

## **RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, May 12, 2020**

The Richmond City Council Special Evening Open Session was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Mayor Thomas K. Butt via teleconference.

*Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Contra Costa County and Governor Gavin Newsom issued multiple orders requiring sheltering in place, social distancing, and reduction of person-to-person contact. (See, for example, March 31, 2020, County Order extending the shelter-in-place order until May 3, 2020, and March 19, 2020, statewide shelter-in-place order). Accordingly, Governor Gavin Newsom issued executive orders that allowed cities to hold public meetings via teleconferencing (Executive Order N-29-20).*

*DUE TO THE SHELTER IN PLACE ORDERS, attendance at the City of Richmond City Council meeting was limited to Councilmembers, essential City of Richmond staff, and members of the news media. Public comment was confined to items appearing on the agenda and was limited to the methods provided below. Consistent with Executive Order N-29-20, this meeting utilized teleconferencing only. The following provides information on how the public participated in the meeting.*

*The public was able to view the meeting from home on KCRT – Comcast Channel 28 or AT&T Uverse Channel 99, or live-streamed online at <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/3178/KCRT-Live>.*

*Written public comments were received via email and eComment. Comments received by 3:00 p.m. on May 12, 2020, were put into the record and considered before Council action and were submitted by email to [cityclerkdept@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:cityclerkdept@ci.richmond.ca.us). Comments received via email during the meeting and up until the public comment period on the relevant agenda item closed, were read into the record. Comments were also received via telephone during the public comment period. **Attached herewith all written public comments received.***

### **ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Councilmembers Ben Choi, Demnlus Johnson III, Eduardo Martinez, Jael Myrick, Melvin Willis, Vice Mayor Nathaniel Bates, and Mayor Thomas K. Butt. **Absent:** None.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The city clerk announced that the purpose of the 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 LABOR NEGOTIATORS  
(Government Code Section 54957.6):

Agency Representatives: Jack Hughes

Employee organizations:

1. SEIU Local 1021 Full-Time Unit
2. SEIU Local 1021 Part-Time Unit
3. IFPTE Local 21 Mid-Level Management Unit
4. IFPTE Local 21 Executive Management Unit

5. Richmond Police Officers Association RPOA
6. Richmond Police Management Association RPMA
7. IAFF Local 188
8. Richmond Fire Management Association RFMA

The following individuals submitted comments via email, eComments, or telephone: Lisa Park, one eComments guest user, Craig Murray, Gregory Everetts, Janet L. Johnson, Jill Perry, Juan Diaz, and Sean Stalbaum.

The Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 5:39 p.m.  
Closed Session adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 7:12 p.m. by Mayor Butt via teleconference.

### **ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Councilmembers Choi, Johnson, Martinez, Myrick, Willis, Vice Mayor Bates, and Mayor Butt. **Absent:** None.

### **STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None.

### **AGENDA REVIEW**

None.

### **REPORT FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY ON FINAL DECISIONS MADE DURING CLOSED SESSION**

Interim City Attorney Rachel Sommovilla stated there were no final actions to report.

### **REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Laura Snideman reported the following updates related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic: The City of Richmond received a \$575,000 grant, in addition to a \$162,000 grant, to provide workforce development services to residents that lost their jobs due to COVID-19. The services were available to a limited number of residents by calling (510) 307-8014. Ms. Snideman announced a virtual Richmond Town Hall meeting was on Friday, May 15, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. highlighting the Richmond Rapid Response Fund. The deadline to submit questions for the Town Hall meeting was by noon on May 14, 2020. Contra Costa County expanded COVID-19 testing for non-symptomatic residents by appointment by calling (844) 421-0804. Ms. Snideman also announced that California Air National Guard jets flew over Richmond as part of a statewide flyover on May 13, 2020, to salute COVID-19 frontline workers.

## **BUDGET SESSION**

**F-1.** The matter to review potential budget balancing strategies, and direct staff to take action on strategies selected to be pursued was introduced by Mayor Butt and City Manager Laura Snideman. Finance Director Belinda Brown presented a Powerpoint that highlighted the following: Budget goals; factors contributing to the budget deficit; budget balancing strategies (“buckets” of options); review process; and next steps. Mrs. Brown presented an itemized list of budget balancing strategies for the Council’s feedback on each line item. Discussion ensued. Several department heads provided additional information to address the Council’s concerns. The Council requested the Police Department’s Fiscal Year 2019-20 overtime paid to-date. The Council requested staff to consider equity and access regarding potential library closures. The Council requested staff to go back through the list and fine-tune items to determine if there was a major difference between one-time items. The Council requested a line item be added to the list for payments made to the Contra Costa County District Attorney’s Office for special prosecutions. The following individuals gave comments via email, eComment, or telephone: Adam Edgell, Adina Rose, Ben Meek, Brooke Hazen, Clam-Ly Day, Carl Capistrano, Carol Burdick, Cordell Hindler, Corinne Coburn, Diana Wear, Dorothy Gilbert, Erin Kerley, Indira Sivakumar, Jane Courant, Jeff Silva Jescenia Ramirez, Joel Guzman, Jon Engelage, Juliet Espinoza, Laura Thomas, Lilia Edgell, Lilian Garcia, Lynn Maack, Margarita Andrade, Martha Jackson, Nain Lopez, Olene Sparks, Pam Tellew, Piper Coburn, Raelene Coburn, Riley Edgell, Robin DeGarcia, Ruby-Rose Day, Sallian Umamoto, Sally Tobin, Stacey Walker, Will Santana, Yolanda Skelton, Yvonne Cuellar, Alix Mazuet, Angela Votto, Denee Evans, Dorothea Rastegar, Josh Anijar and Joe Summers, Liz Watts, Maria and Oliver Guterrez, Natalie Mulford, Robbie Hurtado, Sara Theiss, Sean Stalbaum, Yulia Pinkusevich, Ashlee Gutierrez, Claudia Jimenez, Gabe Nelson, John Wainscott, Nirmani Kalakheti, Nishat Gardens, Orlando Rodriguez, Yen Do, Luis Padilla, Sean Stalbaum, Ben Therriault, Naomi Williams, Tarnel Abbott, and Kiran Agarwal. Further discussion ensued. The Council requested staff to consider offering employees early retirement opportunities and incentives to balance the budget. The Council requested staff to clarify the public’s concerns regarding R-Transit.

## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS: REFERRALS TO STAFF, AND GENERAL REPORTS (INCLUDING AB 1234 REPORTS)**

Councilmember Johnson urged the community to complete the 2020 Census.

Mayor Butt announced that Councilmember Demnlus Johnson III was awarded a master’s degree from the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California Berkeley.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m., in memory of Lavonne Thompson and Mariel Clauson, to meet again on Tuesday, May 19, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

---

Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

---

Mayor

**International Federation of Local and Professional  
Engineers (IFPTE) Local 21/Richmond**

---



DATE: May 12, 2020

TO: Mayor Tom Butt and Members of Richmond City Council

CC: Local 21

FROM: Craig K. Murray, Development Project Manager II, City Manager's Office

SUBJECT: "Public Comments for Closed Session, May 12" -  
**BUDGET BALANCING – A FAST FOOD APPROACH**

---

Mayor Butt and Members of City Council: I have been alerted to measures under consideration tonight to Budget Balance that will include requests to City Staff to provide back earned benefits and/or their jobs. It is important to look at all ways proposed that can help Richmond through this time and ways that can continue to sustain and support this Charter City Organization with selective nourishment and guidance. Richmond's employees are the organization glue and fabric.

Public employees give a lot. I, like many others, have served City of Richmond well during sustained down times and propped up the City with give backs, December furloughs and sustained periods without a basic Cost of Living adjustment. There have been prior severe times such as the near Bankruptcy and at that time as well a reduced City Council Members from Nine to Seven Members.

Over the years serving Richmond, I have taken on the duties of two prior Project Managers Jim Bissell (contaminated properties) and Jim Branch (Marina and Marina Bay), work representing the City to the community through the RAB, PMCAC, State and Local Regulators and US Navy in managing Pt Molate a job formerly held by the Administrative Chief Janet Schneider. My story may not be different from others that are dedicated to serving the Richmond community.

I urge City Council to consider the budget options provided by all Richmond employee Unions to help Richmond land softly during this crisis and to guide this with proper nourishment.

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Gregory Everetts  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 2:22 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments for Closed Session, May 12

THERE IS A BETTER WAY FORWARD FOR RICHMOND. The FY 20-21 Richmond Budget shortfall is structural, and it existed well before COVID-19, but the Mayor and City Administration are aggressively moving to CUT CITY SERVICES and imposes LABOR CUTS and LAYOFFS to balance the City's projected \$27M budget shortfall. The Richmond Union Coalition (Fire Fighters Local 188, IFPTE Local 21, RPOA, and SEIU Local 1021) has identified a path forward that would have the least impact on service-delivery for residents and businesses of Richmond. Our plan would buy precious time by solving the current budget gap through a number of actions including temporary vacancy savings, a hiring freeze, postponing some capital investments that are funded through operating revenue, temporarily reducing the City's insurance reserves to a still acceptable level, postponing some planned vehicle/equipment replacement, and spending down some more reserves (temporarily) to levels the City operated at for more than a decade prior. Our plan also asks the City's leadership to focus on NEW REVENUES rather than CUTS TO SERVICE-DELIVERY. We must advocate for more federal support for state and local governments during the COVID-19 pandemic (See Below). Additionally, progressive ballot measures that ask those with the most means in our society to pay their fair share to support our public services can help fix the structural problems moving forward.

Budget actions can and must be taken without direct cuts to Services and Staff. Temporary actions taken now to balance the budget can be restored once revenues are healed. By choosing the collaborative path, one that protects workers and the Richmond community that relies on our services, the City's leadership can ensure that we all get through this together and come out stronger on the other side of COVID-19. We need the Mayor and City Council to demonstrate difficult leadership by standing with us and supporting our plan to preserve Richmond services and fix the structural problems moving forward.

### **Gregory Everetts Jr**

President – SEIU 1021/Richmond Chapter

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Janet Johnson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 2:48 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments for Closed Session, May 12

Dear Mayor Butt and City Council Member:

Richmond workers provide essential services to Richmond residents and businesses. In addition, Richmond workers are dedicated and have sacrificed much already (no COLAs for five years, uncompetitive wages, difficult work conditions, more work with less staff, etc.). Our unions have a plan to balance the current budget shortfalls and fix the City's structural problems moving forward. We are asking you to please take the time to review and consider our plan to balance the budget without immediate staff reductions. We are counting on your leadership to do the right thing for Richmond residents and workers by supporting our plan.

*Janet L. Johnson*

Economic Development Administrator  
City Manager's Office  
(510) 307-8131

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Jill Perry  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 2:40 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments for Closed Session, May 12

It seems that the city has tunnel vision in looking only at cuts to services and employees to balance next year's budget. This pandemic is a short-term problem that really only requires a strategy to buy some time. Year after year the city has cut staffing levels which amount to nearly 30% over the past 10 years. Instead of looking at massive cuts to services and employees there can be significant savings by postponing many big ticket purchases for another year. Postponing the IT desktop refresh and vehicle replacement for one year will save \$5.5 Million. A hiring freeze will save \$10 Million from the general fund alone. Another \$3 Million can be saved by reducing the insurance reserves to a 70% confidence level for general liability and workers compensation. All of this can buy time for new revenue measures to pass and take effect in the following fiscal year, when the economy is normalized. The unions are committed to the passage of new revenue measures for Richmond. I urge the Mayor and Councilmembers to exhaust all other options first before considering service and labor cuts.

Thank you,

Jill Perry  
Vice President  
IFPTE Local 21  
Richmond Chapter

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Juan Diaz  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 2:56 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** "Public Comments for Closed Session, May 12".

Hello mayor and council members

My name is Juan stationary engineer been with the City for 5 years and a member of 1021....we been working with short staff for years and we could not operate if there's lay-off.... we are the ones that keep the plumbing air conditioning and heating Running in all public buildings...before cutting the service please look at all the options available thanks....

Sent from my iPhone

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Adam Edgell <adam.edgell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 2:45 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comment Agenda Item F 1 Budget Session

Dear Councilmembers Bates, Butt, Choi, Johnson, Martinez, Myrick and Willis,

My name is Adam Edgell. I have been a resident of Richmond since 2009.

Do NOT eliminate The Richmond Public Library from the budget!

The Library is the only public educational institution that this City has. Its role as keeper of culture, history and knowledge is invaluable to this community. Its resources belong to the public and should not be needlessly disposed of. There are many tasks that the library staff can be performing right now, such as telephone reference, storytimes via KCRT, and curbside pickup. Ideas on how safe opening can occur are being discussed by library staff here and around the country, and front line staff **MUST** be included in decision making about what tasks can be done and what a safe future opening can look like.

Additionally, I oppose the layoff of SEIU 1021 members, this will only exacerbate the financial struggle of our community as a whole.

Sincerely,  
Adam Edgell

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Adina Rose <adinamama@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 10:36 AM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comment Agenda Item F 1 Budget Session

May 12, 2020

To Richmond City Council,

My name is Adina Rose. My children attended elementary school in Richmond for many years.

Please do NOT eliminate The Richmond Public Library from the budget.

Public Libraries are a free, safe, and educational resource available to all.

Many families rely on them and the people who run them. If they close, I am deeply concerned that it will further disenfranchise already at risk populations, and set an unhealthy and damaging precedent for our community.

I oppose the layoff of SEIU 1021 members, this will only exacerbate the financial struggle of our community as a whole. Save public services, reduce the salaries at the top.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I hope the right choice is made here.

Adina Rose

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Ben E Meek <benmeekmd@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 1:12 PM  
**To:** Tom Butt - external; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis; City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public comments agenda item #F1

Regarding Richmond Public Library closure.

This would be one of the most outrageous acts of social injustice and fiscal irresponsibility to ever let happen! The library is a place where people of all stripes can obtain services essential to their well-being and level the digital divide.

Some of my personal experiences have involved teachers of the arts side-by-side with the wonderful librarians in art and literacy programs in the public schools.

During this pandemic the library services give invaluable support to the entire community on a multitude of levels.

Consider this a call to action for those who's responsibility is the welfare of the entire community.

Respectfully,

Ben Meek, M.D.

[benmeekmd@comcast.net](mailto:benmeekmd@comcast.net)

Judy Rattner

[jboomerang@comcast.net](mailto:jboomerang@comcast.net)

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Brooke Hazen <brohz111@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 11:14 AM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments Agenda Item #F1

To Whom It May Concern,

I have enjoyed the services of the Richmond Library for my relatives for many many years and hearing you are considering closing due to the budget and coronavirus will negatively impact me so badly. Please keep it open however possible. I came and gave a storytelling time for farmers one afternoon and it was lovely

Brooke Hazen

Sent from my iPhone

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** esther watt <esther\_watt@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 2:46 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** public comments agenda item #F1

Dear Richmond City Council,

My name is Cam-Ly Day and I am 11 years old. I really hope you do not shut down the libraries because there are many people around here who enjoy going to the library and picking out books. When I go to the library I especially like the books in the fiction section. We are already going through a lot because of COVID-19 and I understand how stressful it is for you guys and wish you the best and hope you guys won't close down the libraries.

Sincerely,  
Cam-Ly Day

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Carl Capistrano  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 2:19 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** COVID-19 Budget Shortfall

Hello Mayor and Councilmember,

My name is Carl Capistrano, I am a Stationary Engineer Supervisor for this beloved City and also live here for the past 24 years. I've been with the City for 13 years and a member of *IFPTE Local 21*. *My team has been working with a short staff but a greater responsibilities that provides essential services to all the City buildings and its residents.*

I am writing to the City Council and the Mayor today to urge you to look at all options to solve the budget crisis and work it out with our union leaders. Laying off our essential, hardworking and dedicated employees will not solve our long term budget problem. This is the time that this City needs us the most for our services.

I implore you to explore all the cost cutting measures before laying off our essential workers and please involve our union leaders before making your final decisions.

Thank you for your precious time.

*Carl Capistrano*

*Stationary Engineer Supervisor*

*Public Works*

*Richmond, CA*

*Desk: 510-620-5479*

*Cell : 510-812-9662*

*[Carl.Capistrano@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:Carl.Capistrano@ci.richmond.ca.us)*

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** carol burdick <carolburdick2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 1:39 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public comments agenda item #F1

To whom it may concern,

I am contacting you on behalf of myself & my parents. My mom, Janet Burdick was a librarian 30+ years ago at the main branch & the Pt. Richmond branch. We are all upset about the potential closing of the libraries, but especially my mom. How can that even be considered?!?!

We beg, plead & urge you to KEEP THE LIBRARIES OPEN!

Kindly,

The Burdicks

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Cordell Hindler <cordellhindler@ymail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 08, 2020 6:43 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept; City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Budget Session

hello Sabrina, i was looking at the Strategies list and i have a couple of ideas relating to this:

1. i would Direct Staff not to institute the Hiring Freeze because it is not Necessary
2. also i would keep the Car Allowances for future City Employees
3. also i would like to have the Reorg Chart revisited
4. i would keep the Promotional Positions

i would hope that my Recommendations would go into the Record

Sincerely  
Cordell

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Corinne Coburn <coco.book11@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 1:55 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** public comments agenda item #F1

Hello, my name is Corinne Coburn and I am twelve years old. My sister and I have been checking books out from the Richmond library for as long as I can remember. The first time I ever went to the library was when I was eighteen months old.

Four reasons why the Richmond library should remain open:

1. There are lots of materials and resources that you can only get through the Richmond library, not other libraries, and lots of people will lose these resources and materials if the Richmond library closes.
2. The library is a way to connect with your community. For example, the library organizes activities such as, the tea party, the summer reading program, and story time. These are only a few ways that the library is a way to connect with your community.
3. Lots of librarians will lose their jobs if the Richmond library closes.
4. The library is special to a lot of people. Not just my family, but thousands of other people as well. One way that the library is special to people, is that the library provides many resources. A second reason why the library is special to people, is that most people are friends with the librarians.

Please do not close the Richmond library!

- Corinne Coburn

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Diana Wear <diana4richmond@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 1:48 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Cc:** Eduardo Martinez; Melvin Willis; Demnlus Johnson; Nat Bates; Ben Choi; Jael Myrick; Mayor Tom Butt  
**Subject:** Public Comment Agenda Item F 1 Budget Session

Diana Wear  
Richmond resident

Mayor and City Council Members,

Just two weeks ago you proclaimed May 2020 as “**Affordable Housing Month and Affordable Homes for All.**”

Now I’m hearing that libraries might be on the fiscal chopping block. What is wrong with this picture?

I want to connect the dots between **affordable housing** and **community libraries**. In every city housing and

libraries should be package deals. Affordable housing is not the simple the walls that shelter a family and protect

them from the elements. Affordable housing includes an environment that fosters a community’s shelter, education,

food, healthcare, and other welfare. Schools are part of that educational structure, for sure. Libraries equally sustain

and enhance learning environments. Libraries serve young people, immigrants, and adults—all who desperately

need these resources.

Libraries also provide space for a young person to study, to engage in the world of literature, research, exploration,

computing, reference materials, and more. For many youths, teens, and adolescents, the library is a place of refuge

from unhealthy activities in their neighborhoods and for many it is a quiet haven from the noise of their homes and other

negative influences. We must do all that we can to keep our libraries in service.

I know the City needs to make some serious new decisions about our fiscal future. But cutting the libraries should

not be part of re-envisioning our future. Quite the contrary.

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Dorothy Gilbert <mariesnicewerewolf@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 12:23 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** public comments--agenda item #F1

Dear City Clerk and all concerned:

I am Dorothy Gilbert; I have been a Richmond homeowner since July 1998, almost 22 years. It has come to my attention that the Richmond Public Library may be excluded from the City budget, and that Library services are being considered for elimination.

This is shocking news. It is grotesque; it is bizarre. I myself have lived a long life as a scholar and writer; a teacher (most recently at UC Berkeley); a believer in the vital importance of reading; and a cherisher of this community. I know so well that a public library is a vital organ in a community body; shut it down, and the community's health will suffer. Scholars and researchers, business owners, renters, working people, parents who care about their children's development, children, even babies, have continuous, often urgent, need of library resources, whether online, as is necessary now, or in a world of substance. I have been in our Library when young people were lined up at the computers there, waiting for their time; they very likely do not have computers at home--or for that matter, probably can't afford many books they need. We all know this is a city of many poor people, underprivileged, some devalued by much of society, who count on the best resources of the City to give themselves and their children dignity, pride, joy, the possibilities they deeply deserve. If young people can't do assignments at the Library--online or otherwise--will some teachers, in desperation, be tempted to compromise and give less fruitful assignments? Or just send the kids to another city? Will business people, working people, students, teachers, go to public libraries in other cities, and Richmond be known as a city with little regard for the means of acquiring education, information, or the enjoyment of culture--books, magazines, films, music of many sorts and genres--things that relieve our pressures and keep us sane? Some would say, make us human?

A democracy is predicated on an informed public; we're already in trouble on that score. How are we to encourage curiosity, love of exploring, love of independent thinking, those qualities vital for a fulfilled life? How develop good work habits,, if our resources are so limited?

For the health and well-being of our City and our community, I beg you: preserve, protect, support and honor our Public Library. Thank you very much for your attention.

Sincerely,  
Dorothy Gilbert, Ph.D.

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Erin Kerley <ekerley@me.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 11, 2020 5:43 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comment Agenda Item F 1 Budget Session

Please do not shut down the Richmond City Library It is a vital part of our community and much needed Your will be taking away access to computers and books to people who can't afford either. I use the Bayview branch and there are kids from the neighborhood in there, seniors and people who otherwise don't have access to all libraries offer Please reconsider this decision Thank you Erin Kerley

Sent from my iPhone

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Indira Elizabeth Sivakumar <indira.elizabeth.sivakumar@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 11:24 AM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments Agenda Item #F1

Dear Richmond Council, My name is Indira Sivakumar, I'm 7 years old and I am from El Sobronte. I love the libraries and you cant take them away. The libraries are good for education and they have many wonderful stories. People get books they don't have but they want it's like a road into the land of imagination. The library is a great place please don't take it down.  
sincerely, Indira Sivakumar

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Jane Courant <janecourant@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 11, 2020 9:46 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Item #F1 Agenda Special Budget meeting

These are comments I sent to the budget task force, and I would like the entire council also to consider:

As a retired librarian and concerned Richmond resident, I urge you *not* to make cuts to the city's public library. Libraries are the most democratic of institutions, welcoming all people regardless of their economic status, from children to the elderly, from the housed to the unsheltered, from the educated to those who struggle with literacy. Everyone is able to access and get assistance with vital information, educational and cultural resources of their own choosing, with their privacy and dignity respected.

In a city like ours with a huge digital divide, the library is a lifeline, and at this moment, it is needed more than ever. (Try applying for unemployment, scholarship funds, food stamps, or social security without access to a computer.) As we look forward to the phased reopening of our community, the library will be, as it has always been, a vital source of access to services of all kinds.

Jane Courant, M.L.S., Ph.D.

[6108 Santa Cruz Avenue](#)  
[Richmond 94804](#)  
[510-219-0051](#)

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Jeff Silva <jeffsilva408@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 12:56 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** No Lay Offs

Hello. My name is Jeff Silva. I am a Stationary Engineer for the City of Richmond. A member of SEIU Local 1021. I am part of a small department that provides essential 24-hour services to the workers and residents of this city by maintaining, operating and repairing all equipment in city owned or occupied buildings. The services to these buildings are essential to every day operations to ensure the health and safety of our fellow workers and residents of this city. We try hard to provide these services while being short-staffed, due to the budget cuts from the previous recession.

I am writing the city council today to urge them to look at all options to solve the city's budget issues. I know this is a difficult challenge that you are facing during this unprecedented time. But, lay offs will not solve the city's budget problems. This may only make things worse. This is the time that the residents of this city will need us the most. And reducing staff or cutting essential services is not the way to fix things.

I implore you to explore any and all cost-cutting measures before laying off essential, dedicated and hard working city employees. This would impact not only the city workers and their families, but the residents of this community that rely on the essential services that we all provide on a daily basis.

Thank you for your time

Jeff Silva

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Jescenia Ramirez <jr100235@caliberbetaacademy.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 11:46 AM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public comments agenda item #F1

May 12, 2020

To Richmond City Council

My name is Jescenia Ramirez, I am a 13-year-old Richmond Citizen and I am angry about the proposal to shut down Richmond Public Library. The Richmond public library holds many memories for me. And I always enjoy reading and going there during my free time. The library has helped me discover my passion for reading, which is a very important part of me.

During the summer, and when my parents have time to drive me to the library, my siblings and I enjoy going to the library and looking at the books, playing on the computers, and playing outside in the picnic area to eat the lunches the library provides. I met one of my best friends at this library!

My school had a field trip to the library and the city hall two years ago, I enjoyed going to the library a lot, my friends and I got to read together and find books we all enjoyed. If I do say so myself that was one of the best field trips I ever had in elementary school. And that says a lot because I had field trips to museums, and paks, and many other fascinating places outside of Richmond.

Closing down the library would also mean many people that work at the library lose their jobs. My neighbor, which I consider family, works at the library. I would think it very unfair for her to lose her job, not because she got fired or quit, but because people at the government close it. She, like thousands of others, would have no job during corona, when she needs it most.

So please, please, please don't close the library. It is a very important part of all Richmond citizens' lives. And if you close it down, you would be closing down part of Richmond. And a part of what makes it beautiful despite everything people say.

Sincerely,  
Jescenia Ramirez  
7th Grade Student at Caliber: Beta Academy  
[Jr100235@caliberbetaacademy.org](mailto:Jr100235@caliberbetaacademy.org)  
510-334-4317

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Joel Guzman <jg100119@caliberbetaacademy.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 11:43 AM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comment Agenda item #F1

To Richmond City Council

My name is Joel Guzman, I am a 14-year old Richmond resident and am very concerned about the proposed closing of the Richmond Public Library. For as long as I remember, I have gone to the Richmond Library for a variety of things. As well as many others I depended on the Richmond Public Library for many things from homework help, to computer/wifi access, books, and many other benefits the Richmond Public Library provided.

I have done very well in school and maintain good grades, I am proud to say that I can credit the start of that success to the Richmond Public Library and their staff. I am speaking for many young kids and teens that have gone to the Richmond Public Library, the Richmond Public Library is a place for the kids of Richmond to spark their dreams by providing the utmost care for the kids and the community. The Richmond Public Library is more than just a library, it is a second home where everyone is welcomed.

I understand the reason budget cuts are needed but this library is worth more than any money that will be saved from closing it down. By keeping the library open you will provide the community a home and the soil needed for our children and their dreams to sprout. I hope you take into account my words that represent the community as whole and take account of the dreams of the young kids of Richmond.

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** j engelage <j\_engelage@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 1:06 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** public comments agenda item #F1

to whom it may concern:

while closing physical library locations in richmond is not desirable, but understandable given the financial problems caused by the pandemic. as a citizen of the city of richmond, i understand and concur. as a library patron, i appreciate you keeping an electronic and pickup connection to the library in place. sadly, i'm sure there will be more tough choices that our city government will have to make. please try to save as many jobs as you can.

good luck and stay safe,  
jon engelage

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Juliet Espinoza <juliet62707@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 2:38 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public comments agenda item #F1 Budget Session

I'm 12 years old and my name is Juliet Espinoza. I have lived in Richmond my whole life. The poverty rate is 15.7% in Richmond. A lot of families struggle with poverty and have a lot of stress. They worry what's going to happen next and they struggle. They don't know what to do or what can save them.

Richmond library can save them because books can put worries away and let you escape from the real world. Even if it's just for a little it gives them hope! Low income families can go to Richmond library after Covid-19 without any fear or discrimination and they don't have to pay to just sit and read. They can just read whether it's for entertainment or for education purposes. There are kids books, young adult books, adult books of all genres for everyone to read to escape their life for just some time.

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Laura Thomas <laurakthomas@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 11:53 AM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comment Agenda Item F1 Budget Session

May 12, 2020

To Richmond City Council

My name is Laura Thomas. I am a Richmond resident and a mom of two daughters. We are all frequent users of the Richmond Public Library and are mortified at the prospect of it being eliminated from the budget.

The Library is the only public educational institution that this City has. Its role as keeper of culture, history and knowledge is invaluable. Its resources belong to the public and should not be disposed of. There are many tasks that the library staff can be performing now such as telephone reference, story times via KCRT, and curbside pick up. Ideas on how safe opening can occur are being discussed by library staff here as well as throughout the country. Front line staff must be included in decision making about what tasks can be done and what a safe future opening can look like.

I oppose the layoff of SEIU 1021 members. This will only exacerbate the financial struggle of our community as a whole and sets a terrifying precedent in terms of our priorities as a community.

Thank you,  
Laura

--

[Check out what Lilia and Riley are up to here!](#)

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Lilia Edgell <lilia.edgell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 11, 2020 5:20 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comment Agenda Item F 1 Budget Session

May 11, 2020

To Richmond City Council

My name is Lilia Edgell, I am a 12-year-old Richmond resident and I am concerned about the proposal to shut down the Richmond Public Library. Before Covin19 I spent countless hours in the Library reading and looking for new books to read. If it wasn't for the library I would still be rereading the harry potter series for the six millionth time. Every Monday I would go there for an hour or more to pick up/read books. Even during Coronavirus, I am still using their online resources and after the pandemic, I bet many people would be devastated to see that the library had been closed. So many people use the library (more than you probably thought) people use it for information for school, to learn languages, to get movies, to read for fun, to teach children to read, and it is opened to all different types of people. The Richmond Public Library doesn't care what skin color you are, what age you are, or how much money you have. They just care about educating people and giving people the joy of reading. I hope you read this and take into account what I've told you.

Hoping for the best, Lilia

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Lilian Garcia <noemililian@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 11, 2020 7:55 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public comments - agenda item F1

My name is Lilian Garcia I was a library aide at The Richmond Public library from August 2018 to January 2020. I live and Vote here in Richmond. I would like the city council to reconsider and have the Richmond public library available to the community. From my experience working at the library I became aware of how incredibly necessary the after school literacy program and homework help is for children. The library has so much to offer to our community because of the amazing librarians and staff that put their all in what they do. As a mother of an 8 year old on going reader and a preschooler, the Richmond public library is a very important place to us. We rely on the library for books, programs, story time, and assistance from the staff. Therefore, I strongly believe that the Richmond Public Library is a timeless necessity for many families and Richmond residents.

Thank you,

Richmond Resident Lilian Garcia

Sent from my iPhone

## **Sabrina Lundy**

---

**From:** L Maack <l.maack@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 2:29 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments - Agenda Item #F-1

### **Comments of the Richmond Museum Association Re Agenda Item # F-1 as regards the Red Oak Victory Ship (ONE- and TWO-MINUTE VERSIONS, if read into the record)**

#### **From Lynn Maack, President, Richmond Museum Association, owner of the Red Oak Victory Ship**

##### (First Minute:)

Changing the agreement between the City and the Red Oak Victory for dock space will have zero net effect on the City's budget. There is no actual City expenditure for that dock space, so leaving the agreement unchanged costs the City nothing. Changing the agreement to assess rent to the Red Oak for that dock space, especially at an overly-optimistic amount, will also have zero net effect, since the ship cannot sustain such a new burden. We will be forced to close our doors, cutting off an important educational asset to the City and to the Rosie the Riveter National Park here in Richmond. We would no longer teach hundreds of schoolkids, maritime students and thousands of the general public each year about not only Richmond's history and contributions to American culture, but also the dedication and sacrifices of the American people during one of the hardest times in our history. Also consider that our 6,000 annual visitors bring money to the City's businesses, so the Red Oak is a net benefit to the City and will be even more so when we are able to operate. Please leave the arrangement as is.

##### (Second Minute, if allowable:)

The Red Oak Victory is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and for good reason. The Red Oak is the last remaining ship of the 747 ships built in the Kaiser Richmond Shipyards during WWII. As such, it is an important monument, and an important part of Richmond's and the country's history – it memorializes the dedication and sacrifices of home-front workers, notably in the Kaiser Richmond shipyards, and the American people during WWII, and the thousands of military personnel and Merchant Marines who died in the war; it symbolizes advances in civil rights -- people of color for the first time joined the "regular" work force in the Kaiser Richmond Shipyards with equal jobs and equal pay; advances in women's rights -- women performed jobs formerly reserved for men and at equal pay with men; and the development of employer-sponsored health care and child care (e.g., the Kaiser-Permanente system that we see today). This all started in Richmond! Please leave the arrangement as is. Thank you.

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Margarita Andrade <amargarita22@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 12:56 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Save the library

May 12, 2020

To Richmond City council

My name is Alessander Andrade I go to Caliber Beta Academy I'm in second grade and live in Richmond. I go to the library with my mom to read stories and check out superheroes books. I been going to the library for along time even before I learn how to read. It would make me very sad if I couldn't go to the library to check out books and read fun stories. Books are very important I love to read and when my mom reads to me.

Your friend  
Alessander Andrade

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Martha Jackson <marthajack@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 11, 2020 5:02 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comment Agenda item F 1 Budget Session

May 12, 2020

To Richmond City Council

My name is Martha Jackson. I am a Richmond resident and longtime library user and library lover.

Please do everything you can to save The Richmond Public Library from severe budget cuts. The role of the library as a place of education, entertainment, information, safety, and community is invaluable. The fact that it offers so many amazing and essential resources that any and every member of the public can freely use, makes it one of the most important assets in the city. Even when the library is closed, there are so many tasks that the library staff can offer the community such as email and telephone reference, virtual homework help with tutors, virtual storytimes and ideas for at-home activities for children, help with research, consumer information, help with accessing digital resources and services, and so much more. Ideas on how safe opening can occur are being discussed by library staff here as well as throughout the country. Front line staff must be included in decision making about what tasks can be done and what a safe future opening can look like.

I oppose the layoff of SEIU 1021 members, this will only add to the financial struggles of our already struggling community.

Save our library!

--



Martha Jackson

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Nain Lopez <naindlopez@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 11, 2020 6:42 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comment Agenda Item F 1 Budget Session

May 12, 2020

To Richmond City Council

My name is Nain Lopez, I am a Richmond resident (OR I work in Richmond- City is optional).

Do NOT eliminate The Richmond Public Library from the budget.

The Library is the only public educational institution that this City has. Its role as keeper of culture, history and knowledge is invaluable. Its resources belong to the public and should not be disposed of. There are many tasks that the library staff can be performing now such as telephone reference, story times via KCRT, and curbside pick up. Ideas on how safe opening can occur are being discussed by library staff here as well as throughout the country. Front line staff must be included in decision making about what tasks can be done and what a safe future opening can look like.

I oppose the layoff of SEIU 1021members, this will only exacerbate the financial struggle of our community as a whole. Save public services, reduce the salaries at the top.

--

Nain V. Lopez  
510-566-6639

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** olenes@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 1:50 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept; Tom Butt - external; email ben -choi@ci.richmond.ca.us; Melvin Willis  
**Cc:** benmeekmd@comcast.net; olenes@aol.com  
**Subject:** Public Libraries - Richmond, Point Richmond

To: Whom it may concern

From: Olene Sparks, Point Richmond resident

Re: Possible library closure

I am in favor of keeping the libraries in Richmond and Point Richmond available for use.

I have always appreciated being able to use the public libraries. They serve a valuable purpose to individuals of all ages and families of children who benefit greatly from exposure to the many services offered. A community is a better place when a good library system is available. This fact is historically substantiated.

Thank you.  
Olene Sparks

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Pam Tellew <pamtellew@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 11, 2020 9:11 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** public comments agenda item #F1

I cannot believe there is consideration of eliminating the Richmond Public Library. Even closing one branch will cause irreparable harm to the city. A library is not extra; it is essential.

~ Pam Tellew

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Lemonbird <lemonbird@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 2:08 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** public comments agenda item #F1

Hello! My name is Piper Coburn. I am six years old.

I have been going to the library since I was a baby. I get lots of books from the Richmond Library. The library is super important during a quarantine because we need stuff and do and reading books is important to us.

The library helps people find jobs and get help, and if we didn't have a library people couldn't get help.

When I grow up, I want to go to the library, and where will I go if there is no library.

Sincerely,  
Piper Coburn

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Lemonbird <lemonbird@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 11, 2020 2:58 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** public comments agenda item #F1

My name is Raelene Coburn and I am former Richmond resident and current patron of the Richmond library. I currently live in El Cerrito, just moments away from the Bayview Branch.

The Richmond library has been the essential link between me and my community from the first day I walked in to get a library card. More than being a resource for myself, the library has been a major part of my children's literacy and education for the past 12+ years. Sheila Dickinson and her team have stayed connected to my daughters and provide the enrichment they need to be successful readers, powerful problem solvers, and future library patrons. This is not just stories and songs. It's a RELATIONSHIP. And it's not just for kids. The caring librarians and staff are a lifeline for many people in our community....providing information that lead to jobs, access to safety and shelter, legal help, much needed food, and the myriad of needs we commonly see in Richmond. We need this resource now more than ever. There is so much a library can provide, even during a pandemic. **Especially** during a pandemic.

A community without a library is heartbreaking. A community in need without a library is left floundering and struggling to survive. Richmond's Pride and Purpose will be shattered without this essential resource. This is a lifeline we cannot afford to cut.

Please keep our libraries!

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Riley Edgell <riley.edgell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 12:20 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comment Agenda Item F 1 Budget Session

May 12, 2020  
To Richmond City Council

Save the libraries

My name is Riley Edgell. I am an 8 year old Richmond Resident and I get to play on the computers and every week on Wednesdays I get to see my tutor and pick my right level of books and my favorites too.

I really really love the library. Would brake my heart to see the library go and I wouldn't get as many more books anymore so please save the libraries.

Love,  
Riley

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Robin DeGracia <rdegracia@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 11:28 AM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments Agenda Item #F1

Dear Richmond Council,

Hello, my name is Robin DeGracia and I am a resident of next-door El Sobrante. My husband worked in Richmond Point, and would often take the kids with him and they would spend the day at the Richmond Library. There my daughter and son were introduced to the Magic Tree House Series, A-Z Mysteries, and many other series of early chapter books. My kids love libraries and it's often a negotiation on how many they can check out. The libraries are an essential part of our community and part of how we are raising our youngest to be good citizens.

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go”. - Dr. Seuss.

Please consider then when reviewing the Richmond budget and find a way to preserve the libraries. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Robin DeGracia

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** esther watt <esther\_watt@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 2:32 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** public comments agenda item #F1

Dear Richmond City Council,

I am Ruby-Rose Day and I am 9 years old and I live in Richmond. I do not think you should shut own the libraries just because you don't have enough money. Lots of people like libraries in Richmond and they won't be able to borrow any books. Some parents can't afford to buy books. I like going to the library because I get to read new books.

Sincerely,

Ruby-Rose Day

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** scu <scumemoto2002@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 11:23 AM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Agenda #F1

Dear Richmond City ....

PLEASE do not close Richmond libraries...

I go there very often (and it's right around the corner from the Senior Center, where I I go 4 times/week). I've even brought my granddaughter there several times.

Those computers are usually all full, too, most likely by those who have no access to a home computer.

I heard one of the options is for the Richmond libraries to become part of the Contra Costa library system. I prefer that to closure.

Again, please reconsider library closure.

S. C. Umemoto

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Sally Tobin <otwsally@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 11:47 AM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** public comments - agenda item # F-1

Richmond Budget Priorities

Here is a suggested list of priorities for trimming the Richmond budget:

First Priority: Public Health and Safety - Maintain effective public health and police and fire services to the degree possible.

Second Priority: Services to Richmond Youth - Libraries are core services for youth, and swimming saves lives. Full funding of Library and Swimming Programs is suggested. Youth is our most important investment. Do not balance the City budget on the backs of our young people.

Third Priority: Budget tightening for all City agencies. Targeted percentage for funding cuts. Reviews of all expenditures over \$1000.00.

Fourth Priority: Hiring Freeze. City Council approval of all new hires, whether temporary or permanent.

Fifth Priority: Furloughs of all City employees, on a sliding scale, with those at higher salary levels furloughed at an increasing proportion of salary.

Sixth Priority: Concede the costly and ineffective legal battle and adopt the Community Plan for Point Molate. An expensive residential development in a fire-prone area with no existing infrastructure is a luxury that Richmond cannot afford. Such a concession will save Richmond legal expenses. The Community Plan will generate income for the City, whereas the proposed development would be a drain on the City budget into the foreseeable future. Let's focus on realistic housing plans where infrastructure and transit already exist.

Sincerely,

Sally Tobin, Richmond Resident

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Stacey Walker <staceywalker12292017@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 2:18 PM  
**To:** Tom Butt - external; Tom Butt; Eduardo Martinez; Jael Myrick; Demnlus Johnson; Nathaniel Bates; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis; City Clerk Dept; yen.do@seiu1021.org  
**Subject:** Public Comment - Agenda Item F1

Good Evening Mayor and City Council Members,

After reviewing the proposed cost saving ideas from last week's City Council meeting, I am concerned at the lack of specificity provided to you by City staff.

Before any of these proposals can be considered and especially before the Council takes action in the form of a vote, there needs to be a clearly defined cost savings analysis so that you're not voting for cuts to services and staff at the same time the City is hiring managers and continuing to spend in other areas of the budget which could have saved direct services to the community. We've reached a point in the City's ongoing budget deficit that we should not be picking and choosing what we eliminate or reduce while retaining what can be considered special interest costs which do not equate to direct services to the community.

Why weren't any cost savings specified for lines 3 and 26 in the proposed cost savings document? Also, there is a wide range of savings specified for Police and Fire subsidized overtime costs for festivals in line 14, \$55,000-300,000. The Council and the public needs to know specifically what the overtime costs were for each festival held within the last one or two years. You may choose to sponsor the festivals which have the lowest overtime costs or you may choose not to fund any festivals once you have the actual cost analysis before you.

With regard to the proposed cuts to Library services, how did City staff arrive at the cost analysis of \$0 - \$4,563,000? Does this represent complete elimination of library services through closure of the Main Library, the Bayview and West Side branches? There needs to be a complete breakdown of cost savings for every reduction that may be considered. If you're proposing closure of branches, what will the cost savings be for each branch? It's short sighted and far too easy to simply provide a range of \$0 in savings if no cuts are imposed to the very large savings of \$4,563,000.00. What do these numbers represent in the reduction of direct services that will not be provided to the community?

Another example of the lack of specificity in the proposed cuts is represented in line 20. Who will decide on which vehicles or equipment will be prioritized for replacement? What criteria will be used in determining the prioritization? The Library has not had a delivery van for more than 2 years. Staff have been forced to use their personal vehicles to transport large bins of books between branches or may choose to use a City vehicle, a Prius, which is very small and has very little cargo space for the bins. Library and City management have completely failed to provide the necessary equipment to conduct Library business and have chosen to put the safety of staff at risk each time they are transporting the bins.

Will all non-service related costs be eliminated from the budget? As a 30 year Library Assistant in the Library and as a Richmond resident, it would seem that spending which does not equate to direct services to the community will be eliminated without any consideration or discussion. Who, in good conscious, can consider reducing or eliminating services such as Recreation, Library and public pools while choosing to retain spending on travel, car allowances, meals for public meetings, hiring of new management positions, promotions, retaining management positions which are redundant, etc.?

I recognize that reduction of costs are necessary. The City has narrowly balanced its budget for years. The City has not attracted new businesses, has consistently raised its fees and has realized very little revenue growth through increased taxes. As a taxpayer, I and others are tired of paying more for less.

If I sound frustrated, it's because I am. I cannot tell you how many times I, as a Library employee, have been through this negative budget process. It's always the services, deemed as non-essential that take the unfair brunt of hits first. Who designated the Library and Recreation services as non-essential? I would argue that services provided to all community members are indeed essential. We provide services to adults, families, children and senior citizens. Our patrons who visit our Libraries enjoy services like story times, check-out books for reading pleasure and/or learning, utilize our E-book collection, attend our Homework Help program, utilize our public access computers and printers, utilize our free Wi-Fi in and outside of the building, seek help and information from Librarians and attend the many special programs that the Library offers the community. We are essential to the health of the Richmond community.

I urge you to make sound financial and moral decisions when contemplating where cuts will be made. However, in order to do so, you must have access to the detailed financial savings that may be realized through each proposal and you must weigh that savings by the cost to the community who will no longer have access to the much needed services.

Thank you,

Stacey Walker

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Willie Santana  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 2:53 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Work We Do Matters!

My name is Will Santana. I am a Stationary Engineer for the City of Richmond and I have been a proud SEIU 1021 member for 4 ½ yrs. We keep the toilets flushing, heating and air conditioning running in our public buildings. Richmond's resident's deserve clean, safe streets and parks with programs for our youth and elders. They deserve open, accessible libraries and Rec. Centers. These are services our members work hard to deliver every single day. We are aware that we are in the midst of a global crisis. You must explore ALL cost-cutting measures BEFORE cutting services to the public and laying off dedicated City workers.

Thank you for time,  
Will Santana  
City Of Richmond  
Stationary Engineer

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** yskelton@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 2:32 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Cc:** yskelton@comcast.net  
**Subject:** STOP THE CUTS TO SERVICES AND WORKERS! DO THESE TWO THINGS NOW

Honorable City Mayor and City Council Members,

My name is Yolanda Skelton, member of Local 21. The Richmond Union Coalition have identified a path forward that would have a least impact on the service-delivery for residents and businesses of Richmond without dramatic loss of staffing. Our plan would buy us time by solving current budget gap through a number of actions including temporary vacancy savings, hiring freeze, postponing some capital improvements that are funded through operating revenues, reducing City's insurance reserves at an acceptable level, postponing vehicle/equipment replacement, temporarily spending down the reserves and supporting progressive ballot measures that would have impact on public services, all of which will help solve structural problems moving forward. City employees are aggressively communicating with our federal representatives asking for federal support for state and local governments during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Another saving idea is to temporary suspend the OPEB City contribution to PARS this current year and the new fiscal year and, to temporary change OPEB contribution policy that requires ½ of the one-time revenue and ½ of surplus above the reserves to be applied and sent to PARS for OPEB to pay down the liability. Thank you very much for your support.

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Yvonne Cuellar  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 9:28 AM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENTS AGENDA ITEM F1

My name is Yvonne Cuellar and I am a Crime Scene Technician for the City of Richmond Police Department. I am also a Local 1021 member. I have been in my specialized profession for a total of 12 years, four of which have been with the City of Richmond. I identify, collect, document, and preserve physical evidence found at crime scenes. I testify in court for those who have committed crimes as well as on the behalf of victims within your city. Crime scene evidence is transported to the CCC Lab by other vital Local 1021 civilian police staff. We serve this community by helping to solve many of the crimes occurring within this city. To cut positions and lay people off or force remaining employees to take on the additional responsibilities of laid off employees is not a feasible long term solution for the the proper function of any city. Our positions in Local 1021 are interlinked and when you talk about cuts or lay offs we are all affected- eventually to the detriment of the City of Richmond. I would like to ask the city to explore other cost-cutting and revenue generating options prior to cutting services of which city residents depend on.

Thank you for your time

# Council Meeting - 5/12/2020

Meeting Time: 05-12-20 18:30

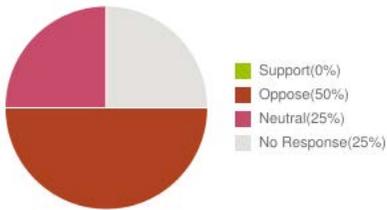
## eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Council Meeting - 5/12/2020	05-12-20 18:30	17	4	0	2	1

### Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

#### Overall Sentiment



# Council Meeting - 5/12/2020

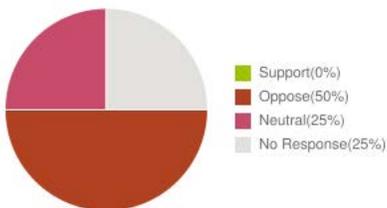
05-12-20 18:30

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
B. PUBLIC COMMENT BEFORE CLOSED SESSION	2	0	0	1
F-1. REVIEW potential budget balancing strategies, and DIRECT staff to take action on strategies selected to be pursued - Finance Department (Belinda Brown 620-6740).	2	0	2	0

## Sentiments for All Agenda Items

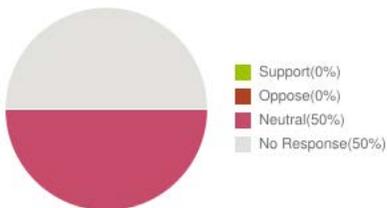
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

### Overall Sentiment



### Agenda Item: eComments for B. PUBLIC COMMENT BEFORE CLOSED SESSION

### Overall Sentiment



### Lisa Park

Location:

Submitted At: 9:00pm 05-12-20

Hello Mayor Butt and Richmond City Council Members,  
Please save our libraries. Public libraries are centers of communities. They are places where City residents can learn and have access to all kinds of educational resources. They are lifelines for and provide information to those affected by the digital divide. In a time of economic crisis, our libraries are needed more than ever.

Education for All in Richmond!

Thank you,

Lisa Park

5626 Bayview Avenue

Richmond, CA 94804

## Guest User

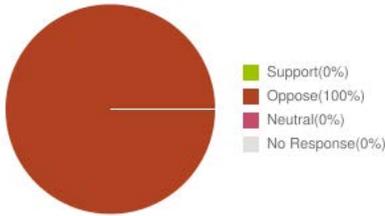
Location:

Submitted At: 8:32pm 05-12-20

Consider voluntary furloughs in addition to, or in lieu of, mandatory furloughs. There may be employees willing to voluntarily furlough an additional amount of days - either a set amount, or an amount voluntarily proposed by individuals - in order to ease financial burden and reduce layoffs. There are many cities throughout the nation that have already instituted this.

Agenda Item: eComments for F-1. REVIEW potential budget balancing strategies, and DIRECT staff to take action on strategies selected to be pursued - Finance Department (Belinda Brown 620-6740).

### Overall Sentiment



## Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:29pm 05-12-20

Dear Richmond City Council,

My name is Esther Watt and I am a Richmond resident. I am outraged to hear that you are considering closing the Richmond libraries. I understand the severe financial situation of these unprecedented times, but ask you to consider other options. The libraries are such a valuable resource, closing them down would have a terrible impact on the community already suffering financial hardship.

Sincerely,  
Esther Watt

## Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 11:39pm 05-11-20

I am an active user of the Westside Branch Library. As a retired person I find having a library close enough I can walk to is very important. I see all the families with young children gathering for story time and socialization, folks without computers if their own getting assistance and those of us on limited incomes who love books having the opportunity to read freely. Please don't close our library. It is a vital part of our community.

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Al M <alix.mazuet@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 5:15 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comment Agenda Item F1 Budget Session

May 12, 2020

Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F1 Budget Session

To Richmond City Council,

*"If this nation is to be wise as well as strong, if we are to achieve our destiny, then we need more new ideas for more wise men reading more good books in more public libraries. These libraries should be open to all except the censor. We must know all the facts and hear all the alternatives and listen to all the criticisms. Let us welcome controversial books and controversial authors. For the Bill of Rights is the guardian of our security as well as our liberty."*

President John F. Kennedy' plea for the sanctity of our libraries: Response to Questionnaire in Saturday Review, October 29 1960

As a Richmond resident and homeowner, I urge you to keep the Richmond Public Library in the City's budget.

The library is a society's primary gateway to knowledge and culture. As such, the library is key to empowerment, sustainable development, democracy and peace. This is why it plays a determinant role in society, one that should never be overlooked, let alone diminished.

By its very nature, the library is a repository of knowledge looked after by a highly qualified staff. Even the smallest of all libraries make it their mission to offer the widest possible array of resources and services: national, state, regional and local archives, educational workshops, apprenticeship opportunities, to name but a few. It is through these resources and services that, no matter its size, the library fosters alphabetization and education in all domains of knowledge, and empowers all individuals, regardless of race, gender, religious or political beliefs. Moreover, let us not forget that the library is never one sole entity working on its own, independently of other libraries, archival sites and more often than not, schools, colleges and universities. In other words, libraries work other libraries, cooperatively, to provide and facilitate quality services developed through collaboration with their partners. You hurt one, you hurt them all.

Acquisition, classification, sorting, cataloguing, shelving and preservation of all sorts of written documents, printed maps, images, and ephemera, along with keeping records of borrowings, meeting rooms' bookings and all other matters related to the life of the library and its friends, all this takes great skills, years of studying, training and professional experience that cannot be replaced just by anyone or taken away. All these tasks take a

tremendous amount of time and devotion. A library that is short-staffed cannot function properly; as a result, the material it contains is jeopardized. Budget cuts tend to take the library as a relic of the past when on the contrary, the library should be properly funded so that it can flourish even more and continue to play its part as pathway to the future. Any impulse to cut the library's budget seems to show a profound lack of understanding how important this public institution is for the well-being of a City and its residents.

A fully-funded, strongly staffed public library is paramount to ensuring that "Richmond residents are given the highest quality of constituent service from their local government," as the Mayor of Richmond writes in his mission statement. The City of Richmond needs to keep empowering its people, help and encourage them to become successful entrepreneurs, energetic and creative innovators, and role models for their community and beyond. This can be done through our public library, but only if it is given the chance to a healthy life, with a full staff and sound funding.

Please, keep the entire library staff on payroll. Any cut back would be an electoral mistake, an unjust, unfair move at a time when Richmond residents need all the support they can have from their City's officials.

Cordially,

Alix Mazuet

Richmond Resident and Home Owner

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Angela Votto <angelavotto@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 4:58 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** public comments agenda item #F1".

The comment I have regarding the possibility of closing the library is regardless of the financial hardship this pandemic has placed on the city, the fact that the library can be on the chopping block so fast seems as if this has been something that has been thought of for a while and this is an excuse that finally makes sense to blame it on. Also what does it say about a city that can find so much money to build a ferry terminal, but they can't figure out how to keep the city library open.

My questions are the following:

Have you provided any other alternatives to closing the library? Have you published info on the cost to keep the library open ? I think this is quite ridiculous to not give the community time to find alternative funding sources. I can only imagine the grant possibilities and philanthropist out there that might be able to step in and help, it never hurts to ask right???

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Denee Evans  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:01 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Cc:** Denee Evans  
**Subject:** Public Comments for Closed Session, May 12

Good Evening Mayor Butt and Council Members.

I understand that tough decisions may be necessary to balance the budget. However, it is concerning that only a select few individuals are providing the options and prioritizing how to make those decisions. Many divisions have been understaffed for years and that has ultimately impacted our ability to effectively serve the public. Within the past year, new executive management positions, new departments, and new management analyst positions have been created or filled. How have those actions impacted the general fund? Were the new management analyst positions filled after a competitive recruitment process?

As a public servant I have worked for other municipalities that also faced staff reduction options to balance the budget. In those instances, I saw steps to truly include the community and staff in finding solutions that are equitable. Transparency was something that involved internal and external stakeholders. Staff reductions, if needed, were implemented incrementally, across departments and services to avoid depleting a service or department. One city created two online links; one for the public to provide input on how to reduce services, to make recommendations for savings and/or to provide supportive comments not to change certain services. This was effective because there simply isn't enough time during Council meetings to provide input. The second link was for city staff to provide input on how to cut costs or to generate review., because sometimes the person working closest to the issue has the clearest view.

I ask the Council to consider these questions and examples as you address the budget deficit.

Thank you,

Denée Evans,  
Transportation Services Division

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Dorothea Rastegar <dorothea.rastegar@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 5:16 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept; Tom Butt - external; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis  
**Subject:** Public comments agenda item #F1, Richmond Library

Please, please save our libraries. They are a vital community resource. They are essential sources of information for those affected by the digital divide. In a time of economic crisis, they are needed more than ever.

They are an important adjunct to our school system. If the youth have no libraries, many will find other less desirable ways to spend their time.

Cut back if necessary for the time being, but do not take away libraries that are used by and most necessary for the least advantaged in our city.

Thank you.

Dorothea Rastegar

*Think Green; consider the environment before printing.*

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Joe Summers <joe@cclabor.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 5:28 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Cc:** Joshua Anijar; Tom Butt - external; Ben Choi; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Melvin Willis  
**Subject:** Public Comment Item F-1  
**Attachments:** Avoid Labor Cuts in the City of Richmond.pdf

Attached and below, please find a statement from Executive Director Josh Anijar to be read into public comment at tonight's meeting.

Sincerely,  
Joe  
--

May 12, 2020

Dear Mayor Butt and City Council Members:

On behalf of the Labor Council's 85 affiliated unions representing over 85,000 union members across Contra Costa County, we write to urge restraint when discussing the possibility of layoffs or any labor cuts as the City seeks to close its projected Budget shortfall for FY 20-21. Layoffs and serious labor cuts would jeopardize essential services for Richmond residents and businesses when they are most needed. These actions would only exacerbate and prolong the COVID-19 economic shock by adding more workers to the ranks of the unemployed.

Richmond's employees have worked together to identify cost-saving measures that avoids direct cuts to services and staff. By focusing on reducing various non-labor expenditures and delaying some expenditures, the City can achieve a balanced budget without reducing critical services to Richmond residents or further harming an already over-worked and under-resourced workforce. Furthermore, by working collaboratively with labor partners on future revenue ideas, the City can resolve structural imbalances that have plagued the budget for too long. Now is the time for bold action by our local elected officials to ensure working families have the resources they need to do their jobs and survive this pandemic.

The City's workers look forward to working collaboratively with the City of Richmond in closing the projected Budget shortfall.

Sincerely,

Josh Anijar  
Executive Director

--

**Joseph J. Summers**  
Political & Campaign Director

Contra Costa Labor Council  
1333 Pine St., Ste. E  
Martinez, CA 94553

Office: (925)228-0161  
Cell: (707)398-1772  
Email: [joe@cclabor.net](mailto:joe@cclabor.net)

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** L W <bettymart\_98@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 5:28 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments Agenda item #F1".

May 12, 2020

To Richmond City Council

My name is Liz Watts, I am a Richmond resident .

Please, Do NOT eliminate The Richmond Public Library from the budget.

The Library is the only public educational institution that this City has. There are many tasks that the library staff can be performing now such as telephone reference, story times via KCRT, and curbside pick up. Also, "Zoom" programs, such as, Adult book clubs, DIY art projects, etc., things many people would enjoy at this time of isolation. Ideas on how safe opening can occur are being discussed by library staff here as well as throughout the country. Front line staff must be included in decision making about what tasks can be done and what a safe future opening can look like.

I oppose the layoff of SEIU 1021members, this will only exacerbate the financial struggle of our community as a whole. Save public services, reduce the salaries at the top.

Thank- you,

Liz Watts

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Maria Gutierrez <oliverysamara@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 5:19 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Save the libraries

May 12,  
2020

Dear Richmond,

My name is Oliver Arce Gutierrez i'm 7 years old I do not want them to close the Richmond public library because you can learn more and grow our brains more and we can go to the higher book levels I can use the computers and pick out a great book over there and I can also find the level that I am on books.

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Natalie Mulford <natsmu@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:39 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** public comments agenda item #F1

Greetings,

I hope you will consider the below when voting on the budget. We in El Sobrante have only just had our library open after years of it being closed due to fire. I moved here from San Francisco in 2016 and used the library regularly until it closed. I've been looking forward to going back when COVID is over.

Public libraries are centers of communities. They are places where people of all ages, races, ethnicities, economic status, language and unsheltered are welcomed and helped. They are lifelines and sources of information for those affected by the digital divide. In a time of economic crisis, they are needed more than ever.

Libraries can still offer many vital services to people remotely & safely even if the buildings themselves are closed. We can get books for people with curbside delivery, we can do Storytime online, we can buy new ebooks, we can do inventory, we can do repairs, we can plan programming for kids & adults online, we could set up virtual homework help with our tutors, we could shift books & clean books, we could do telephone reference services, we could do virtual summer reading program, we could do Zoom outreach by appointment for people needing help with unemployment forms & applications & research, we could make library cards over the phone, we could do a telephone dial-a-story service.

And we could be there for the community at this critical time when so many are struggling.

Please keep the budget for the libraries!  
Natalie

--  
Natalie Mulford  
Marketing & Publicity Consultant  
Connecting authors and artists with audiences, so that great projects take flight.  
[www.linkedin.com/in/nataliemulford](http://www.linkedin.com/in/nataliemulford)

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Robbie Hurtado <RobbieHurtado@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:09 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Cc:** yen.do@seiu1021.org  
**Subject:** Closure of the recreation centers and after school programs

Good afternoon,

I have three grand children generational Richmond residents that use the after school programs. They're excellent for being taught homework. A lot of parents aren't equipped to teach are help their children with the basics Math, English or even complete college application. If these young people are at risk kids have nowhere to go or nothing to do usually are the one that get into some type of criminal activity. Where going to stat seeing a high crime of violence because there's no structure. Summer is coming what and where will they be going and what will they be doing!

I know the MLK Center as a young person looking for direction provided me with focus and someone who could understand that I was at a cross roads. Without Out these type of programs. I wouldn't have been a 20 year plus City of Richmond employee and Social Worker in my Community giving back! I wouldn't be on Healthcare Boards if not for attending MLK Center Recreation Center. I wouldn't know what it was to give back too a program that has set a positive path for me. I strongly encourage you to please keep these programs going that's how we get youth that turn into Adults and know why it's so important to have Recreation Centers opened in their Community.

Thank you,  
Ms.Robbie Hurtado  
City of Richmond Employee

Sent from my iPad

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** saratheiss@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 4:40 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Funding of libraries

Dear members of Richmond's Ad Hoc Budget Committee,

I am writing to request that you do as much as possible to protect the services that Richmond's libraries can offer at this time. Not just ebooks - resources for families that are stuck home with kids (like story time); telephone reference services and telephone help with forms people need to fill out to make it through this terrible crisis; workshops on job hunting; virtual book clubs - the list is endless and limited only by the creativity of staff, which I know is immense. I realize that things are very tight and are expected to get tighter but the library services are a necessity, not a luxury. As the world learns to connect virtually, our libraries can and must continue to provide the lifeline to the public they always have.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Sincerely,

Sara Theiss  
4613 Wildwood Court  
Richmond CA 94803  
[SaraTheiss@aol.com](mailto:SaraTheiss@aol.com)

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Sean Stalbaum <sstalbaum@ifpte21.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:01 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** public comment Item F.1 Budget Update

Mayor and Council Members,

IFPTE Local 21 urges restraint when contemplating layoffs or any labor cuts in attempting to balance the Budget shortfall for FY20-21. Richmond workers are already underpaid, under-resourced, and worked to the maximum, and Richmond residents can't tolerate more cuts to essential City services. Instead we urge you to be bold and work in good faith and collaboration with the City's labor partners to balance the budget shortfalls and ongoing structural problems by non-labor cost-savings and a focus on new revenues. Please work with us, not against us, to make Richmond a City we can all continue to be proud of.

Sincerely,  
-Sean

**Sean Stalbaum**  
Lead Representative/Organizer  
IFPTE Local 21  
Physical Address:  
624 Ferry Street  
Martinez, CA 94553  
Mailing Address:  
649 Main Street #226  
Martinez, CA 94553

Main: (925) 313-9102  
**Direct:** (925) 239-1271  
Fax: (925) 313-0190  
Email: [sstalbaum@ifpte21.org](mailto:sstalbaum@ifpte21.org)

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Yulia Pinkusevich <ypinkusevich@mills.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:19 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** public comments agenda item #F1

Dear city council members,

I wish to write in support of Richmond libraries finding ways to remain open in some capacity during SIP. Be creative put some of your in person programming on line like the rest of us have done!

It's a very valuable resources for people of all ages and the staff are amazing. Particularly I wish to shout out Sheila, who runs the children's programming in Richmond central and one other Richmond location. She is a gem and you all should do everything in your power to keep her employed and happy, she is an exceptional educator and is invaluable to the library programs.

I know this as a professor and department chair at Mills college with over a decade in education. Sheila's dedication to equity inclusion, social justice and the environment is evident in her day to day interactions, the program guest she invites, the books she reads to children for story hour, her wonderful energy lift up kids and their parent too!

Please keep the libraries open and support your staff, allow some of the the (children's) programs to go online!

A loyal patron,  
Yulia

YULIA PINKUSEVICH  
Joan Danforth Assistant Professor of Studio Art  
Art and Visual Culture Department Chair  
Mills College  
5000 MacArthur Blvd.  
Oakland, CA 94613  
[yuliapink.com](http://yuliapink.com)  
(510) 561-8773

**OFFICE HOURS [SIGN UP](#)**

## **Public Comment Agenda Item F1 Budget Session (short version)**

Al M [alix.mazuet@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 6:08 PM

**To:** City Clerk Dept

May 12, 2020

Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F1 Budget Session

To Richmond City Council,

The library is a society's primary gateway to knowledge and culture. As such, the library is key to empowerment, sustainable development, democracy and peace. This is why it plays a determinant role in society, one that should never be overlooked, let alone diminished.

The library is a repository of knowledge looked after by a highly qualified staff. It is every library's mission to offer the widest possible array of resources and services: national, state, regional and local archives, educational workshops, apprenticeship opportunities, to name but a few.

It is through these resources and services that the library fosters alphabetization and education in all domains of knowledge, and empowers all individuals, regardless of race, gender, religious or political beliefs.

In addition, libraries work other libraries, cooperatively, to provide and facilitate quality services developed through collaboration with their partners. You hurt one, you hurt them all.

Budget cuts tend to take the library as a relic of the past when on the contrary, the library should be properly funded so that it can flourish even more and continue to play its part as pathway to the future. Any impulse to cut the library's budget seems to show a profound lack of understanding how important this public institution is for the well-being of a City and its residents.

A fully-funded, strongly staffed public library is paramount to ensuring that "Richmond residents are given the highest quality of constituent service from their local government," as the Mayor of Richmond writes in his mission statement.

The City of Richmond needs to keep empowering its people, help and encourage them to become successful entrepreneurs, energetic and creative innovators, and role models for their community and beyond. This can be done through our public library, but only if it is given the chance to a healthy life, with a full staff and sound funding.

Please, keep the entire library staff on payroll. Any cut back would be an electoral mistake, an unjust, unfair move at a time when Richmond residents need all the support they can have from their City's officials.

Cordially,

Alix Mazuet

Richmond Resident and Home Owner

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Ashlee Gutierrez <ashleegutie@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 5:30 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comment Agenda Item F 1 Budget Session

Good evening,

As a former teacher and current principal, I know how essential reading is for student success. Libraries provide educational programs and access to texts, which are an indispensable supplement to the learning programs we host in public schools. As our schools face devastating and unprecedented budget cuts I urge the council to consider the disproportionate impact library closures would have on the students in the Richmond community who will feel the implications of these budget cuts more than most. It was a student who brought this issue to our attention and a student who led the charge to ensure Richmond community voices were heard in this meeting today. I imagine she learned about the power of her voice from a book. Probably one she read during her weekly trip to the Richmond Public Library.

--

Best,  
Ashlee Gutierrez ([she/her](#))

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** claudia jimenez <jimenez.claudia78@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 7:19 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comment Agenda Item F1 Budget session

Good night city council members,

My name is Claudia Jimenez, a resident of Richmond. Last time, Mayor Butt mentioned that one of the proposal to balance the budget could include to close all the libraries. As a mother with two kids who use the library frequently and see how many people rely on the library, I strongly oppose the idea. Public libraries are important for our community and specially for our kids. It is very troubling for me that this is an idea that it is being considered. I hope you vote your values and that you value kids and education so you can fight to maintain our public libraries open and our librarians contracted to continue to serve our children.

Thank you  
Claudia Jimenez

--

«Es porque soy tan testaruda que todavía insisto en cambiar el mundo» Mercedes Sosa



## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Gabe Nelson <gabenelson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 5:31 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Submission for public comments - agenda item #F1

Hello - please find below my submission for public comments at this evening's meeting.

Thank you,  
Gabe Nelson

-----

My name is Gabe Nelson, and I am a city resident living in Richmond Annex. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on these important proceedings.

The goal of this meeting is to discuss potential ways to close the projected \$27 million deficit in the FY 2020-21 budget. There are no easy options on the table. However, I urge you to prioritize avoiding regressive cuts such as sales tax increases and reductions in city services that will disproportionately harm low-income families. Instead, I urge you to focus on the largest contributor to the deficit, which is the rising cost of compensation for city employees.

According to Mayor Butt's newsletter, compensation and benefits for city employees now make up 73% of all city expenditures. And according to budget documents for this meeting, Richmond has an average cost of \$196,000 per employee - more than triple the average household income in Richmond. This was not sustainable before COVID-19, and it is even less sustainable now. We must be willing to make the hard choice of addressing compensation and benefits if we are going to have any hope of avoiding taking other actions that will cause hardship for the poorest and most vulnerable citizens of Richmond, many of whom have already lost their jobs due to the unprecedented impacts of COVID-19. However you decide to tackle compensation and benefits, I urge you to do so in a way that protects the lowest-paid city employees and asks the highest-paid employees to make sacrifices for the greater good of the city.

Although there is no good way to close this deficit without tackling compensation and benefits, we do still need a balanced approach that addresses both expenditures and revenues. For example, the council should consider a tax on vacant parcels to encourage the productive use of land for new homes now, instead of allowing speculators to sit on blighted parcels and wait for gentrification to fetch them a better price. The city should also do as much as possible to support the passage of the Schools and Communities First initiative, so that wealthy land-owning corporations must pay the same property tax as anyone who buys a property in California today, instead of getting a huge discount for decades to come. Ending this tax loophole could mean millions of dollars in tax revenues for Richmond, reducing the need for deep cuts elsewhere.

If there is any silver lining in COVID-19, it is the way we've banded together as a community with the knowledge that we are all in this together. As you think about how to solve this budget deficit, please make sure to look after our struggling neighbors and ensure that costs are borne by those with the ability to bear it, and not by those who lack the power to protect their interests.

--

*Gabe Nelson*  
(202) 486-6336

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** jwainscott <jwainscott@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 5:35 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public comments agenda item #F1

As someone who has experienced a lifetime of benefit from the simple act of reading, and who has seen the toxic effect of illiteracy, I beg you to find a way to cut costs without closing the library. It is more important than you might think.

Regards,  
John Wainscott

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Nir <nirdc2ca@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 6:40 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comment Agenda Item F 1 Budget Session

Hello There,

My name is Nirmani Kalakheti, I am a Richmond resident.

Do NOT eliminate The Richmond Public Library from the budget. The Library is the only public educational institution that this City has. Its role as keeper of culture, history and knowledge is invaluable. Its resources belong to the public and should not be disposed of. There are many tasks that the library staff can be performing now such as telephone reference, story times via KCRT, and curbside pick up. Ideas on how safe opening can occur are being discussed by library staff here as well as throughout the country. Front line staff must be included in decision making about what tasks can be done and what a safe future opening can look like.

I oppose the layoff of SEIU 1021 members, this will only exacerbate the financial struggle of our community as a whole. Save public services, reduce the salaries at the top.

Please do NOT eliminate for the sake of God, for the sake of people in the community, for the sake of our kids, your kids who are the future of ours.  
Please please save the Library.

Thanks and Regards,  
Nirmani

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Nishat Gardens <nishat@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 7:07 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** public comments agenda item #F1

To the City Council,

Budget cuts like the ones you are considering for the Richmond Public Library would severely impact the community that depends on these vital services.

Libraries can still serve their communities even if the buildings are closed.

- Books can be offered to patrons via curbside pickup.
- Storytime for kids, enhancing their literacy skills and keeping them occupied, can be done online
- Librarians can purchase new ebooks
- Staff can work on inventory, repairs and other improvements
- Librarians can set up virtual homework help with tutors
- Librarians can do telephone reference service
- Summer reading programs can be conducted online
- Zoom outreach can help people needing assistance with unemployment forms, applications, and research
- Library cards can be made over the phone

Libraries and librarians are havens for a community, in person AND online. Keep the RPL open and fully funded--don't punish your patrons already suffering in a pandemic. Have some humanity.

-A Concerned Richmond Native

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Orlando Rodriguez <or2404342@caliberbetaacademy.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 8:38 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** my name is Orlando Rodriguez ,i am a resident from richmond i am 12-years -old and i am concern that you guys are closing the proposal to the Richmond Public Library. we do not want you guys to closed the public library because we need to go on those p...