pushed through.

From: sparkles724@me.com
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Shasa Curl](#); [Dave Aleshire](#); [Jamelia Brown](#); [Cesar Zepeda](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#)
Subject: Public comment open forum council meeting 12.02.2025
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 6:12:15 PM

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Richmond City Council: Legal, Fiscal, and Governance Analysis

Richmond faces ongoing structural fiscal challenges, including persistent budget deficits, escalating pension obligations, and constrained revenue growth. These challenges are compounded by pre-approved spending through the City Council's **Consent Calendar, which often includes multi-year contracts and capital projects. Consent Calendar items are frequently approved en masse, without substantive discussion or public scrutiny, creating procedural and fiduciary risks.** In a financially constrained municipality, such unvetted commitments may violate principles of prudent fiscal management and expose the city to both legal and operational liabilities.

The Council has **repeatedly approved substantial outside legal-service contracts, including for land use, development, and politically sensitive commissions, while internal legal staffing remains insufficient.** This practice creates significant institutional and legal risk. Outsourced counsel, particularly in politically charged investigations, may generate perceived or actual conflicts of interest with City policies or staff. Furthermore, insufficient notice or late posting of contract approvals may violate the Brown Act (Gov. Code §§ 54950 et seq.), which guarantees public access and transparency for local legislative actions. Multi-year, high-dollar contracts also bind the city financially, reducing discretionary authority for other fiscal priorities and potentially creating exposure to breach-of-contract claims if funds are not available for payment. In approving such contracts without adequate review, **Council members may breach statutory duties of care and loyalty, opening the city to litigation or claims of mismanagement.** These legal risks contribute to the withdrawal or non-application of qualified City Attorney candidates, who may reasonably fear inheriting a chaotic contract backlog, politically motivated litigation, or ethical entanglements.

Meanwhile, the Council continues to pre-approve high-visibility projects, such as decorative light installations, while Richmond streets remain among the worst in the region according to recent pavement-condition studies by Contra Costa County Public Works (2024). This discrepancy **highlights a potential misallocation of public funds, as prioritizing non-essential projects while critical infrastructure deteriorates** may constitute a breach of fiduciary responsibility under municipal law. The city could also face negligence liability if poor roadway conditions result in accidents or injuries. Moreover, diverting resources to aesthetic or symbolic projects may **conflict with statutory obligations requiring municipalities to maintain public works to ensure public health and safety.**

Cumulatively, these practices generate multiple legal and governance risks. Repeated late

postings or insufficient agenda detail for Consent Calendar items may constitute ongoing Brown Act violations, allowing citizens to issue a demand to cure or correct under Gov. Code § 54960.1, and, if unresolved, pursue judicial remedies such as injunctions or declaratory relief. Binding outside legal contracts without proper fiscal review may lead to illegal appropriation claims under Cal. Gov. Code § 53600 et seq., which governs municipal financial obligations. Approving contracts in a politically charged or opaque manner may also expose Council members to claims of breach of duty, mismanagement, or, in extreme circumstances, personal liability.

From a fiscal and operational perspective, multi-year legal contracts and pre-approved high-visibility projects consume scarce funds that could otherwise be invested in essential infrastructure such as road maintenance. The lack of public debate and rapid pre-authorization of projects reduces transparency and obscures the misalignment between community priorities and Council action. Political instability and misallocated spending further discourage high-quality City Attorney candidates, weakening both legal and operational governance. Repeated pre-approvals without deliberation increase the risk of long-term fiscal stress, worsen public safety conditions, and erode institutional credibility.

In conclusion, **Richmond city council's combination of chaotic legal-contract approvals, pre-approved non-essential projects, and under-maintained infrastructure reveals significant legal, fiscal, and governance vulnerabilities.** These practices not only risk Brown Act violations, breach of fiduciary duties, contractual overcommitment, and public safety liability, but they also weaken institutional integrity and public trust. To safeguard the city's long-term financial stability, legal compliance, and operational effectiveness, it is imperative that the Council implement rigorous oversight of contracts and projects, prioritize essential infrastructure, and ensure transparency in all procedural and fiscal decisions. Addressing these challenges proactively will restore public confidence and enable Richmond to manage its obligations responsibly while protecting the community's well-being.

From: [TRAC](#)
To: [Soheila Bana](#); [Jamelia Brown](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Doria Robinson](#); [Sue Wilson](#); [Cesar Zepeda](#); [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Cc: [Lina Velasco](#); [Beatriz Guerrero](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Agenda Item O.2.b - RM3 Funding Reso
Date: Friday, November 28, 2025 11:26:55 AM

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Mayor Martinez & City Councilors,

TRAC, the Trails for Richmond Action Committee, supports approving the Consent Calendar item O.2.b reso requesting \$10.0 million in RM3 funds to help complete the Richmond Wellness Trail and Neighborhood Complete Streets projects that will make it safer and more attractive to walk and bicycle in our City. This includes improvements on Harbour Way South, Marina Way South, Wright Avenue and Ohio Avenue, which are either sections of the San Francisco Bay Trail or serve to link residential areas with the Bay Trail, providing active transportation access to Richmond's necklace of 12 City, regional, state & national shoreline parks, the ferry terminal, the North Bay via the RSR Bridge and many other destinations.

Bruce

Bruce Beyaert, TRAC Chair
baytrailtrac@gmail.com
Mobile [REDACTED]
<http://www.pointrichmond.com/baytrail/>
<http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/109/TRAC>

From: germansparkles@sbcglobal.net
To: [Robert Armijo](#); [Tawfic Halaby](#); [City Clerk Dept User](#); germansparkles@sbcglobal.net; [Dave Aleshire](#); [Shasa Curl](#)
Subject: Council agenda O.5.a and O.5.b remove from consent calendar to new business
Date: Wednesday, November 26, 2025 7:06:51 PM

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Re: Public Comment / Request to Remove Items 0.5.a and 0.5.b from Consent Calendar

Please call me at [REDACTED] to have the required 10 minute conversation prior to removing item from consent calendar

Dear City Clerk, City Attorney and Planning Department,

I am submitting this public comment regarding the City Council agenda for the upcoming meeting. I request that items 0.5.a (Art-Project Lighting) and 0.5.b (Transportation/Bikeway Safety and Draft Plans) be removed from the Consent Calendar and placed under New Business for full discussion.

Item 0.5.a – Art-Project Lighting / Lack of Community Engagement

The City continues to prioritize this art-project lighting initiative over essential infrastructure and safety needs. The Planning Department has not presented plans, circulated drafts, or solicited input from affected community members. It remains unclear who commissioned this “art project” and under what authority or procurement process. This item warrants placement under New Business so the community can engage in a transparent review. Why isn’t replacing vandalized MLK field lighting prioritized?

Item 0.5.b – Missing Plans, Missing Public Input, and Transportation Safety Issues

There are no draft plans or summaries of community input available. The City has not addressed enforcement of motorized vehicles (mopeds, scooters, etc.) using bicycle lanes. Adding or modifying bike lanes without proper enforcement or updated transportation ordinances exposes the City to liability, diverts funds from critical infrastructure projects, and places the public at risk. Street repairs and roadway safety remain unaddressed despite documented infrastructure disrepair. (https://contracosta.news/2025/11/26/mtc-releases-2024-pavement-condition-index-for-bay-area/?brid=ZGDQ0IeVugwCAA_odhOJrQ)

Challenges for Working-Class Residents

The Council’s practice of posting agendas at 5:15 p.m. on the Wednesday before a long weekend creates a near-impossible barrier for working-class residents, parents, and those with inflexible schedules. Under these conditions, it is unrealistic to review complex materials, prepare comments, or request removal of items from the Consent Calendar. Placing major planning, safety, or environmental decisions on the Consent Calendar effectively removes

public discussion, conceals major policy shifts under the guise of routine business, and undermines public trust.

Applicable Laws, Ordinances, and Procedural Requirements

1. California Brown Act (Gov. Code §54950 et seq.) – Requires 72-hour notice, publicly accessible agenda materials, and meaningful opportunity for public comment. City intentionally delays the publication of agenda material in order to eliminate residents’ rights to pull consent calendar items into new business item.
2. AB 2647 Amendments (2023) – Requires that writings distributed to a majority of the City Council be made available for public inspection in a timely manner, not after a long weekend has started.
3. Richmond Council Rules of Procedure – Residents should be able to request items be removed from the Consent Calendar in a timely manner by notifying the City Clerk and staff prior to the meeting. Not have to scuffle on Monday morning to have the required ‘10 minute exchange with staff’.
4. California Vehicle Code §21209 – Prohibits motor vehicles from operating in bicycle lanes except in limited circumstances (parking, entering/exiting the roadway, preparing for a turn within 200 feet of an intersection).
5. Richmond Bikeway Facilities – City maintains 6.7 miles of Class II bike lanes, 5.3 miles of Class III bike routes, and 28.6 miles of Class I multi-use paths. Any motorized vehicle use outside permitted exceptions violates VC §21209.

Failure to comply with these laws increases the City’s liability for accidents, misallocation of funds, and potential legal challenges.

Request

1. Remove Items 0.5.a and 0.5.b from the Consent Calendar and place them under New Business.
2. Ensure full discussion, review of draft plans, and summary of community input.
3. Establish city wide transportation ordinance addressing bicycle-lane restrictions consistent with VC §21209 to protect public safety and reduce liability exposure prior to adding underutilized bike infrastructure which historically dramatically increases traffic congestion, creates harmful noise levels and measurable air pollution impacting vulnerable residents health.
4. Provide working-class residents and other community members with adequate time and access to agenda materials and especially timely manageable opportunities to successfully have the “required 10 minute exchanges with staff”. Suppressing public input is inconsistent with the Brown Act and AB 2647.

Thank you for your attention and for ensuring meaningful public participation in Richmond’s planning and safety decisions.

Best,

Claudia Citroen



From: germansparkles@sbcglobal.net
To: [Robert Armijo](#); [Tawfic Halaby](#); [City Clerk Dept User](#); germansparkles@sbcglobal.net; [Dave Aleshire](#); [Shasa Curl](#)
Subject: Council agenda O.5.a and O.5.b remove from consent calendar to new business
Date: Wednesday, November 26, 2025 7:06:51 PM

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Re: Public Comment / Request to Remove Items 0.5.a and 0.5.b from Consent Calendar

Please call me at [REDACTED] to have the required 10 minute conversation prior to removing item from consent calendar

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