

From: [Claudia Citroen](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Shasa Curl](#); [Shannon Moore](#); [Jamelia Brown](#); [Cesar Zepeda](#); [Mayors Office](#)
Subject: Public comment open forum council meeting 01.20.26: critical failures by council to focus on public safety
Date: Monday, January 19, 2026 6:33:10 PM

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You are hereby notified of the Critical Failures by Council to focus on Public Safety

The City Council demonstrably fails to fulfill its legal and fiduciary responsibilities to ensure public safety. Under the Richmond City Charter, the Council is required to adopt policies, appropriate funds, and provide oversight to protect life, safety, and property. By persistently underfunding essential public safety programs, delaying action on encampment-related fire hazards, and neglecting effective strategies to reduce shootings, the Council has committed a gross dereliction of duty, violating its legal obligations and exposing residents to ongoing violent crime, uncontrolled encampment fires, and cumulative community trauma.

At the recent Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council meeting (01.12.26) the RPD Chief and Fire Department Chief explicitly stated that reductions in certain incident categories do not mitigate the persistent daily impact of violent crime and repeated shootings involving Richmond residents. RPD currently has 16 active violent felony investigations. Over the past 90 days, approximately 50 shooting-related incidents occurred. All shots fired at or near people, vehicles, and building produce and deepen ongoing community trauma.

In 2025, the Fire Department responded to 736 encampment fires and 39 vegetation fires, the latter carrying significant risk of spreading to homes and structures. The 2025 total of 14,284 incidents and 8,386 EMS/medical aid calls comprise the majority of department workload, highlighting the critical strain on emergency services caused by insufficient council support in the past.

The following 2025 public safety data confirms the severity of these failures. It does NOT INCLUDE not reported incidents!!

2025 Crime Data – Richmond Police Department (city www)

Crime Category	2025 Total Weekly Average	
Murder / Homicide	6	0.12
Sexual Assault	139	2.67
Robbery	251	4.83
Aggravated Assault	812	15.62
Larceny-Theft	1,429	27.48
Motor Vehicle Theft	863	16.60

Arson (all causes)	39	0.75
Index Crimes Total	3,899	75

From: [Claudia Citroen](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Open forum / public comments council meeting 01.20.26
Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 9:19:41 AM

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Subject: City council consent agenda 0.8.b remove and place as new business

Council agenda 01.20.26 consent calendar item 0.8.b open forum / public comments }

Additional Sanitary Sewer Line Replacement and Rehabilitation Contract (Over \$4 Million)

I respectfully oppose Consent Calendar Item 0.7.b.

This item seeks approval of over \$4 million in additional funding for sanitary sewer line replacement and rehabilitation work without specifying which pipe segments will be replaced, where the work will occur, or how the additional scope was identified. Approving a contract of this magnitude and undefined scope through the consent calendar prevents meaningful review, undermines fiscal transparency, and limits public accountability.

The item includes an excessive number of attachments, making it difficult for the public and Council members to review in a timely and meaningful way. Combined with no prior public consultation, this raises serious concerns regarding compliance with the California Brown Act (Gov. Code §54950 et seq.), which guarantees the public the right to observe and participate in decision-making.

Council members also have a fiduciary duty under the Richmond City Charter (Charter §200 et seq.) and general municipal law to ensure public funds are expended responsibly, with sufficient review of scope, necessity, and cost. Approving a large, open-ended contract without full disclosure or discussion may constitute a breach of that duty.

While the Keller Beach project is still in the planning phase, residents

have already raised concerns regarding:

- Potential financial burdens and uncertainties related to project costs
- Environmental impacts and protection of natural resources
- Public access and construction disruptions
- Communication gaps between City staff and the community

These concerns highlight the importance of transparent planning, public engagement, and careful prioritization of infrastructure projects. In addition, future construction projects should evaluate alternatives such as decentralized systems or septic tanks, as proposed by Keller Beach residents, to reduce environmental impact, minimize costs, and improve community outcomes.

Furthermore, all significant future projects must comply with CEQA requirements, including the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) where appropriate, to ensure environmental impacts are fully assessed before approvals are granted.

Approving large, undefined contracts as routine consent items also sets a troubling precedent. Without clear scope and detailed review, it weakens procedural safeguards, reduces public oversight, and increases financial risk, including potential cost overruns. Ignoring resident input and transparency obligations also erodes public trust and complicates future project implementation.

A contract of this size and indeterminate scope should not be approved as a routine consent item. At a minimum, the Council should require:

1. Identification or mapping of proposed additional pipe segments
2. Clear criteria used to select these segments
3. A comparison of original cost estimates to the proposed increase
4. Explicit acknowledgment of Keller Beach planning concerns and how they will inform future infrastructure planning
5. Evaluation of alternative solutions, including decentralized or septic systems for all relevant future projects
6. Compliance with CEQA, including completion of an EIR where required
7. Adequate time for public review and meaningful engagement to comply with Brown Act requirements

For these reasons, I urge the Council to remove Item 0.7.b from the consent calendar, provide a full staff presentation, and allow informed public discussion before authorizing additional expenditures.

Legal and procedural references:

- California Brown Act, Gov. Code §54950 et seq. (open meetings and public participation)
- Richmond City Charter §200 et seq. (Council fiduciary duty and oversight of public funds)
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Pub. Resources Code §21000 et seq. (required environmental review)
- Standard municipal procurement rules (require defined scope, cost breakdown, and transparency)
- Procedural safeguards for consent calendar items (ensure public deliberation for substantial contracts)

Public infrastructure investment requires clarity, accountability, responsiveness to community input, careful evaluation of alternatives, strict adherence to environmental and fiduciary standards, and preservation of public trust, especially when residents face financial and logistical uncertainties.

From: [Claudia Citroen](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Council agenda 01.20.26 consent calendar item 0.8.b open forum / public comments
Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 9:23:28 AM

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Council agenda 01.20.26 consent calendar item 0.8.b open forum /
public comments }

Subject: Remove and place as new business Council meeting 01.2.26 consent calendar item 0.7.b

[Modification of City Council Liaison Appointment Cycle for Boards and Commissions.](#)

The proposed directive raises multiple legal conflicts under the Richmond City Charter and the California Brown Act, which are exacerbated by its placement on the Consent Calendar.

Directing the **City Clerk** to implement policy (“DIRECT city clerk to work with the Mayor’s Office...”) risks unlawful council interference with administrative functions absent express charter authority or proper routing through established administrative hierarchy.

Establishing a **mandatory two-year council liaison appointment cycle**, while purporting to preserve mayoral discretion, creates internal inconsistency and risks encroachment on the Mayor’s charter authority if liaison assignments are treated as an extension of appointment power rather than internal council organization.

The directive further **locks in current liaison assignments through December 31, 2026**, impermissibly constraining the discretionary authority of future councils and mayors following municipal elections, contrary to settled principles prohibiting one council from binding its successors absent clear charter or ordinance authority.

The item fails to clearly distinguish **council liaison roles** from **charter-governed board and commission appointments**, creating legal ambiguity and risk of implied charter overreach.

Deferring new appointments until **first quarter 2027** further compounds this issue by delaying the exercise of authority by newly seated officials without articulated legal justification.

Placement of this item on the **Consent Calendar** presents independent and substantial **Brown Act violations**. The directive constitutes a material governance and policy change, not a routine or ministerial action, and its adoption via consent deprives the public of meaningful notice, deliberation, and opportunity to comment in violation of Government Code §§ 54954.2 and 54954.3.

Bundling multiple substantive actions—policy restructuring, extension of existing assignments, delayed future appointments, and administrative direction—into a single consent item raises improper **logrolling and single-subject concerns** and heightens voidability risk.

Any advance coordination among councilmembers, the Mayor’s Office, or staff regarding liaison assignments outside a noticed meeting further exposes the City to **serial meeting violations** under the Brown Act.

Collectively, these defects render the action subject to **cure-and-correct demands and potential invalidation** under Government Code § 54960.1, with increased litigation exposure if similar governance actions are routinely placed on the Consent Calendar.

Concise Basis to Pull Item From Consent (Optional)

This item must be removed from the Consent Calendar because it effects substantive governance and appointment policy changes, directs administrative action, extends current assignments beyond election cycles, and implicates mayoral and future-council authority. Adoption via consent violates the Brown Act’s notice and public participation requirements and exposes the action to cure-and-correct and invalidation under Government Code § 54960.1.

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From: [Contra Costa Jewish Democrats](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Agenda Items #Q.3 AND Q.4 - Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 9:28:22 AM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[CCJD Statement Q.3 and Q.4.pdf](#)

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Dear Clerk of the Board,
Please record the public comments from the club, Contra Costa Jewish Democrats, on agenda items Q.3 AND Q.4 for tonight's meeting. Comments are provided below and in the attachment.
Thank you.

Renee Zeimer, Board President
Contra Costa Jewish Democrats
www.ccjewishdems.org
ccjewishdems@gmail.com
rkzeimer@gmail.com
(925) 212-3239



January 20, 2026

RE: Agenda Items Q3 & Q4; SUPPORT for Q4

Statement from Contra Costa Jewish Democratic Club

As a Democratic club with members from Richmond, Contra Costa Jewish Democrats join with more than 80 current and former mayors, council members, trustees, and community leaders from across the Bay Area in condemning social media posts by Mayor Eduardo Martinez promoting “false flag” conspiracies for the murders of celebrants at a menorah lighting in Sydney, Australia.

These posts do not exist in isolation. Mayor Martinez has a documented history of glorifying Hamas and engaging in disturbing antisemitic rhetoric that is inflammatory and a distortion of facts.

While legitimate criticism of governmental policies and robust debate are essential components of democratic discourse and our First Amendment rights, rhetoric that promotes disinformation and dangerously assigns collective blame to Jews or any other group undermines the safety and well-being of the entire community. By doing so, Mayor Martinez has failed in his sworn duty to impartially execute the duties of the office.

In light of the seriousness and ongoing nature of his conduct and its impact on the public trust, we support the proposed censure resolution. Unlike the Mayor's proposal, the censure resolution is clear, specific and timebound. The censure resolution is an appropriate and authentic response to a serious issue that has caused heightened risk and harm to the Richmond Jewish community.

Sadly, we are witnessing the grave consequences of political violence caused by lies, distortions and conspiracies posted on social media and amplified in the public square. It must stop!

###

Submitted by Renee Zeimer
Board President Contra Costa Jewish Democrats

From: [Diana Wear](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments—Open Forum
Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 12:59:25 PM
Attachments: [Support Mayor Martinez 1.20.26.docx](#)

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Email cityclerkdept@ci.richmond.ca.us
Subject: Public Comments—Open Forum

January 20, 2026

To Mayor and City Council,

I support Mayor Martinez. I have known the mayor for over a decade. For years the mayor has opposed war; he has supported protection for refugees and immigrants; and he has championed the cause for the Palestinian people—this last issue fuels the current crisis moment.

This should not, however, deflect from Mayor Eduardo's notable and productive accomplishments. The Mayor valiantly negotiated the half-billion-dollar settlement with Chevron, he has stood by unions as well as worked well with them, including our police, fire fighters, and teachers—respecting them personally and professionally. Mayor Martinez helped save Point Molate from reckless development that would have cost the city millions of dollars. He has presided over a balanced budget all the years of his term and he has led our Council to be more conciliatory and civilized behavior after years of Council discord. Those are just a few of his achievements.

Mayor Martinez's recent social media posts were harmful and wrong. He apologized and offered to listen, learn, dialogue, and forge lines of peace. *This opposition against Mayor Martinez is both misguided and misdirected.* He is not, nor has he been antisemitic. The well-oiled, super-funded efforts of local groups and AIPAC has swooped in with a vengeance—condemning him for publicly pointing out Israel's horrors using our U.S. tax-paying dollars to fund rampant killing and destruction. Criticizing Israel's heinous actions is not antisemitism.

The apology and repair is still Mayor Martinez's job. But let's be clear—conversation about the wrongdoing, including apology and community healing demonstrates

strength not weakness.

We would do well to follow the example of Mayor Martinez and become sources of solidarity for those who want a lasting ceasefire, justice, and freedom for the Palestinian people. *That's who Mayor Martinez is*—a stalwart and courageous warrior for peace.

Sincerely,

Diana Wear
Richmond resident

From: [Forrest Cioppa](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comment for Jan 20 Council Meeting
Date: Monday, January 19, 2026 10:30:59 PM

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Dear City Council Members,

Mayor Martinez has apologized for his inappropriate comments and has set out a plan for reconciliation.

Any further demands are a part of a well-funded, well organized Zionist movement to instill fear in anyone who dare criticize the genocidal state of Israel. If the mayor is ousted the Zionists win.

I hope the Richmond City Council will not support this nationwide Zionist plot to squelch our First Amendment rights.

Sincerely,
Forrest Cioppa

From: [Henry Norr](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comment agenda item #Q4
Date: Sunday, January 18, 2026 9:07:11 PM

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Hello. I'm not a resident of Richmond, but I live in the East Bay and I'm in Richmond often to visit friend and relatives who do live in your city, to go to Kaiser, and so on. I was born and bred Jewish, including being bar-mitzvah'd at a Conservative synagogue, but I'm writing to urge you not to censure Mayor Eduardo Martinez. Some of his re-posts may have been wrong, but the important thing is that he's trying to stand up for justice for the Palestinians and to break through the fog of lies Israel and its supporters promote about its genocide in Gaza, ethnic cleansing in the West Bank, and gross discrimination against Palestinians (and other people of color) who live in Israel itself. For the sake not only of the Palestinians but also of Jews and for that matter everyone else, we need more political leaders with the kind of courage Mayor Martinez has shown.

FWIW I know whereof I speak: I first visited Israel as a guest of the state, which put my family up in the presidential suite of the famous King David Hotel, but since I began to understand the realities there, I have spent many months as a volunteer in both Gaza and the West Bank.

Bottom line: please don't fall for the illusion that the JCRC represents all or even most Bay Area Jews, and please VOTE NO on any effort to censure Mayor Martinez.

Henry Norr

Now let us rededicate ourselves to the long and bitter — but beautiful — struggle for a new world.

Martin Luther King, Jr., 1967

From: [Joan Peters](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public comments agenda item # Q.4
Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 12:45:25 PM

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OUR Mayor Eduardo Martinez made a **mistake** on social media, a mistake that social media pushes us all to make these days. AND he **apologized for it**. Who among us has not made a mistake?

The failed attempt to get around the Brown act by submitting an **emergency agenda item** was dirty politics because there was **NO** emergency -- no **criminal** activity by our mayor, no fire, no explosion, no crisis of any kind, which by the way is unlike the situation in Palestine at this time.

The people who submitted that emergency agenda item were trying to **avoid being transparent about their issue**. A few citizen-voters of Richmond are trying to use a **hot-button issue** to force an honest mayor out of office. **This is NOT about antisemitism**, which has been confused with anti-Zionism. It is not even about Palestine. **It is a hot-button issue being used to silence a mayor who has been working hard to improve our city. It is about disrespecting the democratic process** of electing mayors then letting them do their jobs. Those who oppose Mayor Martinez cannot be bothered to wait until election day to vote him out; they can't be bothered with carrying out a recall election against him. Instead they are **trying to use the short-cut of forcing him to resign**.

Let's call for **transparency** from those who are pressuring him to resign. **Who is backing the outcry of a few unhappy Richmond voters?** To be clear it is NOT an objection from ALL of the Jewish citizens who live in Richmond; it is only from some of them; it is NOT about also upsetting some Richmond voters who are not Jewish but abhor antisemitism. **It IS ABOUT vilifying a mayor who has been part of a coalition that has made changes that moneyed interests in Richmond object to, POSITIVE changes on social justice issues long not addressed by our Richmond government. Big corporations and other business people here are angry about being held accountable for abuses of Richmond citizens in the past and the abuses that are continuing today – environmental abuses, immigration-control abuses, and more.** I ask those who put this on the agenda to be transparent about who is actually supporting them.

Mayor Martinez should NOT RESIGN!!! **STOP BULLYING him**. If you don't like what the Mayor is doing, **respect the democratic process and VOTE in the next election. I**

WILL BE VOTING FOR MAYOR MARTINEZ!!!!

Sincerely,
Joan Peters
1816 Carlson Blvd.
Richmond, CA 94804
510-529-4986

From: [Karen](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comment Agenda item #Q4
Date: Saturday, January 17, 2026 7:06:47 PM

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Thank you to Mayor Eduardo Martinez for supporting human rights for Palestinians and opposing ethnic cleansing and genocide.
I denounce the defamation and slander of him by the Bay Area Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC). Also thank you to Richmond City Council for being the first city in the USA to pass a resolution calling for an end to Israeli ethnic cleansing of Palestinians and a ceasefire in Gaza.

Karen Perkins
Walnut Creek

From: [Michael Angelo](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item #04
Date: Saturday, January 17, 2026 6:23:26 PM

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As a witness, I was in Detroit, when Mayor Martinez spoke to thousands at the People's Conference on Palestine and heard Mayor Martinez condemn the 78 year Zionist Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine and with the Zionist destruction of the Gaza Strip and ongoing Zionist Genocide on Palestinian. Mayor Martinez did not condemn Jews.

As one who has kept the Jewish Shabbat through my life I also condemn 78 years of Zionist terrorism on Palestinians by severe and extremely documented ethnic cleansing to genocide on Palestinians.

I work in Richmond and request to testify in the City Council for #04 on Tuesday, January 20th.

Michael Wesolowski
925-965-0174

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Miguel Gravelle Izaguirre](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments – Open Session for January 20 City Council Meeting
Date: Friday, January 16, 2026 10:59:08 AM

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Dear Richmond City Council,

After attending the meeting and reading the emergency packet. I am pleased that the Mayor and Rabbi Julie Saxe-Taller are in healing conversation and that the Mayor has been making amends. Rather, than following the resolution in the emergency packet, I think that Rabbi Saxe-Taller and Mayor Martinez should continue their conversations and issue an official joint statement together about the results of their collective healing journey.

From the public comments, we could see that the vast majority were in favor of Mayor Martinez continuing to be Mayor and not be censured publicly, as he has made amends and is continuing to do so, where amends are due.

Regarding the taking of the Mayor's pay for charity, it would be a better idea for the City Council to increase corporate taxes on the wealthiest 1% of corporations and property taxes on the wealthiest 1% of Richmond residents and give that money towards upgrading services in the City that uphold social and economic justice for all, such as addressing the huge piles of trash that were brought up last meeting, fixing more potholes, and continuing to address the root causes of economic insecurity that causes other problems.

Lastly, I want to encourage the City Council to continue to pursue justice and thriving for all humans on earth and to center the needs, while amplifying the voices of the most marginalized people of Richmond. It would bring me great joy to see unity on the City Council on this issue.

I would like to see continued work for Palestinian human rights, Sudanese Human Rights, Congolese human rights, Venezuelan human rights, Haitian human rights, the the rights of all oppressed nations and residents of those nations, especially from oppression by their own governments, imperialist/colonial terror, and corporate exploitation, and the list goes on. I

look forward to continued opposition to the Federal Government's crimes against our and other nations as well as the crimes that our nation continues to commit against marginalized peoples living in the USA due to ethnicity, nationality, religion, gender, sexual orientation, etc. We must do our best to oppose ICE terrorism and uplift the immigrant community that makes our nation strong. As the son of a Mexican immigrant, this is very near and dear to my heart, although of equal importance as the equal respect for the human rights and the right to thrive for all humans on our planet.

Regarding the Richmond sister city of Sebastia, West Bank, Palestine, the good Council should continue to advocate for justice for the people of Sebastia in spite of the nation of Israel's plans to bulldoze Palestinian homes in Sebastia to make home for illegal settlers to steal more Palestinian land.

Towards a world of justice and thriving for all peoples on Earth!

Sincerely,

Miguel Gravelle Izaguirre Xóchihua

From: [Rick Sterling](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comment agenda item #Q4
Date: Saturday, January 17, 2026 2:19:30 PM

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Thank you to Eduardo Martinez and the Richmond City Council for speaking out for the rights of Palestinians and trying to STOP the genocide which continues to this day!

Shame on the JCRC for refusing to denounce Israel's genocide and slandering Eduardo.

Rick Sterling
Walnut Creek



Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Name	Email	Comment	Position	Status	Attachment
City Council							
1/20/2026 5:00 PM	Formal Censure of Mayor Eduardo Martinez for Antisemitic Conduct and for Actions Inconsistent with the Duties and Standards of the Office	Irene Chung		Dear City Council: I am a resident of San Pablo, but along with my partner own a home in Richmond, CA. I am against the censure of Mayor Eduardo Martinez for the following reasons: he has publicly apologized for the misdeeds; he is not anti-semitic as evidenced by many Jewish identified constituents who have spoken out in support of him, including those in the Richmond Community; speaking out against a genocide committed by state is not anti-semitic; it is the bare minimum especially politicians should be expected to do as mayor he has served and continues to serve his entire community including those underserved and marginalized.	Against	Approved	-
1/20/2026 5:00 PM	Restorative Process with the Mayor and the Richmond Jewish Community	Irene Chung		I live in San Pablo, CA but co-own a Richmond home with my partner. I am for restorative processes - however, this particular process is highly punitive, does not provide the safe space where the Mayor could explain why he did. This is so-called restorative process and is simply meant to demean, punish and silence him	Against	Approved	-
1/20/2026 5:00 PM	Formal Censure of Mayor Eduardo Martinez for Antisemitic Conduct and for Actions Inconsistent with the Duties and Standards of the Office	Susan Captain	moraga22@comcast.net	Free speech is an American virtue; stop targeting people for their right to express their opinions. I support this amazing Mayor for all the wonderful work he is doing for our community.	Against	Approved	-

