



Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Name	Email	Comment	Position	Status	Attachment
City Council							
1/6/2026 5:00 PM	OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT	Dean Kertesz		<p>Mayor Martinez has yet to fully apologize for antisemitic posts I had no expectation that Richmond Mayor Eduardo Martinez would comment on a massacre of Jews half-a-world away in Sydney, Australia. He has a city to run, with a lot of complex, difficult problems. He is a busy man. But if he did choose to say something, I assumed he would share his grief over the senseless loss of life – after all there were 15 victims, the youngest a 10-year-old child and the oldest an 87-year-old Holocaust survivor who died shielding his wife from the murderer’s bullets – and condemn those who did the killing. It’s only human to express compassion for the dead and their grieving families, and perhaps, as an elected leader of one of America’s most diverse cities, make a statement about the absolute necessity for Jews, and any minority, to celebrate their traditions in safety. Although Richmond is not Sydney, when any Jewish community is attacked, when Jews anywhere are marked for death, we all feel it. As the former rabbi here, I know Richmond’s Jewish community would have welcomed the mayor’s solidarity. He could have attended a service at the local synagogue to demonstrate we are not alone. Knowing our city leaders care is important. But Mayor Martinez did none of these things. His reaction instead was to repost a claim that the attack was an Israeli “false-flag” operation to “change the narrative,” whatever that means. He also reposted an image with a Star of David and the words, “The root cause of antisemitism is the behavior of Israel & Israelis.” Rather than offer compassion or understanding, the mayor chose to repost a conspiratorial crackpot and a cruel, inaccurate meme. Then, when it was pointed out to him how deeply hurtful his actions were, he offered excuses rather than apologies. He claimed first that he had posted “in haste without full understanding of the posting” and that he had done so “without thinking,” adding that “Of course we know that antisemitism was here before the creation of the state of Israel. As I’ve said many times before, we should not conflate Zionism with Judaism. They are two separate beliefs.” Later, on his X account, he wrote, “I failed to fully read and understand the meaning behind what I was reposting, and inadvertently spread content that was factually inaccurate, conspiratorial, and portrayed Judaism in a negative light.” It’s worth noting that neither post portrayed Judaism in a negative light, but they did portray Jews and Israel negatively. It’s a critical difference. But what’s worse is that these are not apologies at all, but something a child would say when caught with their hand in the cookie jar. A genuine apology would have begun with an acknowledgment of the harm caused by using his platform to spread lies and would have included an acknowledgement that he had done something genuinely wrong. Later, in an interview with the Jewish News Service, the mayor said, “I retracted my mistakes. I own them. I was hoping that people would listen to me with compassion and understanding, but apparently that doesn’t seem to be the way in the world.” This is the classic move of a public figure caught doing something they shouldn’t: shift the blame and make yourself the victim. But compassion and understanding is a two-way street; you have to offer them to others, not just ask it for yourself. Which begs the question, what was he thinking? Why did he do it? Even if we believe his excuses, the question remains: Why act in such haste and why is he following such hateful accounts at all? He is not an impulsive child; he’s a 76 year old man in a public position of great responsibility. His words carry weight. Now there is a political storm brewing. The Jewish Community Relations Council and some elected officials are calling for his resignation. Two members of the Richmond City Council have condemned him. More hateful posts are emerging from the past and a large group of elected leaders is calling for him to take actual responsibility for them. But ultimately this is not a political issue, it is a moral one. Do we stand up against hate or not? Do we comfort members of our community when they are hurting or do we add to their pain? Hanukkah is about bringing light into a dark world. Every day each of us face the choice Mayor Martinez made: will we bring a little more light into the world or will we contribute to the darkness? You can never know what is in another person’s heart. You can only judge them by their actions. How Mayor Martinez acts going forward will show us who he is.</p>	No Position	Approved	-
1/6/2026 5:00 PM	OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT	Rita Fabi	ritapfabi@gmail.com	<p>I am a Jewish Bay Area resident and a parent in a neighboring county. I urge the City Council to publicly condemn Mayor Martinez’s conduct and take meaningful steps to ensure that Jewish residents, and all residents, are treated with dignity and protected from hate. When I learned about Mayor Martinez’s posts on LinkedIn, I felt compelled to look for myself. What I saw was deeply shocking, hurtful, and frightening. It is profoundly disturbing that the mayor chose to respond to a terrorist attack, one in which 15 Jewish people were murdered and 40 were injured, not with compassion or mourning, but by using that tragedy to vilify the very community that had just been slaughtered. That is not political disagreement. It is a profound moral failure. As a public official, the mayor’s words carry weight. When he amplifies conspiracy theories and demonizing narratives about Israel and Jews, the harm does not remain abstract. It legitimizes those ideas for others and helps spread them far beyond their original source. As a parent, this deeply concerns me. I worry about the impact of Mayor Martinez’s rhetoric on my children and on other Jewish children - and how these statements shape the way they see themselves, and how they may be treated by peers who encounter these messages and assume they are legitimate. We have all seen the rise in antisemitism in the Bay Area, and actions like the mayor’s contribute directly to Jewish families feeling increasingly unsafe. In these challenging times, there have also been moments of leadership. I would like to recognize the current and former elected officials who signed the Unity Letter in response to Mayor Martinez’s actions. Their statement was inspiring and reflects the kind of leadership our communities need right now: leadership that centers accountability, repair, and the safety of residents. Whether or not the mayor chooses to meet that standard, it is essential</p>	No Position	Approved	-

				that the City Council affirm it publicly. I urge the Council to publicly condemn this conduct and take meaningful steps to ensure that Jewish residents, and all residents, are treated with dignity and protected from hate. Thank you for your time and for your responsibility to the community.			
1/6/2026 5:00 PM	OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT	Patricia Munro		Dear Richmond City Council, I write as a Bay Area resident, a former elected official, a Jew, and the parent and grandparent of Richmond residents to urge Mayor Eduardo Martinez to resign and/or for the Richmond City Council to censure him for his egregious pattern of antisemitic behavior. That censure—should it be necessary—should include: removal from all committees and leadership roles, no travel reimbursements, and no official representation of Richmond. I visit Richmond often to see my family and have truly fallen in love with it and deeply want it to thrive. I love its diversity, its museums, its restaurants. And I am sad to see its problems ignored by its leader. Richmond deserves a mayor who will truly grapple with Richmond's real economic, infrastructure, and public safety issues, rather than focusing on divisive international issues. Richmond does not deserve a mayor whose virulent, public, and ongoing antisemitic behavior weakens his credibility and effectiveness within and without the city. Martinez has celebrated the barbaric massacre of October 7, 2023, spread conspiracy theories (claiming that Jews staged their own murders to inflame hatred), and—amidst the terrible pain and grief of the Bondi Beach Hanukkah massacre—claimed that act was a "false flag" event. His actions have led over 80 elected officials (myself included) to condemn him. While his behavior may earn him points among like-minded people, it does great harm to Richmond and its residents. I thank the councilmembers—Jamelia Brown and Cesar Zepeda—who have spoken out against Martinez and urge other councilmembers to follow their lead. Sincerely, Patricia Munro Former Livermore City Councilmember	Approved	-	
1/6/2026 5:00 PM	PUBLIC COMMENT BEFORE CLOSED SESSION (limited to items on the Closed Session agenda only)	Stephen London		My name is Stephen London. I've been a homeowner and resident in the Marina Bay neighborhood of Richmond for seven years. I really didn't pay much attention to local politics until last summer. That's when I learned that in a speech in Detroit Mayor Martinez not only offered up a justification for Hamas' atrocities on Oct 7, but he also wore a hat that bore a slogan calling for the death of the Israeli Defense Forces. A few weeks later I noticed the mayor and I were posting on the same Nextdoor thread. I told him how appalled I was that my mayor had called for the death of my family members. Let me tell you about my Israeli relatives. Like the mayor, they're socialists. They're kibbutzniks. And they regularly demonstrate against Bibi Netanyahu's right wing government. But when called upon to do their mandatory military service to defend their country, they serve. I'm curious. Of the over 70 other armed conflicts taking place in the world, does our mayor call for the deaths of any other soldiers? Or is there something uniquely evil about Jewish soldiers? And is the mayor even remotely aware of the historical contexts of calling for their deaths? Has he ever heard of the medieval chants of 'Hep, hep, death to the Jews' that preceded pogroms? The invocations of death to the Jews spread by the virulently antisemitic Houthis, Hezbollah and Hamas? But the calls to murder us just don't bother him, I guess. Our mayor's first instinct, as we've witnessed repeatedly, is to demonize Israelis. Only afterwards, when he's met with outrage, does it occur to him to offer a weak alibi. But there is no valid alibi for spreading false, hateful conspiracy theories and calling for the death of people you know nothing about. My Nextdoor scrap with Mayor Martinez ended when he declared he didn't need to take my abuse. But why does the Richmond Jewish community have to take his abuse? Resign, mayor. You've brought enough shame to our city.	No Position	Approved	-
1/6/2026 5:00 PM	OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT	Vered Cohen	vered1q84@gmail.com	I have lived in Richmond for nearly 15 years. Because of Mayor Eduardo Martinez's divisive and inflammatory public statements, I no longer feel safe in the city I call home. A mayor's responsibility is to unite and protect all residents. Instead, Mayor Martinez has used his platform in ways that alienate minority communities and fuel hostility. This has caused real fear, pain, and distress for my family and others. At a time of rising antisemitic violence worldwide, it is especially dangerous for a U.S. public official to spread rhetoric that emboldens hate. Jews are a federally protected minority, and this behavior puts our community at greater risk of hate crimes and violence. The harm to community trust is profound. I urge the City Council to ask Mayor Martinez to step down. Richmond deserves leadership that protects NOT endangers its residents.		Approved	-
1/6/2026 5:00 PM	OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT	Cecilia Lucas		Regarding the pressure campaign against Mayor Martinez, and those coming out in defense of him, I want to remind us that more than one thing can be true at the same time. I was deeply upset to see that the mayor re-posted an antisemitic meme claiming that Israel is the root of antisemitism. Antisemitism obviously long predates the existence of Israel. Even worse, he shared this meme right after the mass murder of Jewish people in Australia, which comes across as justifying that murder, even if that was not his intention. This is not something we should be defending. However, we should always and consistently be defending Palestinian liberation and speaking strongly against the ongoing U.S. and Israeli genocide of the Palestinian people. Please do not allow this upsetting act by the mayor to become a distraction from this. The City of Richmond resolved to be a sister city with Sebastia, Palestine in August of 2025. Right now, Sebastia is being illegally claimed by Israeli settlers. We should be speaking out loudly and clearly in protest of the proposed demolitions and land theft and apply pressure to help save our sister city. If JCRC or anyone else just wants to highlight that the meme the mayor re-posted was antisemitic, I have no argument there, and I believe he needs to apologize unequivocally about this. But this should not be used as an excuse by anyone to undermine the principled stance our city has been taking against the ongoing genocide, land theft, and occupation of Palestine. It needs to continuously be made clear to everyone that Judaism and Jewish people are not equivalent to Israel or Zionism, and that Anti-Zionism does not equal Anti-Semitism, no matter how much various propaganda	No Position	Approved	-

machines try to promote that narrative. It's quite possible that the mayor posting that antisemitic meme is actually a symptom of how successful that false and dangerous propaganda has been, because I do not believe that the mayor harbors any ill-will towards Jewish people. And I believe he has done a lot of good for this city, so I would hate to see him lose his job over this, if he truly recognizes how messed up it was to post that meme, and makes amends for doing so. Eradicate Anti-Semitism and Free Palestine. These things are not a contradiction.

1/6/2026 5:00 PM OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Dorothea Dorenz

I am writing to urge Mayor Martinez to resign as Mayor of Richmond. We didn't vote for him to perpetrate lies and hate against our Jewish residents. His statements are heinous antisemitic expressions that reverberate throughout many of our communities, including Richmond and the entire State of California. We cannot have leaders who work against our pluralistic democracy. Any leader who would say the for example "The Black Christians who were murdered, were actually murdered by their own people", would be severely accused of racism. In the case of our Jewish community, Mayor Martinez expressed his abject hatred of Jewish people when he accused Jews of murdering themselves at Bondi Beach during a Chanukah celebration. This was pure racism against Jewish People. Martinez' apologies are useless. His words have created extreme damage to our Jewish community due to its inspiration to murder Jewish people just like the Islamists who picked up their machine guns in order to slaughter innocent Jewish people. Mayor Martinez works against our pluralistic democracy. He should step down immediately. He showed his true colors in his support of the terrorist militia, Hamas, and in his failure to condemn the murders of Jews inspired by Hamas, Iran, Qatar, and Turkey. His job was to lead the City of Richmond, but he has failed in that job over and over again by engaging in foreign policy. I urge Mayor Martinez to resign. Apologies are completely insufficient in light of the damage that he has done to us all. Dorothea Dorenz

Approved

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RECEIVED

JAN - 5 2026

**CITY CLERKS OFFICE
CITY OF RICHMOND**

The Aquarian Minyan
P.O. Box 7224
Berkeley, CA 94707-0224

January 1, 2026

To: The Richmond City Council

From: The Aquarian Minyan

Re: Mayor Eduardo Martinez's Antisemitic Rhetoric

Members of the Council:

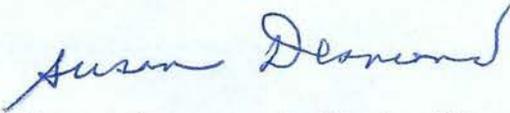
We are writing to you on behalf of the Aquarian Minyan, a Jewish Renewal congregation with members living in Richmond and other cities in the Bay Area, throughout the United States, and indeed some who live in other countries. Our concern is the lack of a sincere apology from Mayor Eduardo Martinez for his antisemitic rhetoric and images on social media. These hateful remarks and stereotypes radiate beyond the City of Richmond's borders. Consequently, unless real apologies and overt changes are made, he will be responsible for fueling hate crimes.

Mayor Eduardo Martinez was elected to represent all the people who live and work in Richmond, including the hundreds of Jewish individuals and families who want to safely live their lives without fear or pain. Jewish people in this country have just ended an unprecedented year full of disheartening threats, attacks, and violence directly aimed at us.

Today, a controversial political candidate was sworn in as the mayor of New York City. Mayor Mamdani knows that many of his Jewish constituents did not vote for him because they fear how his politics could interfere with his ability to represent all of us. He spent a lot of time in dialogue with Jewish voters, leaders, and communities. Today at his remarkable inaugural address, Mayor Mamdani publicly vowed, "Regardless of whether we agree, I will protect you, celebrate with you, mourn alongside you, and never, not for a second, hide from you."

The world is watching to see whether Mayor Mamdani will be able to offer a new model of leadership. Similarly, the global Jewish community is watching to see whether Mayor Martinez is courageous enough to apologize with compassion for the sake of healing, justice, and peace.

Respectfully yours,



Susan Desmond, *Chair of the Aquarian Minyan's Tikkun Olam Committee*

Rabbi Jonathan Seidel PhD, *Aquarian Minyan Rabbi in Residence, Rosh Yeshivah, and President, Oregon Interfaith Hub*

Robert Stang, *Aquarian Minyan President*

Julie Gilden, *Aquarian Minyan Past-President*

From: beth.sauerhaft
To: cityclerkdept@richmond-ca.us; [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT/ OPEN FORUM N
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 1:18:02 PM

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To the Richmond City Council,

As the Jewish child of a holocaust survivor, I am writing in support of Mayor Martinez and I want to be clear: the JCRC does NOT speak for me. Falsely claiming to speak for the Jewish community, the JCRC actually seeks to make invisible the enormous and ever growing Jewish community who draw on our history of genocide and trauma to say NEVER AGAIN for anyone anywhere. The JCRC has a long history of targeting and silencing leaders and organizations that uphold the dignity and human rights of Palestinians.

In contrast, Mayor Martinez is a bridge builder with a record of reaching out to workers, BIPOC communities, trans and queer communities, Jewish community, and promoting peace and mutual understanding through supporting a sister city project between Richmond and the ancient Palestinian town of Sebastia. Mayor Martinez's humility and bridge building skills were further demonstrated when he reached out to Richmond's Jewish community to acknowledge the impact of his unintentional mistake in recent repostings.

Please do not let the manipulative agenda of the JCRC, be a tool for unseating Mayor Martinez and his record of bringing diverse communities together -----Richmond greatly needs his leadership, now more than ever. It would be a travesty for the city of Richmond, to cater to the JCRC in further exploiting Jewish trauma, and in so doing tarnishing the celebrated accomplishments of Mayor Martinez that are embraced not only in Richmond, but among so many in the SF Bay Area and beyond.

Respectfully,

Beth Sauerhaft

Beth Sauerhaft, M.Ed., CPC

Certified Professional Coach

Transformational Coaching and Consulting

bethsauerhaftcoaching.com

pronouns: she, her, hers

From: [Chandra Sherr](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comment-Open Session
Date: Monday, January 5, 2026 10:04:47 PM

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Good evening,

I am a public school teacher who taught in the West Contra Costa Unified School District for seventeen years. I am also a member of the Jewish community.

I am writing to speak about the serious harm caused by Councilmember Eduardo Martinez's public posts and statements that have spread misinformation, conspiracy theories, and inflammatory narratives about Jews. These actions have not only harmed the Jewish community, but have damaged the broader civic fabric of Richmond by normalizing falsehoods and hostility.

As an educator, I want to be unequivocal: words matter. In our classrooms, we teach students to evaluate sources, reject misinformation, and understand the real-world consequences of dehumanizing rhetoric. Councilmember Martinez is a former educator. He should know—better than most—that spreading misinformation is not a harmless act. It creates conditions that allow fear, harassment, and hate to grow.

I have experienced the consequences of this environment firsthand. While teaching in WCCUSD, I was harassed because of my Jewish identity. I have felt unsafe during dismissal. I have had to navigate my workday with fear simply because I am Jewish. This did not happen in isolation. It happened in a climate where antisemitic narratives were amplified and legitimized by people in positions of power.

When an elected official engages in this behavior, it sends a dangerous message—that targeting Jews is acceptable, that truth is optional, and that leadership does not require accountability. This emboldens further harassment and makes Jewish educators, students, and families feel unsafe in their own community.

This is not about political disagreement or silencing speech. This is about responsibility and standards of conduct. Censure exists precisely for moments like this—when a councilmember's actions undermine public trust and cause demonstrable harm to a marginalized community.

I urge this council to formally censure Councilmember Martinez and call for his resignation. Failing to do so signals that spreading misinformation and fostering a hostile environment toward Jews carries no consequences. Taking action affirms that this city values truth, accountability, and the safety of all its residents.

Jewish community members deserve to know that their city leaders will stand up for them—
not excuse harm, not minimize it, and not remain silent in the face of it.

We deserve better. And from those entrusted with public leadership, we should demand better.

Thank you,

Chandra Sherr

3rd Grade Teacher

From: [Elaine Barbara](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments - Open Forum
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 10:57:45 AM

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My name is Elaine Dockens and I am a strong supporter of Mayor Martinez. His leadership over the past five years has energized the residents and strengthened the structure of our City government. Mayor Martinez has balanced our budget, guided our city in achieving lower crime statistics and given needed attention to low-income housing. He has apologized and taken accountability for his recent re-posting on social media of questionable content

As a long time resident of Richmond, I feel we cannot keep silent and allow outsiders, organized conservatives and local ambitious politicians to disrupt our City's progress. The negative publicity about the Mayor's social media post is primarily fueled by a conservative, organized group dedicated to fighting against the rights of Palestine and supporting Israel and their military action in Gaza.

There is no place in Richmond for "punishment agendas" that are willing to sacrifice our City's political stability to serve their selfish interests. Censure is unwarranted.

I'm asking the Richmond City Council to stand firm in support of Mayor Martinez.

Sincerely,
Elaine Dockens
22ebd01@gmail.com (email is best)

From: [Forrest Cioppa](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public comment re: Mayor Martinez
Date: Sunday, January 4, 2026 11:36:20 PM

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Dear City Council Members,

It is Israel's relentless slaughter and starvation of thousands of innocent women and children in Gaza by Israel that is fanning the flames of antisemitism causing Jews to feel "unsafe" ---**not Mayor Martinez.**

You can also look to our own Congress for accountability. They have unconditionally supported this genocide with billions of our tax dollars. We could use that money right here in the USA to pay down our multi- trillion-dollar debt and provide health care for Americans.

The drive to oust the mayor is part of a well-funded, highly organized Zionist attempt to silence all criticism of Israel. Richmond should not be a part of that witch hunt.

The mayor has apologized for his lapse in judgment. He should not be required to grovel before the Zionist cabal. He should keep his job and continue his quest for justice.

Forrest Cioppa

From: [Helen Finkelstein](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: public comments - Open Forum
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 10:36:20 AM

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I am writing in support of mayor Martinez. I am opposed to the demand that he resign over accusations of antisemitism. Accusations of anti-semitism are being used to divide and destroy our democratic and progressive community.

Our society is saturated with racism, sexism, homophobia, ableism, and yes - anti-semitism. Yet our only safety is in solidarity. We need to learn from each other how to work together - we cannot let reactionaries tear us apart. That is why I, as a Jewish community member, support mayor Martinez.

Helen Finkelstein

From: [Jeff Klonoff](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments – Open Forum
Date: Monday, January 5, 2026 10:27:38 PM

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I am writing to express my outrage over the comments made and re-posted by Mayor Martinez. His latest actions are part of a pattern that makes it very dangerous for Jews in Richmond and the Bay Area. To re-post that the intentional MURDER of 15 Jews (including a 10 year old girl) was the result of actions by Israel is shocking and horrible. We would expect the mayor to offer words of condolence and support for a community in deep mourning. Instead he re-posts something so horrible as to attract international attention to Richmond for all the wrong reasons. Would such a terrible bigoted posting targeting other community groups be tolerated? Of course not, nor should it. His "apology" was completely lacking in awareness and true ownership of the hurt he inflicted and just added to everyone's pain.

I live in the East Bay and dine and shop in Richmond quite often. I know his seemingly uncontrollable hatred of Jews does not reflect the feelings of the overwhelming majority of Richmond residents. I request that the city council censure Mayor Martinez and join in a call for his immediate resignation.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Klonoff

From: [Joan Peters](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: public comments - Open Session prior to Closed Session
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 12:46:43 PM

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My name is Joan Peters. I live at 1816 Carlson Blvd. in the Richmond Annex.

I voted for Mayor Martinez and I think he should **NOT RESIGN!!!!** The laws about mayors resigning were intended to stop criminal activity. He is **NOT A CRIMINAL**. He has not committed campaign fraud nor embezzled city money. He is NOT a criminal in any sense of the word. I agree with my city council member, Sue Wilson, that he should **NOT RESIGN**.

What is going on right now is **BULLYING**. It is NOT about Jewish people nor Palestine. It is a battle for the control of the City of Richmond. An attempt has already been made to change the law so that a mayor cannot be elected in the same way Mayor Martinez was. There have also been attacks on the City Council.

A **hot-button issue** has been chosen to stop Mayor Martinez from carrying out his rightful duties as mayor. This bullying is the same kind of bullying that was used against President Clinton in order to hamper his ability to sponsor health care funding reform. The hot-button issue used against Clinton was phone sex. The hot-button issue being used against Mayor Martinez is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This conflict is being used as a **CLOAK** to cover a desire for control of the city. It is simply a **POWER GRAB** masquerading as concern for the Jewish people.

NONE of this has anything to do with DEMOCRACY or CIVILITY.

This BULLYING needs to STOP! MAYOR MARTINEZ SHOULD NOT

RESIGN!!!! He should be allowed to continue unimpeded with his duties as mayor of **OUR CITY!!!!**

Thank you for your attention to my comment.

Sincerely,
Joan Peters

From: [Judy Weatherly](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: N. Public comments – Open Forum
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 10:51:25 AM

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My Public Comment to the Richmond Mayor and City Council:

Dear Mr. Mayor:

I am a Richmond resident and have lived and worked in Richmond for over 33 years. I owned a business in Richmond until I retired. My wife also owned a business in Richmond for over 16 years. The office building housing our businesses was only a block from the Richmond Civic Center. I retired as a Marriage & Family Therapist and also hold a California Teaching Credential. I had the opportunity to be a substitute teacher in West Contra Costa schools while I studied for my therapy license. Richmond and its residents have held a special place in my heart for years!

My wife and I have been activists for much of our lives. We have worked to build community wherever we have lived and worked. As activists, we have known that strong and unified communities are the only way to create and build safety, equity and freedom.

It is from that history of organizing and activism that I write to you today. Across Richmond, this country, and the world we face incredibly trying times. The sense of powerlessness that I and my friends, family, and neighbors are feeling is unlike any I have experienced in my many years of activism. I fear what this new year has already brought and what will continue to be drop on us. It is that feeling powerlessness that makes me realize just how important my local community is to our safety and well-being. It is for that reason I now am begging you to stop your thoughtless pattern of behavior and **RESIGN AS THE MAYOR OF RICHMOND.**

You have continued to bring fear, danger, and threats to our Richmond community with your continued focus on issues that you and the City of Richmond have absolutely no power to change. Your thoughtless and dangerous pattern of behavior started with your response to the Oct. 7, 2023 rapes, murders & kidnappings in Israel by Hamas; then the conference in Detroit where you compared yourself to Hamas and called for the death of the IDF and led the group in a chant to eliminate Israel; then more recently the trip to our Sister City in Japan where you strolled the streets wearing a keffiyeh and drinking too much alcohol; and now your latest attack on the Jewish community here in Richmond. **THIS PATTERN OF SICK, THOUGHTLESS**

BEHAVIOR MUST STOP! YOU MUST RESIGN NOW!

All of my thoughts I've shared here with you have not addressed the pain I have witnessed and have attempted to comfort in my wife and other Jewish residents here in Richmond. I am not Jewish, but I have been fighting oppression, including antisemitism, for much of my life. I grew up in poverty, in a small town, Nipomo, California. I've been fighting injustice, inequity and oppression since a teenager. Now I am fighting you and others who promote hate.

Please do not make the assumption that I agree with the Israeli government policies-- I do not! I also do not agree with the present USA governmental policies and have protested for decades to bring more equitable policies to America. I know that not all Americans are MAGATS, just like not all Israelis support Netanyahu and his government. You, however, don't seem to have the ability to understand how that works or to make that connection.

Mr. Mayor, what I want and demand from my elected representatives is a focus on unity not division. I want a mayor who believes that unifying our community is one of the most important aspects of his/her job. Your actions promote divisive energy in Richmond. Please, it is time for you to love Richmond enough to leave your position of power and to do the personal work you need to do. May you make the right decision for the greater good of Richmond!

Sincerely,
Judy Weatherly

From: [Linda Press Wulf](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments Open Forum
Date: Wednesday, December 31, 2025 6:55:29 PM

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I am writing with concerns about the ability and suitability of the Mayor of Richmond.

We are longtime residents of the East Bay and we socialize and dine in Richmond regularly.

The mayor's behavior is problematic on two fronts. The first is that his blatant antisemitism is immoral and an encouragement to people of prejudice against all minorities.

The second is that conspiracy theories and untruths are clear proof of a mind unfit to lead.

Both of these reasons would be enough to request that the mayor resign as unfit or face censure. However, in addition, the public furore caused by his behavior has brought negative attention nationwide to the City of Richmond, and it has distracted the City Council from moving ahead on important business.

We therefore request that the Mayor be asked to resign or face formal censure.

Linda Press Wulf and Stanley Wulf MD

From: [Lynn Gottlieb](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public comment in support of Mayor Martinez today at Open Session - Rabbi supports Palestine Solidarity
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 11:12:44 AM

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Dear Council members and the Honorable Mayor Martinez

My name is Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb. As a rabbi of more than 50 years and member of Interfaith for Palestine, I support boycott, ethical investment and divestment from companies that violate Palestinian human rights.

First, I am heartened by Mayor Martinez's admission that his facebook posts promoted anti-Jewish conspiracy troupes that have been the cause of violence against Jewish people. The mayor's promise to examine his position is admirable. I rarely see government officials admit wrong and undergo efforts to deepen relationships with the offended party. Thank you, Mayor Martinez, for your vulnerability.

I am deeply grateful to the city of Richmond for its courageous stance to take concrete direct actions to divest from corporate profiteering in the midst of Israel and the US's genocidal campaign against Palestinians. I reject all calls for the Mayor's resignation. We are building a solidarity movement that holds the safety of all of us as our first priority. Public safety is threatened by mass incarceration, ethnic cleansing of Spanish speaking people of color, and deportation of Palestinian activists.

Rather, I support active resistance to racist and fascist policies by communities working together to secure mutual safety for all people across all bars, borders and walls. May this new year bring liberation for Palestinians and safety for all of us.

Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb
Berkeley, CA

Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb
Shomeret Shalom
pronouns she/her
rabbilynng@gmail.com
<http://www.rabbilynngottlieb.com>
Ohlone territory, Berkeley, CA

From: [Miguel Gravelle Izaguirre](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments – Open Session for January 6 City Council Meeting
Date: Monday, December 22, 2025 12:20:51 PM

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Dear Richmond City Council,

No one is defined by our mistakes, unless they become an overwhelming pattern over years with no accountability taken. I, along with many in our community, were taken aback by the mistakes made by Mayor Martinez when he liked and shared social media posts that have the impact of supporting antisemitism, wore a hat with an acronym that we explained to him as anti MAGA, and a comment comparing his childhood experiences with wanting to retaliate against being bullied by anti-Latin American racists in Texas as understanding for how anti-Palestinian racism and oppression conducted by the government of Israel has resulted in various forms of Palestinian resistance to this including the formation of Hamas as the Gazan government that used violent terrorism on October 7 against Israeli civilians, just as the Israeli government has conducted violent terrorism against Palestinian civilians since the Nakba of 1947 and through ongoing kidnapping and torture of Palestinian civilians since then, in addition to the illegal occupation of UN recognized Palestinian sovereign territories of Gaza, West Bank, and East Jerusalem, apartheid system enacted on Palestinian citizens of Israel, and what the United Nations and a supermajority of nations on earth has called the Israeli government genocide against the Palestinian people of Gaza. Both Israel's terrorism against Palestinian people and Hamas' terrorism against Israeli people are equally wrong and must be condemned for us to move toward justice and peace in the South West Asia and North African region, especially in the area called home for both Palestinians of Jewish, Muslim, Christian, etc faiths and Israeli's of Jewish, Muslim, and Christian, etc faiths. In light of this complexity, I accept the Mayor at his word when he apologized citing misunderstandings and a cloudy mind from being sick, especially as he committed to moving forward to make amends.

It is at times like these, where we need a leader who is fluent in standing up for the human rights of all people, while condemning the oppression of anyone. For over 50 years, Eduardo Martinez's track record has been just this. We don't want a leader like many others who ONLY stand for Jewish human rights and safety while NEVER standing for Palestinian human rights and safety. Until the mistakes of 2025, Mr. Martinez has stood for both of these rights.

I thank the Mayor for standing against the corporate and billionaire interests and with working people, which not all members of this council do.

I thank the Mayor for his apology regarding accusations of antisemitism. I know that he is standing up for all oppressed peoples like my Jewish family, friends, and activism/organizer comrades who have endured antisemitism since the Roman empire.

I also thank Mayor Martinez for standing up for my friends/family/comrades who are Palestinian, Israeli, Arab, Muslim, Jewish, SWANA, Congolese, Sudanese, Latin American, Native American, African American, Pacific Islander American, Asian American, Global Majority/BIPOC, Global South, Queer, disabled, and all other oppressed groups.

In sum, Mayor Martinez's track record must be contextualized along with the accusations against him and I know that, like all good people, he has learned and will always learn from his mistakes to lead with love for and a pursuit of justice for all people.

Thank you for your time. Much love and respect for you all.

Sincerely,

Miguel Gravelle Izaguirre Xochihua

From: [Nancy Burke](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Comment for tonight's city council meeting Item N Open Forum
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 9:51:05 AM

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The following is a comment regarding the Mayor's recent and past antisemitic actions and remarks.

I am a long time resident of Richmond, Ca. I am also Jewish. The actions of the Mayor especially after the massacre in Bondi Beach, Australia; were beyond hurtful and incredibly insensitive. At a time when the Jewish community here and elsewhere was grappling with the shock and grief during a holiday that is supposed to be joyful; to have him be so hateful added a lot of pain to the situation. I expect my mayor to bring unity to my town; not divisiveness. The Mayor has a pattern of such behavior not befitting an elected representative. I ask for the council to formally censure the Mayor and to ask him to make reparations to the Jewish community.

Nancy Burke
Richmond, Ca

Public Comment Received
at 1/6/2026 CC Mtg

We of the Oscar Grant Committee against Police brutality and State repression strongly oppose demands for the resignation of Richmond Mayor Eduardo Martinez.

Martinez has been a strong ally for Justice for Pedie Perez (unjustly killed by a Richmond cop in 2014. He and others (like Jovanka Beckles and Gail McLaughlin) for example spoke and voted for the establishment of an Independent review of any and all acts of violence by the RPD . He has also been a opponent of the many similar acts across the US and was a vocal supporter of the National upsurge following the murder of George Floyd in 2020. Eduardo Martinez was the driving force behind the historic Richmond ordinance requiring that all police-caused fatalities be investigated by an independent commission. All in all he has been a strong supporter of social Justice for everyone. Including Palestinians! For many that is the real motive behind these calls for his resignation, in particular the grossly dishonest "open letter" being circulated by the JCRC.

The OGC agree with Mr. Martinez that he made a mistake reposting a social media comment suggesting "the actions of Israel and Israelis is causing antisemitism" and has started the process of making public apologies.

For many Eduardo Martinez's real crime isn't the content of a LinkedIn post that he forwarded. It is his and three others council members vote in 2023 for a resolution calling for a cease fire in Gaza. That is what's behind this call for his cancellation. Not any flawed reposting of social media content. Let's stand behind Eduardo Martinez and all those who oppose the US funded war on the Palestinian people.

-----Labor Donated

WRITTEN
comment
to be
ported/
speaked
too late

From: [Rachel Youdelman](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENTS -- OPEN FORUM Jan 6 2026
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 8:01:43 AM

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I am writing to formally call for the resignation of Mayor Eduardo Martinez.

The mayor's repeated antisemitic and antizionist remarks and conduct—widely reported and documented—are incompatible with the responsibilities of public office. His statements have gone beyond legitimate policy criticism and have instead trafficked in harmful rhetoric that targets Jews collectively, normalizes prejudice, and undermines public trust.

Richmond is a diverse city whose residents deserve leadership that upholds basic standards of decency, inclusivity, and respect. When a mayor engages in conduct that marginalizes an entire community and fuels hostility, it damages not only those directly targeted but the moral credibility of the city itself.

Continued tolerance of this behavior signals institutional acceptance of antisemitism and erodes confidence in city governance. For the good of Richmond and its residents, Mayor Martinez should step down.

I urge the City Council and City Manager to take this matter seriously and to act in defense of ethical leadership and equal dignity for all residents.

Sincerely,
Rachel Youdelman, Clovis CA 93612

--

Rachel Youdelman
rachel27@berkeley.edu

From: [Rita Fabi](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments – Open Forum
Date: Monday, January 5, 2026 8:10:35 PM

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Public Comments - Open Forum on January 6, 2026

I am a Jewish Bay Area resident and a parent in neighboring Alameda County. I urge the City Council to publicly condemn Mayor Martinez's conduct and take meaningful steps to ensure that Jewish residents, and all residents, are treated with dignity and protected from hate.

When I learned about Mayor Martinez's posts on LinkedIn, I felt compelled to look for myself. What I saw was deeply shocking, hurtful, and frightening.

It is profoundly disturbing that the mayor chose to respond to a terrorist attack, one in which 15 Jewish people were murdered and 40 were injured, not with compassion or mourning, but by using that tragedy to vilify the very community that had just been slaughtered. That is not political disagreement. It is a profound moral failure.

As a public official, the mayor's words carry weight. When he amplifies conspiracy theories and demonizing narratives about Israel and Jews, the harm does not remain abstract. It legitimizes those ideas for others and helps spread them far beyond their original source.

As a parent, this deeply concerns me. I worry about the impact of Mayor Martinez's rhetoric on my children and on other Jewish children - and how these statements shape the way they see themselves, and how they may be treated by peers who encounter these messages and assume they are legitimate. We have all seen the rise in antisemitism in the Bay Area, and actions like the mayor's contribute directly to Jewish families feeling increasingly unsafe.

In these challenging times, there have also been moments of leadership. I would like to recognize the current and former elected officials who signed the Unity Letter in response to Mayor Martinez's actions. Their statement was inspiring and reflects the kind of leadership our communities need right now: leadership that centers accountability, repair, and the safety of residents. Whether or not the mayor chooses to meet that standard, it is essential that the City Council affirm it publicly.

I urge the Council to publicly condemn this conduct and take meaningful steps to ensure that Jewish residents, and all residents, are treated with dignity and protected from hate.

Thank you for your time and for your responsibility to the community.
Regards,
Rita Fabi

From: [Sdlondon](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public comment for the Richmond City Council Meeting January 6
Date: Monday, January 5, 2026 1:28:54 PM

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I have been a homeowner and resident of Richmond for seven years. I admit I really didn't pay attention to local politics until last summer. That's when I learned that at an Israel hate festival held in Detroit Mayor Martinez not only offered up a justification for Hamas' atrocities on Oct 7, but he also wore a hat that bore a slogan calling for the death of the Israeli Defense Forces.

A few weeks later I realised Martinez and I were posting on the same Nextdoor thread, so I told him how appalled I was that my mayor had called for the death of my family members. Let me tell you about my Israeli relatives. Like the mayor, they're socialists. They're kibbutzniks. And they regularly

demonstrate against Bibi Netanyahu's right wing government. But when called upon to do their mandatory military service to defend their country from people around Israel who want Jews dead, they serve.

I'm curious. Of the over 70 other armed conflicts taking place in the world, does our mayor call for the deaths of any other soldiers? Or is there something uniquely evil about Jewish soldiers? And is the mayor even remotely aware of the historical contexts of calling for our deaths? Has he ever heard of the medieval chants of 'Hep, hep, death to the Jews' that preceded pogroms? He must be familiar with the invocations of death to the Jews spread by the virulently antisemitic Houthis, Hezbollah and Hamas. But the ancient calls to murder us just don't bother him, I guess.

Our mayor's first instinct, as we've witnessed repeatedly, is to demonize Israelis. Only afterwards, when he's met with

outrage, does it occur to him to offer a weak alibi. But there is no valid alibi for spreading false, hateful conspiracy theories and calling for the death of people you know nothing about.

My Nextdoor scrap with Mayor Martinez ended when he declared he didn't need to take my abuse and left the chat. But why does the Richmond Jewish community have to take his abuse? Resign, mayor. You've brought enough shame to our city.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sherry Drobner](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comment - January 6th meeting
Date: Monday, January 5, 2026 7:59:29 AM

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Recent calls for the resignation of Richmond Mayor Eduardo Martinez stem from his reposting of an Instagram post that alleged Israel was responsible for the Bondi attack at a Hanukkah gathering. Mayor Martinez has since issued a public apology, stating clearly that he did not intend to promote antisemitism and that his criticism was directed at the Israeli government, not Jewish people.

That clarification matters. So does his record.

Mayor Martinez has been an outspoken advocate for human rights and was instrumental in passing one of the strongest ceasefire resolutions in the nation—an action that earned widespread support from constituents but also fierce opposition from organized Zionist advocacy groups. These groups have openly targeted elected officials who challenge Israeli state policy, often conflating such criticism with antisemitism.

We can and must reject antisemitism unequivocally. But demanding resignation over a repost—after an apology and clarification—sets a dangerous precedent. It weaponizes outrage to silence dissenting views on U.S. foreign policy and international law.

Accountability should be proportional, contextual, and grounded in facts. Mayor Martinez has demonstrated good faith, leadership, and a commitment to justice. Calls for his resignation are not about combating hate—they are about punishing political speech.

Sincerely,

Sherry Drobner

El Cerrito resident

From: Terri Hinte
To: City Clerk Dept User
Subject: Fwd: Public Comments - Open Forum
Date: Monday, January 5, 2026 4:30:39 PM
Attachments: [jimenez facebook 1.png](#)

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

Subject:Public Comments - Open Forum
Date:Mon, 5 Jan 2026 16:23:17 -0800
From:Terri Hinte <hudba@sbcglobal.net>
To:cityclerkdept@richmond.ci.ca.us
CC:Shannon Moore <Shannon_Moore@ci.richmond.ca.us>, Shasa_Curl@ci.richmond.ca.us <Shasa_Curl@ci.richmond.ca.us>

Post-Council Meeting Follow-Up (Legal & Constitutional Concerns)

These comments are a follow-up to the December 16, 2025 City Council meeting and a prelude to January 6. They concern Councilmember Claudia Jimenez's conduct, particularly her use of social media and her treatment of constituents.

Claudia is a member of the private Everybody's Richmond Facebook group but does not engage. Instead, she screenshots selected comments from residents who live-blog City Council meetings and reposts them on her own public Facebook page, inviting ridicule and harassment from her followers. She characterizes this live-blogging activity as "racist," "discriminatory," and "insulting," without substantiating those claims, while allowing clearly sexist, abusive, and defamatory comments about residents to remain visible on her page.

This raises serious **First Amendment and public-official ethics issues**.

Claudia maintains two Facebook accounts:

- an "official" District 6 page, and
- a second page that is public, mixes personal content with City business, and prominently identifies her as a councilmember.

On this second page, she posts City matters, honors received in her official capacity, Chevron-related content, and commentary about constituents. Under existing legal guidance and Supreme Court precedent, pages that **appear official**—even if labeled "personal"—may still constitute a public forum. Public officials **may not use such forums to suppress, discourage, or retaliate against protected speech**, nor may they selectively block or target constituents because of criticism.

Equally concerning is the contradiction between Claudia's stated expectations of "respectful engagement" and her own documented conduct toward colleagues, staff, and residents—behavior that anyone can verify by watching council meetings directly. Encouraging public participation while mocking residents for expressing their viewpoints is inconsistent with both democratic norms and constitutional protections.

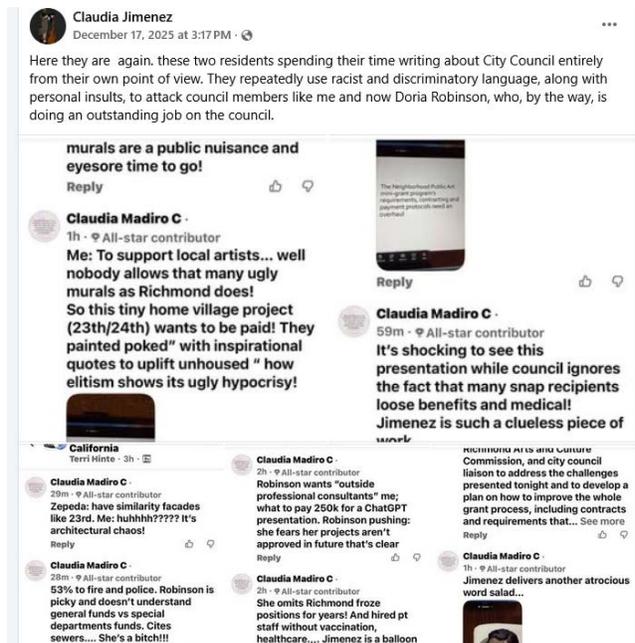
Claudia herself recently told KQED, in reference to the mayor's own social media controversy, that "*as leaders, we should be careful of our words because we don't want to cause division.*" That principle applies here.

Elected officials are not private actors when they speak in their official or quasi-official capacity. Social media is not exempt from constitutional obligations. Public criticism—even sharp criticism—is protected speech. Retaliatory posting, selective amplification of harassment, and blurring the line between official and personal accounts expose the City, and the official, to legal risk.

A refresher on the First Amendment, public-forum doctrine, and appropriate social-media use for elected officials would benefit everyone. Perhaps that's something the City Attorney should address—before this becomes more than just a cautionary example.

(Sample screenshots below.)

Terri Hinte



Like

Comment

Share



Pat Lake

Prolonged exposure to these toxic c*nts may lead to indigestion, headaches, ulcers, dementia, and anal leakage

19h Like Reply



Martha Gruelle

May these people find the mental healthcare they need to become productive parts of the public discourse.

17h Like Reply



Ellen Seskin

Claudia, at least they're writing about it!! There's a lot of talk about transparency, but without them I would never know what's happening.

Perhaps you could give us a summary after the meetings - then I could get your "point of view."

11h Like Reply



Claudia Jimenez

Ellen Seskin just so I'm clear, you are okay with Claudia C. calling Doria a "bitch" and with the ongoing derogatory comments about the way I speak. It is good to know.

I send a newsletter to residents, and I hope you will sign up if you are not already receiving it. I also encourage every resident to watch City Council meetings so they can form their own opinions based on what they see and hear directly.

What I expect regardless of disagreement is that we engage with one another respectfully.

2h Like Reply

--
Terri Hinte
839 37th Street
Richmond, CA 94805
510-234-8781 (ofc), 510-207-2159 (cell)
www.terrihinte.com
[www.twitter.com/terrihinte](https://twitter.com/terrihinte)

From: [Tom Butt - external](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User: Pamela Christian](#)
Subject: Item O.3a, January 6, 20226, Contract with Liftech Consultants, Inc. for Planning and Design
Date: Sunday, December 28, 2025 11:13:20 AM

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The "Statement of the Issue" and "Discussion" for January 6, 2026, Agenda item O3.a include factually inaccurate statements: (1) "The stakeholders of the SS Red Oak Victory are seeking to relocate the vessel closer to the Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park to increase public visitation and visibility," and (2) "Following discussions between the Port of Richmond, the Richmond Museum Association, and Congressman John Garamendi, stakeholders are seeking to relocate the vessel to the east side of the Inner Harbor, near the Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) Ferry Terminal."

The Board of Directors of the Richmond Museum Association, which owns the ship, has never taken a vote on the potential relocation of the Red Oak Victory, and it is inaccurate and misleading to suggest that the proposed move is supported by that organization. Who, specifically, are the "stakeholders?"

The primary advocates for moving the Red Oak Victory are a handful of crew members and several City Council members. The crew members believe that relocation will result in dramatically increased visitation and the fees that go along with it. Some City Council members are obsessed with the prospect of turning Point Potrero Marine Terminal into a support base for offshore wind energy projects, and clearing it out for the eventual use includes moving the Red Oak Victory.

There is no reliable basis for the estimate that the number of visits will "triple," quoting Fred Klink, who also said, "We sell out many of our events and we bring in a good revenue stream that is more than sufficient to maintain the ship as a museum. But I agree that's not enough to meet our long-term goals." Klink points to the visitation numbers at the Rosie the Riveter WWII Homefront Visitor Center, which hosted some 50,000 visitors pre-COVID but is now down to between 30,000 and 40,000. The Visitor Center is free, whereas the Red Oak Victory would charge an admission (currently \$20). How many visitor center visitors would pay \$20 and make the 2,000 foot trek over to the Red Oak Victory who would not drive over to its current location? And how much more revenue would that generate? Maybe more, but clearly far from enough to maintain the ship, which is in the millions.

Unfortunately, the Red Oak Victory has become a political football in whatever is the latest failed initiative of the City Council. When the Red Oak Victory was transferred to the Richmond Museum Association and towed to Richmond in 1998, it was docked at the abandoned Terminal One, which was a good interim location. Because a deal was in the making to sell Terminal One to a developer, City staff jumped the gun and became

obsessed with moving the Red Oak Victory out of the way as quickly as possible, going even so far as to file for eviction! Notably, over two decades later, Terminal One has not been developed, and the berth and warehouse that once hosted the Red Oak Victory has been vandalized, covered with graffiti and damaged by fire.

Threatened by eviction from Terminal One, the Red Oak Victory was then moved in 2004 to a berth at the south end of Point Potrero Marine Terminal (Historic Shipyard 3), just south of the Riggers Loft. When the lease with Riggers Loft Wine Company was in play in 2012, Port Director Jim Matzorkis insisted that the Red Oak be moved again to avoid blocking the view of patrons of the Riggers Loft Wine Company. A discussion of where to move it was subsumed by an hours-long debate by the City Council on whether or not to charge rent for its berthing. "Debate amongst the councilmembers and between the members and the audience was at times heated, causing Mayor Gayle McLaughlin to twice order an abrupt recess and walk out of the room." Councilmember Booze's motion to charge rent was defeated 5-2 ([Richmond City Council debates charging to berth the historic SS Red Oak](#), July 11, 2012).

Denied revenue from berthing, the Port Department wanted to have as little as possible do with the Red Oak Victory and recommended moving it to the least accessible of the five historic basins, the farthest east Basin 1, which would have been a half mile walk from parking for visitors. In closed session, the City Council approved the move on June 30, 2016, but later reversed itself and approved a move to Basin 5, adjacent to the Riggers Loft Wine Company. ([Richmond: Mayor slams choice for new location of historic World War II ship](#), August 15, 2016)

Butt, who was instrumental several years ago in securing funding to renovate Riggers Loft, a former warehouse that is part of the Kaiser Shipyards, said the move would impact visitors' experience of Richmond. "The Red Oak will now be isolated in a location that does not have adequate parking to support its growing number of popular events, and visitors to the Riggers Loft Wine Company and the whirley crane (another historic structure) will be forced for years to look at the vast collection of rusty metal shacks and junk equipment that (tenant) Foss (Maritime) has assembled at Basin 5," he wrote in an email blast to his constituents.

Now, less than ten years later, the City Council wants to move the Red Oak Victory again, purely for unsupported political reasons.

Despite lamentations about its "remote" location, The Red Oak Victory is well known and much appreciated by the public, earning 4.5 stars from Trip Advisor and [rated as the 5th most popular of 44 things to do in Richmond](#). According to Trip Advisor, Rosie the Riveter WW II Home Front National Historical Park is Richmond's top attraction, but the largest photo on the Trip Advisor Rosie the Riveter WW II Home Front National Historical Park page is not the Visitor Center, [it is the Red Oak Victory!](#)

The revenue challenges of the Red Oak Victory are not a result of insufficient visitation; they are challenges shared with other museum ships regardless of their location. Essentially, a museum ship cannot rely on visitor revenue for long term maintenance.

Three World War II Victory ships still exist today as museum ships: the SS American Victory in Tampa, Florida; the SS Lane Victory in Los Angeles, California; and the SS Red Oak Victory in Richmond, California. These ships are preserved as monuments to the

wartime efforts of the men and women who built and operated them.

All of them face significant fiscal challenges. Museum ship maintenance faces major funding challenges from high, unexpected costs for hazardous materials, environmental cleanup, and hull repairs, coupled with insufficient, long-term financial planning and a reliance on fluctuating donations. Many ships lack substantial endowments to cover major work like drydocking, leading to deterioration. Museum ships typically depended on volunteer crews that are now aging out.

- [The SS Lane Victory in San Pedro](#) is owned by the U.S. Merchant Marine Veterans of World War II. According to the organization's 2023 Form 990, the total annual revenue was \$53,538.
- The [SS American Victory](#) in Tampa FL is owned by Victory Ship, Inc. According to the organization's 2023 Form 990, the annual revenue was \$730,373.
- The [SS Red Oak Victory](#) in Richmond CA is owned by the Richmond Museum Association. According to the organization's 2023 Form 990, the annual revenue was \$297,518. In addition to the SS Red Oak Victory, the Richmond Museum Association operates the Richmond Museum of History.

The [Jeremiah O'Brien](#), one of four remaining Liberty Ships of the 2,710 built, now docked in San Francisco, is facing [severe financial challenges](#) due to several factors, including post-COVID San Francisco tourism reductions and U.S. Coast Guard maintenance mandates.

Despite that fact that Rosie the Riveter WW II Home Front National Historical Park is Richmond's No.1, attraction both City Council members and City staff have had a lukewarm affinity for it over the 25 years since its establishment, even though most of its assets are owned by the City of Richmond in a unique "partnership park" arrangement.

The proposed location for moving the Red Oak Victory has at least two insolvable challenges:

- There is no parking. The entire landside area adjacent to the proposed location is ferry parking, which is typically full, and ferry ridership continues to grow. Currently, there is parking available for hundreds of cars adjacent to or within easy walking distance of the Red Oak Victory.
- There is no "laydown" space. Currently, there is over half an acre of fenced space next to the Red Oak Victory that is used for temporary storage of supplies and equipment, workspace, and events. There is no room for a similar space at the proposed relocation destination.
- Getting a BCDC permit for additional Bay fill (new dock structure) is highly unlikely, since dock infrastructure for the Red Oak Victory is already adequate and existing.

Existing estimates of the cost of moving the Red Oak Victory range from \$12 million to \$20 million, and no source of funding has ever been identified. The Red Oak Victory is in desperate need of millions of dollars for maintenance, and if the amount of money needed

to move it ever becomes available, it should be used for maintenance.

It's no secret that the premier "long term goal" of the ship's crew is to enable the ship to actually get underway on its own power, ultimately providing cruises like the SS Jeremiah O'Brien. The main obstacle, besides the ship's deteriorating condition, is that the City's agreement with Auto Warehousing Company (the adjacent car importer) prohibits the Red Oak Victory from firing up its boilers for fear the nearby imported vehicles will be damaged. The other is Coast Guard approval based on the condition of the ship. Moving the Red Oak to the channel is no solution, as it will still place it under the Auto Warehousing prohibition. The Coast Guard restriction is an indication that major maintenance is required.

There is a lot of evidence that people will find their way to seemingly remote locations in Richmond if they want to. The Riggers Loft, right next to the Red Oak Victory hosted 22,000 patrons in 2024. The East Brother Beer Co., on the way to the Red Oak Victory, probably hosted at least that many. There is no more remote location than Point San Pablo Harbor, but some 30,000 people annually find their way out there to the Sailing Goat and various events.

This year is the 25th anniversary of Rosie the Riveter WW II Home Front National Historical Park, and we should be building it up, not dispersing and abandoning its components. There are many ways to increase visitation of the Red Oak Victory. Keeping the Riggers Loft as a public destination and event venue would have been one of them. Volunteers are already doing a good job organizing and publicizing events like pancake breakfasts and movies, but surprisingly, there is no sign on I-580 identifying exits to the Red Oak Victory. There are wayfinding signs on Canal Boulevard, but they don't start until you enter Pont Potrero Marine Terminal, and they are small. Wayfinding signs could be added in Point Richmond and along Dornan Drive, providing wayfinding information to tens of thousands, at a fraction of the cost of moving the ship. A Bay Trail segment actually terminates at the Red Oak Victory, but it could be better signed.

With no money to fund a move, and the logistics of such a move making it at least five years in the future, probably more, the Richmond Museum Association should focus on maximizing revenue at the current location.

Tom Butt

From: [TRAC](#)
To: [Soheila Bana](#); [Jamelia Brown](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Doria Robinson](#); [Sue Wilson](#); [Cesar Zepeda](#); [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Cc: [Daniel Chavarria](#); [Robert Armijo](#); [Hillal Hamdan](#); [Robert Prinz \(EBBC\)](#); [Dani Lanis](#); [Bruce Brubaker](#)
Subject: Agenda Item O.7.a - 13th Street Complete Streets Project
Date: Monday, January 5, 2026 10:34:57 PM
Attachments: [13thStConnector.pdf](#)
[TRAC End of Year Report 2025 DRAFT.pdf](#)

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Mayor Martinez and City Councilors,

When you meet this Tuesday, please approve by Consent the agreement for construction of the 13th Street Complete Streets Project to be funded by the MTC

As shown on the attached Bay Trail map, this project will provide pedestrian safety improvements and a protected bikeway between the City of San Pablo's Rumrill Blvd protected bikeway at San Pablo Avenue all the way to Pennsylvania Avenue where there is access to the Bay Trail at the Richmond Parkway via the existing Pennsylvania Ave bike lanes. This project will make it safer and more attractive for those residing east of the BNSF & UP railroad tracks to reach the Bay Trail, since there is no railroad grade crossing between Barrett and Chesley.

This project is analogous to the Neighborhood Complete Streets and Richmond Wellness Trail projects on the City's South Side in creating safe, attractive links to the Bay Trail for inland neighborhoods as described in TRAC's attached New Year Report.

Bruce

Bruce Beyaert, TRAC Chair
baytrailtrac@gmail.com
Mobile 510-789-3078
<http://www.pointrichmond.com/baytrail/>
<http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/109/TRAC>

Bay Trail

- Complete
- Incomplete

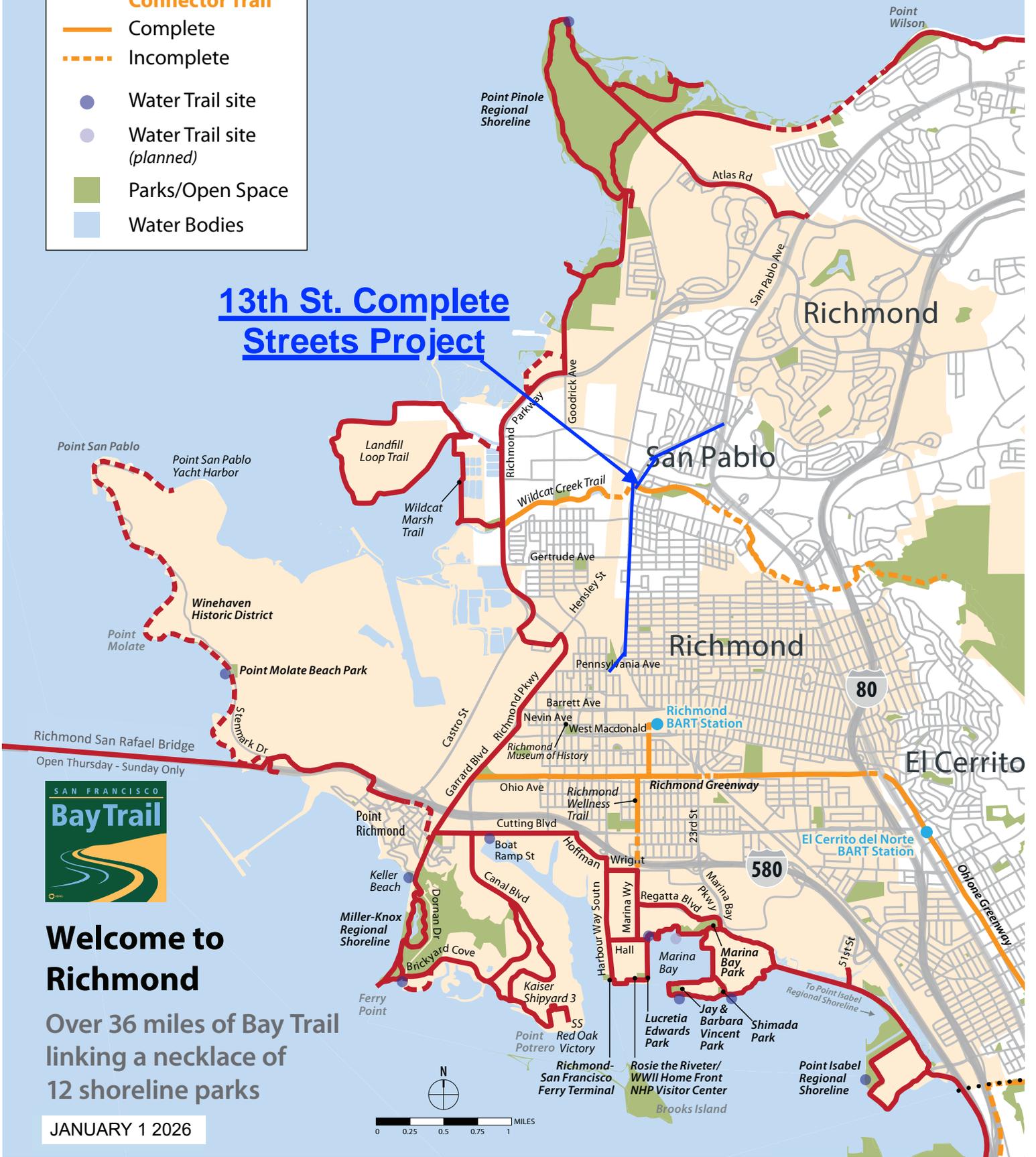
Connector Trail

- Complete
- Incomplete

- Water Trail site
- Water Trail site (planned)

- Parks/Open Space
- Water Bodies

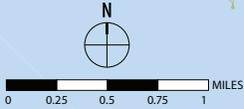
13th St. Complete Streets Project



Welcome to Richmond

Over 36 miles of Bay Trail linking a necklace of 12 shoreline parks

JANUARY 1 2026



BAY TRAIL RICHMOND

NEW YEAR REPORT 2026



Welcome to the 27th annual New Year report on the San Francisco Bay Trail in Richmond prepared by TRAC, the Trails for Richmond Action Committee. Richmond continues to shine as a Bay Trail leader with 36 miles completed—more than 10% of the entire 350-mile system built to date, and a major contribution toward the planned 500-mile multi-use trail around San Francisco and San Pablo Bays. Six miles remain to be built in Richmond, shown as dashed lines on the map at the end of this report.

“There is an inherent legacy in trails – one that honors the past, enriches the present and provides a gift to the future.”

2025 was a remarkable year: construction began on 2.5 miles of new trail, nearly half of Richmond’s remaining gaps, while we also experienced the unprecedented closure of the Richmond–San Rafael Bridge Trail. Read on for the 2025 highlights and what’s ahead in 2026.

– Keith Laughlin
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON POINT MOLATE TRAIL

In October, work began on the long-awaited [Point Molate Trail](#), a 2.5-mile shoreline trail extending north from the Richmond–San Rafael Bridge to Point Molate Beach Park and onward past the Winehaven Historic District to Stenmark Drive. This \$10 million project is a partnership between the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) and the City of Richmond, supported by multiple funding sources. When complete in early 2027, it will open public access to a spectacular, historic stretch of shoreline that has been inaccessible for generations, except for the beach park.

EXTENDING THE TRAIL TO PINOLE

EBRPD completed a preliminary design and CEQA documents for the Richmond–[Pinole Bay Trail](#) Gap Closure Project. The planned shoreline trail will connect the current trail terminus — one mile north of the Atlas Road Bridge entry to Point Pinole Regional Shoreline — to Wilson Point, establishing a continuous trail to Pinole and Hercules.

A NEW DESTINATION: PORTSIDE OBSERVATION POINT

An inviting new shoreline viewpoint—Portside Observation Point—was completed by Brookfield Properties as part of the Portside Commerce Center at City of Richmond Terminal 3. The space features benches, picnic tables and Interpretive panels on the history and operations of the Port of Richmond. You can reach it via the newly paved shoreline trail beginning at Sheridan Observation Point, where a new panel explains the dramatic views of historic Kaiser Shipyard No. 3.



IMPROVING THE BAY TRAIL & ACCESS INLAND

While the ideal Bay Trail follows the shoreline far from roadway traffic, several stretches must be routed inland where maritime and industrial uses limit shoreline access. The City is moving aggressively to make these inland links safer, more attractive and better connected to neighborhoods on the City's south side. The goal is to increase use of healthy active transportation for reaching shoreline parks, the ferry terminal, the Richmond–San Rafael Bridge and other destinations.

[Ferry to Bridge to Greenway Complete Streets Plan \(F2B2G Plan\)](#)

As part of the F2B2G Plan, the City has installed new protected bikeways along:

- Harbour Way South, Hoffman Boulevard & Cutting Boulevard, connecting the ferry terminal to the Point Richmond gateway and
- Ohio Avenue and Garrard Boulevard, linking the Richmond Greenway to the Bay Trail at the Point Richmond gateway at Cutting Boulevard.

The next major F2B2G project—the Downtown Point Richmond Bicyclist and Pedestrian Connectivity Project—will make pedestrian and cyclist safety improvements between Cutting Boulevard and the Tewksbury Avenue protected bikeway. This effort is fully funded for both design and construction, with community outreach beginning soon.

BAYVIEW TO BART

Design has reached 65% completion for protected bikeways on Bayview and Seaport Avenues for better access to the Bay Trail at South 51st Street.

RICHMOND WELLNESS TRAIL & NEIGHBORHOOD COMPLETE STREETS

[The Richmond Wellness Trail and the Neighborhood Complete Street project](#), which received public input, has been obtained for design of two additional fully funded projects. Both will make it safer and more attractive to walk and bicycle with improvements generally including protected bikeways and landscaping.

Point Molate Wine Haven, Bay Trail Visual Simulation

RICHMOND WELLNESS TRAIL PHASE 2

Phase 1 was completed in 2022 as an attractively landscaped, two-way protected bikeway and wide sidewalk linking the Richmond BART Station with the Richmond Greenway and Cutting Blvd. Design is half done for Phase 2 continuing to the shoreline of Lucretia Edwards Park. This will improve the Bay Trail along Marina Way South where there are sidewalks for pedestrians but no bike lanes.

NEIGHBORHOOD COMPLETE STREETS

Construction plans are underway for pedestrian and cyclist safety upgrades on parts of Harbour Way South, Wright Avenue, and Ohio Avenue—all important Bay Trail sections or Bay Trail access routes.

RICHMOND–SAN RAFAEL BRIDGE TRAIL CLOSURE

Since its opening in November 2019, more than 500,000 bicycle and pedestrian trips have been made across the [Richmond–San Rafael Bridge](#)—the highest usage by cyclists of any of the six State-owned toll bridges, surpassing the Bay Bridge East Span trail.

Despite this strong public use, the Bay Conservation & Development Commission approved a request from Caltrans to close the trail Mondays through Thursdays, converting it back into an automobile breakdown shoulder. The closure took effect October 27, accompanied by a bike shuttle service.

