

**RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA,  
February 26, 2013**

The Regular Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Mayor Gayle McLaughlin who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL**

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Councilmembers Bates, Beckles, Butt, Myrick, Rogers, Vice Mayor Boozé, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Absent:** None.

**READING OF THE CODE OF ETHICS**

The Code of Ethics was read by Bea Roberson.

**STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

A motion by Councilmember, seconded by Councilmember Myrick, to add an emergency item regarding the California Health Benefits Exchange regional call center, passed by the unanimous vote of the City Council. The emergency item will be heard directly after Item I-2.

**OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Antwon Cloird stated that the city needs to be more business-friendly to companies trying to establish themselves in Richmond and create jobs.

Sims Thompson stated that many former businesses in the city have left behind their signage in front of the buildings.

Rick Ramos, Professor Contra Costa College, announced that there will be a Dare to Dream

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Conference on Saturday, March 30, 2013, at Contra Costa College Knox Center for Performing Art from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is a free conference for undocumented youth, AB540 students and their parents.

Don Gosney gave comments regarding an item that was erroneously passed last week without asking for comments from the public.

Eleanor Thompson gave comments regarding a large tree that has been growing out of control for two or three years at 127 Willard Avenue. The owner is an elderly person and needs assistance to trim the overgrown tree.

Texanita Bluitt announced that on Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the Richmond Commission on Aging will be hosting a town hall meeting at the Richmond Auditorium for discussion on what can be done to save Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. There will also be a reception on March 7, 2013, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Salute's Restaurant to recognize and honor Councilmember Jael Myrick, Dr. Denise Noland, Contra Costa College President, and Judge Judy Johnson.

Andres Soto announced The West County Winds group will be giving a pre-concert performance on Sunday, March 3, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. at the Contra Costa College Knox Performing Arts Center. Mr. Soto also announced that there will be a community forum on Wednesday, February 27, 2013, at St. Mark's Church gym to discuss the investigative results of the August 6, 2012, Richmond Chevron Refinery fire.

### **PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND COMMENDATIONS**

Mayor McLaughlin and Councilmember Rogers congratulated and presented representatives of Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Richmond a proclamation for being selected as one of the Best Hospitals in the Country for three consecutive years. Jeff Ritterman and Texanita Bluitt gave comments.

Mayor McLaughlin and Councilmember Bates recognized African American Veterans and those that have served in the military. Texanita Bluitt and Bea Roberson gave comments.

Mayor McLaughlin presented a proclamation declaring March 2013 as International Women's Month in Richmond to Texanita Bluitt, Marilyn Langlois, and Nicole Valentino.

Mayor McLaughlin and Councilmembers Beckles and Myrick presented a proclamation to Dorothy Fox and Leo Jackson, recognizing Fred Jackson for his contribution to Black History in Richmond. The following individuals gave comments: Antwon Cloird, Kathleen Sullivan, Marilyn Langlois, Jose Rivera, and Eduardo Martinez.

### **CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR**

The matter to approve emergency justification and contract with Midstate Barrier, Inc. to replace 200 feet of damaged metal beam guard railings (traffic safety barrier) along westbound Richmond Parkway at the Giant Road on-ramp in an amount not to exceed \$12,500 was presented by Parks Director, Chris Chamberlain. Sims Thompson gave comments. A motion by Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Councilmember Beckles, approved the emergency contract by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

### **STUDY SESSION**

New BART Director Zakhary Mallett for District #7 (which includes the City of Richmond) made a PowerPoint presentation. Director Mallett is very supportive of an I-80 Corridor BART extension. Councilmember Boozé asked that the youth program that allows youth to ride and experience a BART ride continue to be offered.

The City Council received the MCE (Marin Clean Energy) community outreach and implementation plan. Alex DiGiorgio, MCE Community Affairs Representative, and Ben Choi, MCE, gave an overview of the matter. Residents will

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receive five notifications regarding their opportunity to opt out of the program; otherwise they will be automatically enrolled. Councilmember Boozé requested a round table meeting.

The following individuals gave comments: Don Gosney, Bea Roberson, and Dameion King. Discussion ensued. Community Leader Advisory Group (CLAY) will focus on community outreach and can be reached at [info@mce.energy.com](mailto:info@mce.energy.com).

### **EMERGENCY ITEM**

City Manager Bill Lindsay gave an overview of the matter regarding the cancellation of the California Health Benefits Exchange regional call center. The following individuals gave comments: Richard Poe, Kathleen Sullivan and Eduardo Martinez.

A motion made by Councilmember Myrick, seconded by Councilmember Beckles, will work with the State to bring the center to Richmond. Councilmember Rogers added a friendly amendment requesting staff to research a plan to inform the County Board of Supervisor that Richmond would appeal the decision to the State if the Concord site is chosen. The amendment was accepted, and the motion passed by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

### **STUDY AND DIRECTION TO STAFF SESSION**

**CONTINUED** a report from staff to provide direction on the identified work plan to reopen Point Molate Beach Park

The matter to discuss and consider supporting the efforts of Community Leaders Organizing Undocumented Dreamers (CLOUD) to promote access to higher education was presented by Councilmember Beckles. Joshua Tovar, Councilmember Intern, along with CLOUD members, presented a PowerPoint. There will be a community event on March 7, 2013, to assist with applications. The following individuals gave comments: Eduardo Martinez, Carlos Martinez, Jose Reyes, Juan Zaragoza, and Jose Rivera. A motion by Mayor McLaughlin, seconded by Councilmember Beckles, stated the city would like to partner with the Richmond Dreamers and will explore ways to institute

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concrete policies, passed by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

*(11:03 a.m. – A motion by Vice Mayor Boozé, seconded by Councilmember Bates, to extend the meeting 10 minutes. A substitute motion made by Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Councilmember Myrick, to extend the meeting 30 minutes, passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Beckles, Myrick, Rogers, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Noes:** Councilmembers Bates, Butt, and Vice Mayor Boozé. **Absent:** None. **Abstain:** None.*

The City Council received a presentation from Mortgage Resolution Partners regarding a program to assist Richmond homeowners that are interested in staying in their homes, but are in the foreclosure process, to preserve their ownership interest and provide policy direction to staff. Graham Williams from Mortgage Resolution Partners gave an overview of the matter on how to design a program to prevent and assist with foreclosed homes in Richmond. The following individuals gave comments: Juan Reyes, R.C.Overton, Melvin Willis, and Wesley Ellis. A motion made by Councilmember Bates, seconded by Councilmember Butt, directed staff to draft an advisory services agreement with specific program descriptions with Mortgage Resolution Partners and return to the City Council for approval of the agreement, passed by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

*(11:41 p.m. – A motion by Mayor McLaughlin, seconded by Councilmember Rogers, extended the meeting 10 minutes by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Beckles, Myrick, Rogers, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Noes:** Councilmembers Bates, Butt, and Vice Mayor Boozé. **Absent:** None. **Abstain:** None.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:56 p.m., to meet again on Tuesday, March 5, 2013, at 6:30 p.m.

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City Clerk

(SEAL)

Approved:

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Mayor