

**RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, January 26,
2010**

The Richmond City Council Evening Open Session was called to order at 5:09 p.m. by Mayor Gayle McLaughlin.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Bates, Butt, Rogers, Vice Mayor Ritterman, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Absent:** Councilmembers Lopez and Viramontes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The city clerk announced that the purpose of the Evening Open Session was for the City Council to hear public comments on the following items to be discussed in Closed Session:

CITY COUNCIL

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION (Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9): Booker vs. City of Richmond; Jenkins vs. City of Richmond; Communities for a Better Environment vs. City of Richmond

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (Initiation of litigation pursuant to Subdivision (c) of Government Code Section 54956.9): Six cases

CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR (Government Code Section 54956.8): Property: Point Molate (site of former Naval Shipyard Depot), Agency Negotiators: Bill Lindsay and Janet Schneider, Negotiating Party: Upstream Point Molate LLC, Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

There were no public speakers.

The Evening Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 5:10 p.m. The Closed Session adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 6:39 p.m. by Mayor McLaughlin who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Bates, Butt, Rogers, Vice Mayor Ritterman, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Absent:** Councilmembers Lopez and Viramontes.

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Larry Lewis announced that the Police Activities League (PAL) was starting its 3rd year of little league baseball. He requested that citizens support a group of high school students from Richmond High that were raising funds to support the relief efforts in Haiti. Students have organized the Richmond Youth for Haiti Basketball Series beginning February 1 through 6, 2010, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The six-game series will feature top American Basketball Association Western Division teams showcasing their talents. Event proceeds will go to support relief efforts in Haiti through the Red Cross. Other speakers were: Damone Hale, Jocelyn Barragan, Guadalupe Villalobos, and Chai Saechao.

John Marquez requested that the citizens report graffiti, blight, and spilled paint located on the city streets to the City of Richmond immediately.

Corky Booze thanked the Richmond Police Department for catching the suspects who painted graffiti on Casper's Hot Dogs. He also spoke in support of Mayor McLaughlin.

Naomi Williams expressed her concern that emergency vehicles cannot access the Greenway pathway. She also encouraged the Council to deny Walgreens an ABC liquor license, if the store in Richmond should apply, because there are other stores that already sell liquor.

Eleanor Thompson spoke in support of Mayor McLaughlin

James Jenkins spoke in support of Point Molate.

Simms Thompson expressed his concern regarding the poor lighting in the parking lots of businesses throughout the City of Richmond, specifically businesses located at 23rd Street and Cutting Boulevard, 23rd Street and Macdonald Avenue, and the gas station located on Erlandson.

Jovanka Beckles stated that Councilmembers Bates, Lopez, and Viramontes address the concerns of big businesses in Richmond while ignoring the needs of the citizens of Richmond. She stated that the citizens need support of the full Council.

Councilmember Bates expressed his concern that candidates are using the City Council meetings as a platform for campaigning for the upcoming election.

AGENDA REVIEW

None.

PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND COMMENDATIONS

City Clerk Diane Holmes, joined by Councilmember Bates and Mayor McLaughlin, presented a proclamation to Terina Williams in honor of her educational accomplishments, recognition of her remarkable strength to overcome great obstacles, her career achievements as a graduate of Hastings College of Law, and her successfully passing the State Bar. Ms. Williams was sworn in to the State Bar of California on December 4, 2009. Ms. Williams thanked Ms. Holmes and the City Council for the recognition. She also thanked her foster mother for her support throughout the years. Corky Booze and Jovanka Beckles gave comments.

Mayor McLaughlin, joined by Councilmembers Bates and Butt, presented proclamations to the North and East Neighborhood Patrol in recognition of their efforts to assist with crime prevention in their neighborhood. James Jenkins, Corky Booze, and Jovanka Beckles gave comments.

Councilmember Bates was joined by Mayor McLaughlin to present letters of recognition from Senator Feinstein and Councilmember Bates to Richmond resident Frank Fisher for his accomplishments as a composer and musician. City Clerk Diane Homes read the letter from Senator Diane Feinstein. Mr. Fisher thanked Senator Feinstein, Councilmember Bates, and the City Council for the recognition. Councilmember Bates and Mayor McLaughlin gave comments. Corky Booze and Andres Soto also gave comments.

Fire Chief Michael Banks gave brief comments regarding the Richmond Youth Academy and introduced Fire Inspector and Executive Director of the Youth Academy Robin Poindexter. Ms. Poindexter thanked the City Council, staff, families, and Congressman George Miller for their many years of support. She introduced Fire Engineer Mayo and Youth Academy Lieutenant James Wilford who both gave comments and introduced the Richmond Youth Academy Lieutenants for 2010. Corky Booze and Antwon Cloird gave comments.

Mayor McLaughlin presented certificates to Rigo's Auto Sales and Pup Hut honoring them as Richmond Small Businesses of the Month for January 2010. Rigo's Auto Sales was nominated by Officer Mark Gagan and Pup Hut was nominated by Naomi Williams. The honorees thanked the Mayor and Council for the recognition. John Marquez, James Jenkins, and Naomi Williams gave comments.

**REPORT FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY OF
FINAL DECISIONS MADE AND NON-
CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSIONS HELD DURING
CLOSED SESSION**

City Attorney Scott Dickey reported that there were no reportable actions taken during closed session.

STUDY SESSION

The City Council received a presentation by Public Affairs Manager Eric Figueroa, East Bay Division of the League of California Cities, concerning efforts by the League to prevent raids on local revenues by the State of California. City Manager Bill Lindsay gave an overview of the item. Mr. Figueroa's PowerPoint presentation entitled "The State of CITIES in California" included some of the following topics: Why are Cities Important, Why Do Residents Trust, Budget Impact to Cities, Instability Impacts Basic Services, Options to Reform Cities Fiscal Situation, The League's Initiative, Impacts to Richmond, and What Can You Do. Mr. Figueroa can be reached at League of California Cities, e-mail: efigueros@cacities.org, phone: (510) 325-0072.

STUDY AND DIRECTION TO STAFF SESSION

The City Council received a presentation from the Contra Costa County Community Development Department staff regarding the North Richmond Specific Plan. City Manager Bill Lindsay gave a brief overview of the item and turned the presentation over to Chair of the Board of Supervisors John Gioia. Chair Gioia stated that the purpose of the presentation was to give the Council and residents an opportunity to look at the work to date and make comments as the process moves forward on the proposed Specific Plan for the unincorporated area of North Richmond. Chair Gioia introduced the following individuals who assisted him with the presentation: Head of Redevelopment Agency for Contra Costa County Jim Kennedy, County Planner Pat Rosh, County Redevelopment Project Manager DeAnde Wells, and Consultants Steve Hammon and Christopher Pizzie. The following individuals gave comments: Dr. Henry Clark and Corky Booze. Councilmember Butt suggested a pedestrian overpass on the southwest corner of the planning area where the bridge goes under the Richmond Parkway. He also requested that the park remain adjacent to the elementary school. Councilmember Rogers requested that staff identify areas where children can grow community gardens. Councilmember Bates stated that the park donated by the Oakland A's was donated for use of baseball and should possibly be enlarged to accommodate soccer as well. Chair Gioia stated that there would be three more opportunities for the public to comment on the Specific Plan; the dates to be announced as the plan moves forward. Chair Gioia suggested that a City and County work group to discuss the park issues could be the next step.

The City Council received a status report on the revised Draft General Plan, including modifications made in response to the Planning Commission and community comments. Planning and Building Services Director Richard Mitchell gave an overview of the item which included a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation included the following topics: Work Completed (December 2009), Revised General Plan, Next Steps, and Inclusive City Framework. Mr. Mitchell stated that the plan will come back to the City Council in the spring of 2010 and hopefully will be adopted at the end of spring 2010. The following individuals spoke on this item: John Marquez, Dr. Henry Clark, Corky Booze, Juan Reardon, Jovanka Beckles, Paul Minault, Menbere Aklilv, Sophia Loh, Richard Poe, Gregory Cantrell, Tony Martin, Dr. Winborn, Jim Cannon, Katrinka Ruk, Hamid Amini, Jerome Smith, Garland Ellis, Lech Navmovich, Dan Murray, Paul Larudee, Jean Reymolds, Maria Alegria, Jennifer Lin, and Alex Schafran. Councilmember Butt stated that the General Plan included more industrial and should be evened to include future scenarios where there will be definite changes, the social and environmental issues raised by REDI, and should address the future rather than avoid offending property owners that do not want changes to their property. ***On motion of Councilmember Bates, seconded by Councilmember Rogers extended the meeting for 30 minutes from 11:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. with Councilmember Butt voting Noe.*** Councilmember Rogers requested staff focus on poverty as a goal in the General Plan. He also requested that staff obtain a detailed air quality inventory. Mr. Mitchell suggested that staff prepare a checklist of items for Council to review. Mayor McLaughlin requested that Mr. Mitchell have a meeting with REDI and place items back in the plan that staff feels comfortable with. City Attorney Mary Renfro gave comments. Councilmember Bates requested statistics on how many green jobs the City of Richmond has brought in. He also stated that there was already a state agency responsible for regulating air quality and was against the City spending money independently. Councilmember Bates also stated that if staff recommends that the city monitoring the air quality, he requested staff submit a cost analysis. He also requested a current cost analysis for the general plan. ***On motion of Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Councilmember Bates extended the meeting for 20 minutes from 11:30 p.m. to 11:50 p.m. with Councilmember Butt voting Noe.*** Mayor McLaughlin requested staff arrange a study session to address land uses along the entire Richmond shoreline. Richard Mitchell introduced the following staff currently working on the General Plan: Vikrant Sood with MIG, Associate Planner Lori Reese-Brown, Hector Rojas, and City Attorney Mary Renfro. Mayor McLaughlin thanked staff for their work on the General Plan.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:56 p.m. to meet again on Tuesday, February 2, 2010, at 6:30 p.m.

City Clerk

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor