

## **RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, June 16, 2020**

The Richmond City Council Evening Open Session was called to order at 5:04 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 will be limited to Council members, essential City of Richmond staff, and members of the news media. Public comment will be confined to items appearing on the agenda and will be limited to the methods provided below. Consistent with Executive Order N-29-20, this meeting will utilize teleconferencing only. The following provides information on how the public can participate in this 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 June 16, 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, Eduardo Martinez, Myrick, and Mayor Thomas K. Butt. **Absent:** Councilmembers Demnlus Johnson III, Melvin Willis, and Vice Mayor Bates arrived after Roll Call.

### **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 LEGAL COUNSEL -  
ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of Subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9):

One case - Receipt of a claim/written communication regarding whether the City failed to properly calculate the

overtime rate for employees in the Fire Department, resulting in unpaid overtime wages due.

**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

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL -**  
**ANTICIPATED LITIGATION** (Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) or (3) of Subdivision (d) [as applicable] of Government Code Section 54956.9):

One case - Receipt of claim/written communication from potential plaintiff DeJon Brown relating to incident on April 30, 2020.

**PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION**  
(Government Code Section 54957):

Community Police Review Commission Investigative Officer

Tarnel Abbott urged the city council to make appropriate cuts starting with the highest paid staff.

The Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 5:07 p.m.  
Closed Session adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Mayor Butt via teleconference.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

Mayor Butt stated that the unions would present information regarding the budget during Item I-1. Items G-12 and G-21 were removed from the Consent Calendar to be discussed at the end of the agenda. Mayor Butt announced that a Special City Council meeting was scheduled for June 30, 2020.

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

Acting City Attorney Rachel Sommovilla stated there were no reportable actions.

**REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Laura Snideman stated there was nothing to report.

**OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following individuals submitted the following comments via email or telephone:

Tarnel Abbott gave comments regarding systemic racism.

Dewanda Joseph stated the City should invest in mental health services rather than in the police department.

Ashton Polk gave comments in favor of defunding the police department.

Vice Mayor Bates requested that the mayor immediately appoint him to an ad-hoc police reform committee comprised by Mayor Butt, an additional councilmember, Interim Police Chief French, members of the police commission, youth commission, and Richmond Police Officers Association (RPOA).

**CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR**

On motion of Councilmember Myrick, seconded by Councilmember Willis, the items marked with an (\*) were approved by the unanimous vote of the City Council:

**\*G-1.** Approved a recommendation from the Environment & Community Investment Agreement (ECIA) Grant Review Committee for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 grant awards to 21 organizations in an amount not to exceed \$500,000, and adopted **Resolution No. 57-20**, and authorized the City Manager to negotiate and execute Grant Service Agreements with approved grantees.

**\*G-2.** Adopted **Resolution No. 58-20**: (1) Calling and Giving Notice of the holding of a Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, for the election of certain officers as required by the provisions of the Charter of the City of Richmond; (2) requesting the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County to consolidate the Municipal Election with the Statewide General Election; and (3) adopting regulations for candidates pertaining to the candidates' statements submitted to the voters, cost of the candidates' statements and other fees, word limit for candidates' statements; and actions to be taken for a tie vote.

**\*G-3.** Approved the minutes of the May 19 and 26, 2020, Regular City Council meetings.

**\*G-4.** Approved a contract with SmartWAVE Technologies to maintain the public wireless broadband network over a two-year period with an annual value of \$26,560 for a total value not to exceed amount of \$53,120.

**\*G-5.** Adopted **Resolution No. 59-20**, accepting the 2019 Annual Progress Report for the City's Housing Element (2015-2023).

**\*G-6.** Adopted **Resolution No. 60-20**, authorizing an application for State Department of Housing and Community Development Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) grants program funds to develop a Specific Plan for the Hilltop District Priority Development Area (PDA) and designating the City Manager or their designee to execute the necessary agreements to compete the project, if grant funds are awarded.

**\*G-7.** Adopted **Resolution No. 61-20**, authorizing the City Manager to draft a letter to West County Wastewater District notifying them of the City's intent to extend the terms of the Ground Lease with the West County Wastewater District until December 31, 2025 as stipulated in Section 2.2.4 of the agreement as amended on December 6, 2016.

**\*G-8.** Approved a Master Funding Agreement Supplement with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and appropriated \$325,000 for implementation of bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements along Harbour Way South. This item was continued from the June 2, 2020, meeting.

**\*G-9.** Approved the contract with RC Racing & Restoration for automobile body painting and body repairs in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

**\*G-10.** Approved the purchase of the portion of 909 Ohio Avenue for expansion of the Harbour 8 Park for the lesser of (a) Three Hundred and Ten Thousand Dollars (\$310,000) or the fair market value therefor established in the pending appraisal report.

**\*G-11.** Approved a contract with Groundwork Richmond to coordinate contractual services in support of the Richmond YouthBuild Program as part of the RichmondBUILD pre-apprenticeship training program. The contract term will be June 16, 2020 through June 30, 2022 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$548,200.

**G-12.** The matter to adopt a resolution, amending the City of Richmond's Position Classification Plan to add the classification specification for Assistant Police Chief, and change the title for the Human Resources Management Director to Human Resources Director and introduce an ordinance to establish the wages, salary, and compensation for the Assistant Police Chief (Salary Range 5.5: \$12,338 - \$19,640) and to revise the wages, salary, and compensation for the Police Chief (Salary Range 5.7: \$13,572 - \$20,833) and the Human Resources Director (Salary Range 5.1: \$10,728 - \$17,078). This item was continued from the June 2, 2020, meeting. Discussion ensued. *(10:57 – A motion made by Councilmember Myrick, seconded by Councilmember Choi, extended the meeting 30 minutes by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmembers Choi, Johnson III, Myrick, Willis, and Vice Mayor Bates. Noes: Councilmember Martinez, and Mayor Butt. Absent: None. Abstain: None).* A motion by Councilmember Myrick, seconded by Vice Mayor Bates, to approve the Human Resources Director position, passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Choi, Johnson III, Myrick, Willis, Vice Mayor Bates. **Noes:** Mayor Butt. **Absent:** None. **Abstain:** Councilmember Martinez. A motion was made by

Councilmember Myrick, seconded by Councilmember Willis, to approve the Assistant Police Chief position. Further discussion ensued. Councilmember Willis withdrew his second to the motion. The motion died for lack of a second. Councilmember Willis reinstated his second to the motion. The motion passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Johnson III, Myrick, Willis. **Noes:** Councilmembers Choi, Martinez, Vice Mayor Bates, and Mayor Butt. **Absent:** None. **Abstain:** None.

*(11:32 – A motion made by Vice Mayor Bates, seconded by Councilmember Myrick, suspended the rules and extended the meeting 10 minutes to discuss Item G-21 passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Choi, Johnson III, Myrick, Willis, and Vice Mayor Bates. **Noes:** Councilmember Martinez, and Mayor Butt. **Absent:** None. **Abstain:** None).*

**\*G-13.** Adopted **Ordinance No. 11-20 N.S.**, setting the tax rate for the Tax Override Pension Fund for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 at 0.14% .

**\*G-14.** Approved an appointment to update the Public Art Advisory Committee: appointed Tom Herriman, re-appointment, seat #6, filing an unexpired term with an expiration date of February 20, 2022.

**\*G-15.** Approved appointments to the Workforce Development Board; appointed Richard Johnson, re-appointment, seat #6, government, economic development, and community representative, term expiration date March 1, 2024; Uche Uwahemu, re-appointment, seat #10, government, economic development, and community representative, term expiration date March 1, 2024; Cassandra Youngblood, re-appointment, seat #18, business and government representative, term expiration date March 1, 2024.

**\*G-16.** Approved actions to update the Youth Council: appointed Ozmar Huerta, appointment, seat #1, term expiration date October 1, 2020.

**\*G-17.** Approved an appointment to the Economic Development Commission: appointed Alpa Agarwal, re-appointment, seat #3, term expiration date of March 30, 2023; Abayomi Jones, re-appointment, seat #7, term expiration date of March 30, 2023.

**\*G-18.** Approved an appointment to the Citizens Police Review Commission; appointed Carol Hegstrom, re-appointment, seat #3, term expiration date April 18, 2023.

**\*G-19.** Approved appointments to the Human Rights and Human Relations Commission; appointed Michael Cervantes re-appointment, seat #3, term expiration date March 30, 2023, Victoria Sawicki re-appointment, seat #6, term expiration date March 30, 2023.

**\*G-20.** Approved appointments to the ECIA Grant Review Panel: appointed Carol Hegstrom, re-appointment, seat #2, term expiration date of March 31, 2022; Lily Rahnema, re-appointment, seat #3, term expiration date of March 31, 2022; Lidia Perdomo, re-appointment, seat #4, term expiration date of March 31, 2022; James Becker, re-appointment, seat #5, term expiration date of March 31, 2022.

**G-21.** The matter to approve on-call concrete repair contracts with four companies: Bay Hawk, Inc., Malachi Paving & Grading, Inc., Precision Concrete Cutting, and Yerba Buena Engineering & Construction, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 per company, from grant funds, Gas Tax, and Measure J funds, with no impact to the General Fund, per year over a three-year period each, with an optional maximum two year extension was presented. This item was continued from the June 2, 2020, meeting. The contract is subject to the Local Hiring Ordinance. A motion by Vice Mayor Bates, seconded by Councilmember Myrick, approved the item by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**H-1.** Continued from the June 2, 2020, meeting, the matter to adopt a resolution approving the Engineer's Report and ordering the levy and collection of assessments in the Hilltop Landscape Maintenance District for the Fiscal Year 2020-21, providing for a three percent increase in annual assessments. Public Works Director, Yader Bermudez, gave an overview of the matter. Mayor Butt declared the public hearing open. There were no public speakers. Mayor Butt closed the public hearing. A motion by Councilmember Myrick, seconded by Councilmember Choi, approved the report and adopted **Resolution No. 63-20**, by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

**H-2.** Continued from the June 2, 2020, meeting, the matter to adopt a resolution approving the Engineer's Report and ordering the levy and collection of assessments in the Marina Bay Landscaping and Lighting Maintenance District for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021, providing for a three percent increase in annual assessments. Public Works Director, Yader Bermudez, gave an overview of the matter. Mayor Butt declared the public hearing open. There were no public speakers. Mayor Butt closed the public hearing. A motion by Councilmember Myrick, seconded by Councilmember Johnson III, approved the report and adopted **Resolution No. 64-20**, by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

### **BUDGET SESSION**

**I-1.** The matter to provide direction on implementing the recommended budget balancing proposal was presented by Finance Director, Belinda Brown, which highlighted the following: budget updates; budget balancing proposals; and comparison of budget reductions. Local 1021 union representative Sean Staulbaum, made a presentation which highlighted the following: potential additional departmental savings; additional vacancy savings; expenditure deferrals pending new revenue; spending down of city reserves. The following individuals provided comments via email, eComments, or telephone: Tarnel Abbott, Lyzy Lusterman, Laura Mangels, Stacey Walker, police officer, Randy Joseph, Edmund Steen, ACCE group, Gaby Mercado, Sara Rodriguez, Cristina Lorenzano, Juan Lozano, Elizabeth Castro, Martha Pastrano, Hipolito Pastrano, Joseph Murillo, Edith Pastrano, Veronica Medina Hernandez, Ezequiel Chum, Rosalind Welch, Tania Pulido, Selene Calderon, Claire Battis, Sara Cantor, Elsa Stevens, Laura Thomas, Eddy Chacon, Veronica Galvez, Luis Chacon, Valerie Jameson, Rosalind Mays Welch, Marisol Lara, Gayle McLaughlin, Glen Muniz, Johnathan McKinney, Claudia Jimenez, Eric Smith, Miles Bailey, Welch Rochell, Veronica Galvez, Dewanda Joseph, Eric Machulski, Andrea President, Tim Parker, Kayla Finley, Luis Padilla, Jason Flum, Yenny Garcia,

Luis Pacheco, Dulce Galicia, Lucielle Riley, Lourdes Lozano, Mike Parker, Sarahi Gonzalez, Ngondeashe Kundidzora, Tom Phelps, Virgil Thomas, Jamiz Terrell, Saritta Ellison, Tom Peterson, Joe Deorian, Jeff, Alix Mazuet, Dave Severy, Angelica Delgado, Michael, Maria, Ian Birnum, Erik Melgoza, Daniel Reyna, Bishan, Michelle Milam, Nguyen, Chris Decious, Peggy Chiu, Ben Therriault, Orlando Guzman, Andrea Mullarkey, Eli Moore, Alma Gonzalez, Laura Bach, Raul, John Brown, Teresa Kerns, and Ana Gonzalez. A motion by Councilmember Myrick, seconded by Councilmember Johnson III, to freeze \$1.1 of remaining positions; approve \$170,000 in additional department level cut savings; approve postponement of the citywide compensation study in the amount of \$200,000. Councilmember Willis made a substitute motion, seconded by Councilmember Martinez, to reduce 20% from the police department budget to be allocated to establish a community planning process and to create a task force with a budget of \$50,000, to carry out a public safety visioning process to study alternative models, such as mental health and youth programs and services as indicated in Richmond's Kid's First Initiative. The motion failed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Martinez and Willis. **Noes:** Councilmember Choi, Vice Mayor Bates, and Mayor Butt. **Absent:** None. **Abstain:** Councilmembers Johnson III and Myrick. Further discussion ensued. Councilmember Myrick withdrew his original motion. A motion by Vice Mayor Bates, seconded by Councilmember Myrick, to approve budget proposal Option C, passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Johnson III, Myrick, Vice Mayor Bates, and Mayor Butt. **Noes:** Councilmembers Choi, Willis, and Martinez. **Absent:** None. **Abstain:** None. A motion by Councilmember Myrick, seconded by Councilmember Willis to freeze \$1.1 of remaining positions and postpone the citywide compensation study in the amount of \$200,000, passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Choi, Johnson III, Martinez, Myrick, Willis, Vice Mayor Bates. **Noes:** Mayor Butt. **Absent:** None. **Abstain:** None. A motion by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember Willis to increase the Office of Neighborhood Safety's (ONS) budget by \$286,000 by freezing the lieutenant position in the police department and reallocating it to ONS to hire additional Change Agents, passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Choi, Johnson III, Myrick, Willis. **Noes:** Councilmember Martinez, Vice Mayor Bates, and Mayor Butt. **Absent:** None. **Abstain:** None.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**J-1.** The matter to adopt a resolution establishing the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Residential Rental Housing Fee in the amount of \$219 per Controlled Rental Unit and \$124 per Partially Covered Rental Unit, which includes Governmentally Subsidized Rental Units was presented by Richmond Rent Program Director, Nicolas Traylor, which highlighted the following: Rent Program in the time of COVID-19; Fee Study background; recommended fee structure; and recommended rental housing fees. The following individuals gave comments via telephone or e-mail: Gayle McLaughlin, Marilyn Langlois, and Sylvia Soule. A motion by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember Myrick, adopted **Resolution No. 65-20**, by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Choi, Johnson III, Martinez, Myrick, Willis. **Noes:** Vice Mayor Bates, and Mayor Butt. **Absent:** None. **Abstain:** None.

**COUNCIL AS A WHOLE**

**K-1.** Continued the matter to the July 14, 2020, City Council meeting, to approve contract Amendment No. 1 with Mark43 in an amount of \$1,500,000. The proposed contract amendment would extend the term of the contract for five-years and increase the amended contract amount by \$1,500,000 for a total ten-year contract amount not to exceed \$3,000,000. This item was continued from the May 26 and June 2, 2020, meetings.

**K-2.** Continued to the July 21, 2020, City Council meeting, the matter authorizing the city attorney to draft an amendment to Measures E and K, to be placed on the November 2020 ballot, that will cap the maximum general fund allocation for Measures E and K with an amount equal to the net increase in revenue resulting from Measure H for each fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for the budget being adopted and to provide for an emergency waiver of Section 6 of Measure E. This item was continued from the May 26 and June 2, 2020, meetings.

**K-3.** Continued to the July 21, 2020, City Council meeting, the matter authorizing the city attorney to draft an ordinance to be placed on the November 2020 ballot that will repeal the Richmond Fair Rent, Just Cause for Eviction and Homeowner Protection ordinance and replace it with the Richmond Affordable Housing Ordinance. This item was continued from the May 26 and June 2, 2020, meetings.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:35 p.m., to meet again on Tuesday, June 23, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

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Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

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Mayor



## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Carol Hegstrom <carolhegstrom@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 1:52 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comment - Closed Session: PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

My name is Carol Hegstrom, I serve on the Community Police Review Commission and I am delighted to recommend the re-appointment of Jerry Threet as our Confidential Investigative and Appeals Officer. Investigator Threet has done an excellent job and is a perfect fit for our commission. I highly recommend that his appointment be continued.

Sincerely,

Carol Hegstrom

Community Police Review Commission

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Sadie Egan <sadierubye@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 12:27 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments Agenda item G-12

My name is Sadie Egan and I grew up in Richmond and am currently raising my family here. I, along with numerous residents, left comments last week asking for the Mayor and City Council to defund RPD and prioritize funding social supports and initiatives that have proven to reduce crime, which policing does not do. I am unimpressed with the response from Mayor Butt via email, Nextdoor, and his motion to strike RPD's entire budget last meeting, which was a simplistic and dismissive response to our advocacy. Likewise, freezing some requested RPD staffing is not enough action from the City Council as a whole. Mayor Breed of SF as well as LA council members have put forth a plan to replace police officers with unarmed, non-law enforcement agencies to respond to non-violent calls for service. Why aren't we discussing similar steps in Richmond? I urge the City Councilmembers to take our requests seriously and put forth plans and agenda items to address our concerns.

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Ada Recinos <ada.recinos@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 12:50 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Cc:** Tom Butt - external; Ben Choi; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Melvin Willis  
**Subject:** Public Comments – Agenda Item F (General Public Comment)

Dear City Leadership,

Hi, my name is Ada Recinos and I am a Richmond resident. Today, I am calling on you to take bold action to reimagine public safety. For the past few weeks our council has debated how to balance the 2020-2021 budget. This has happened amidst the backdrop of national and local calls to defund the police. Today, I am urging the council to turn that vision into reality, by instituting the following:

1. Approve a motion to reduce the Richmond Police Department budget by 20%
2. Place an immediate moratorium on additional spending for the Richmond Police Department which includes capping spending for equipment, capital improvements, and overtime spending.
3. Create and fund an ad hoc committee composed of community leaders and key stakeholders to develop a plan to transition critical services and functions outside of the scope of the police department to a transformative justice, restorative and comprehensive community safety program.

We are in a moment where critical services like recreational activities for youth and libraries are being threatened. The City is considering repealing and reducing tenant protections and youth programs. Yet our city has the 40th largest police budget in California. This year alone, the police budget made up over 40% of the city's general fund, totaling over 71 million dollars.

Our solution is simple. Take the funds out of the Police Budget and create alternative systems to respond to: mental health, homelessness, blight, code enforcement, and more.

When we talk about defunding the police we mean reinvesting directly in our communities health and well-being.

The movement has your back if you do the right thing. Please reduce the police budget.

Best,

Ada

Proud Board Member of

**East Bay Sanctuary Covenant**

Help us fight 45's policies: <https://ebsc.nationbuilder.com/donate>

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Cordell Hindler <cordellhindler@ymail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 11, 2020 8:29 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

hello Sabrina, i have some comments to share with the city council.

1. i am thinking that the idea of having street sweeping signs in the PANHANDLE AND RICHMOND ANNEX is unacceptable and it is not good for the taxpayers. and i would pay the high school students 10 to 20 dollars an hour to take pictures of street signs in various neighborhoods and to put it on flyers to remind the neighbors when they have to move their cars.
2. as far as G-12 is concerned, i am in favor of having an Assistant Police Chief on board to be the right hand person for the Police Chief. but as far as the Human Resources Director its going to take a while to get to know Miss Picard
3. i would like to have Andy Katz to come to a future council meeting to provide a presentation on the needs of having a full fledged hospital in West county

sincerely  
Cordell

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Dave Campbell <dave.campbell62@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 2:58 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comment Item F Open Forum

Bike East Bay represents many people walking and bicycling in Richmond and we know that streets are not safe when they are overly policed. Please reduce the budget of Richmond Police Department by 20% and redirect monies into community led safety programs and support services. Please get Richmond PD out of traffic management and street surveillance of vehicles. Sworn, armed officers do not need to police broken tail lights, insurance compliance or even speeding. There are better solutions that save Richmond money and support higher priorities.

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> Thank you for your consideration.

>

> Dave Campbell

> Advocacy Director

> Bike East Bay

> (c) 510.701.5971

> sent from my iPhone

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## Sabrina Lundy

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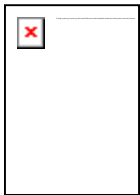
**From:** Denny Khamphanthong <denny@apen4ej.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 12:05 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept; Tom Butt - external; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Demnlus Johnson; Eduardo Martinez; Melvin Willis  
**Subject:** Public Comments - Agenda Item F - Open Forum

My name is Denny Khamphanthong and I am 2nd Generation Laotian American, a Richmond resident, and a community organizer for the Asian Pacific Environmental Network. I am writing to you today to take bold action and reimagine public safety. For the past few weeks our council has debated how to balance the 2020-2021 budget. This has happened amidst the backdrop of national and local calls to defund the police. My experience with the Sheriff and RPD Growing up in North Richmond is traumatizing. Me and friends were profiled everyday by the Sheriff and Richmond PD. I still remember being an 8 year old kid and having to go on my knees and lifting up my shirt to show officers that I had no tattoos and no gang affiliation. We were just kids but the Police Departments dehumanized us and made us believe we were bad individuals. That oppression internalized in a lot of my peers who have passed away, been in prison, suffer from mental health issues, and struggling to believe in life.

We were all just kids with hopes and dreams to become something greater in life. I still remember being at the Verde Gardens with my friends and learning about compost and micro organisms that help plants grow. I still remember singing Bill Withers - Lean on Me for our annual school performance. I still remember bumping Nas - I can with my peers and dreaming about the adults we would become and our greater contribution to this world. Educators, mentors, and art gave us that hope, not the police department.

Richmond PDs abuse of power is something the black community has felt for generations and it's caused so much harm and trauma. As elected officials it is your DUTY to approve a motion to reduce the Richmond Police Department budget by 20%. Place an immediate moratorium on additional spending for the Richmond Police department which includes capping spending for equipment, capital improvements, and overtime spending. Create and fund an ad hoc committee composed of community leaders and key stakeholders to develop a plan to transition critical services and functions outside of the scope of the police department to a transformative justice, restorative and comprehensive community safety program.

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**Denny Khamphanthong**

Pronoun: He, Him

Richmond Community Organizer, Asian Pacific Environmental Network

p: 510-236-4616 X 336 a: 12818 San Pablo, Richmond, CA 94805

426 17th Street, #500 Oakland, CA 94612

s: [apen4ej.org](http://apen4ej.org) e: [denny@apen4ej.org](mailto:denny@apen4ej.org)

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Emily Johnson <emilysquest@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 11:39 AM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Written Comment on Item F

Hello,

As a Richmond resident and homeowner, I urge you to defund the Richmond Police Department and redirect those city funds into a restorative and comprehensive community safety program.

The coronavirus pandemic has heavily impacted our communities, decreasing food and housing security for many and increasing the need for universal aid services. This is a time to prioritize meeting the basic needs of Richmond residents, rather than continuing to devote 40% of the city's general fund into systems of surveillance, threats, and incarceration, especially toward poor and Black & Brown residents.

In solidarity with Richmond LAND and other community organizations, I'm writing to support the following steps:

- A 20% reduction in next year's budget for the Richmond Police Department
- A moratorium on future spending for RPD, including caps on spending for equipment, capital improvements, and overtime
- The creation of a community-expert-led committee to develop a transformative justice plan that would transition services out of the RPD and into a community safety program based around restorative justice.

Sincerely,  
Emily Johnson  
5005 State Ave.  
Richmond, CA

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Megan Zapanta <megan@apen4ej.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 1:59 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept; Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Ben Choi; Demnlus Johnson; Eduardo Martinez; Jael Myrick; Melvin Willis  
**Subject:** Open Forum for public comments

Hi,

My name is Megan Zapanta and I am the Richmond Organizing Director of the Asian Pacific Environmental Network. Over the last few weeks, we've been having conversations with our Asian immigrant and refugee members who are outraged over the abuses of police on black communities, afraid of local services being cut and deeply committed to creating a safer and more just Richmond. On behalf of our members, I am calling on you to take bold action to reimagine public safety. I urge you to move towards defunding police and investing in needed services by:

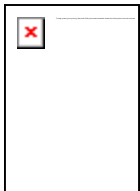
1. Approving a motion to reduce the Richmond Police Department budget by 20%
2. Placing a moratorium on future spending for the Richmond Police Department which includes capping spending for equipment, capital improvements, and overtime spending.
3. Creating and funding an ad hoc committee composed of community leaders and key stakeholders to develop a plan to transition critical services and functions outside of the scope of the police department to a transformative justice, restorative and comprehensive community safety program.

We are in a moment where critical services like tenant protections and youth services are being threatened. Yes, this year alone, the police budget made more than 40% of the city's general fund or over 71 million dollars.

The solutions are simple. Defunding police means investing in our community. Take the funds out of the Police Budget and invest in youth services, jobs, housing, emergency response, public health, mental health and other needed services in the city.

Thanks for your time,  
Megan Zapanta  
Richmond Organizing Director  
Asian Pacific Environmental Network

--



**Megan Zapanta**  
Pronoun: She, Her  
Richmond Organizing Director, Asian Pacific Environmental Network  
p: 510-236-4616 X 331 a: 12818 San Pablo, Richmond, CA 94805  
426 17th Street, #500 Oakland, CA 94612  
s: [apen4ej.org](http://apen4ej.org) e: [megan@apen4ej.org](mailto:megan@apen4ej.org),







## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Richard Fast <fastrichard77@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 10:36 AM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Open forum for public comments – not on the agenda

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers,

I urge you to please support the Mayor's motion to defund the police. Our City is in a deficit and it needs to be addressed. I firmly believe that the Mayor's motion will help restore trust in our communities during this time of civil unrest. The time to have this conversation is now. Those funds can be reallocated to other much needed social services such as housing, hospitals, and mental health services as well as community-based initiatives as alternatives to traditional policing. The cities of Minneapolis and Los Angeles have already led the way on this issue. As a resident of Richmond, I believe we can, too. Never again should there be a George Floyd or Breonna Taylor type incidence, to cite only two examples. For these reasons, I ask that you support defunding the police.

Sincerely,

Richard Fast  
Lifelong Richmond resident  
Secretary, Libertarian Party of Contra Costa County

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Zolboo Namkhaidorj <zolboo@cbeal.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 10:42 AM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments – Agenda Item F (General Public Comment)

Good morning,

My name is Zolboo Namkhaidorj and I'm a youth organizer with Communities for a Better Environment. I'm calling on you to take action to reimagine public safety. For the past few weeks our council has debated how to balance the 2020-2021 budget. This has happened amidst the backdrop of national and local calls to defund the police. I am urging the council to turn that vision into reality, by instituting the following: 1) Approve a motion to reduce the Richmond Police Dept budget by 20%

2) Place an immediate moratorium on additional spending for the Richmond Police Dept which includes capping spending for equipment, capital improvements, and overtime spending

3) Create and fund an ad hoc committee composed of community leaders and key stakeholders to develop a plan to transition critical services outside of the scope of the police dept to a restorative and comprehensive community safety program.

The City is considering repealing and reducing tenant protections and youth programs. Yet our city in this year alone dedicated over 40% of the city's general fund to the police dept.

Our solution is simple. Take the funds out of the Police Budget and reinvest directly into our communities' health and well-being to combat homelessness, lack of mental health services, youth programs and more.

Thank you,

Zolboo Namkhaidorj

Youth Organizer

Communities for a Better Environment

Pronouns: she | they

(O) 510.302.0430 Ext.14 | (Cell) 510.495.7959

[www.cbeal.org](http://www.cbeal.org)

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## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Anne Gomez <annetgomez@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 1:45 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments - agenda item I-1

Hi,

My name is Anne Gomez. I am writing to respectfully ask that you defund police and invest in public community support.

Last year, Richmond spent \$78M on policing, with comparatively less than half of that going to community investment (library, cultural services, community services, housing, employment and training). The police system is unjust to begin with, and while Richmond PD has been improving compared to a few years ago, it is still a tool of oppression.

Richmond PD should be smaller and implement policies that reduce police violence:

- Banning chokeholds and strangleholds
- Requiring de-escalation
- Requiring exhausting other means before shooting
- Ban shooting at moving vehicles
- Having a use of force continuum
- Requiring comprehensive reporting

The money saved there should be invested in community support that addresses the underlying problems of structural injustice. Invest in housing and community support that will shift from criminalization of the poor, black, and brown to support.

In particular, libraries should be fully funded, including part time workers. Workers at the Library are much cheaper than Police Officers.

In this economic crisis, access to safe, connected learning will help bridge the gap in education. Families that are suffering instability can use libraries for a stable base. We need to use our tax money to support the vulnerable and BIPOC, not criminalize them.

This is an opportunity for bold action and change. The public is behind deep reform. The time is now.

Thanks,  
Anne Gomez

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Anne Gomez | she/her

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Ashley Scarborough <ashley.p.scarborough@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 1:42 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** public comments – agenda item #I-1

My name is Ashley Scarborough-Gonzalez and I am a Richmond resident and tax payer. I'm commenting here because I don't want to see business as usual with this year's annual budget. I don't believe outsized spending on police reflects a priority for public safety. We don't even have a public safety net hospital, but we're willing to spend majority of our funds on police.

Over 71 million is a high cost for an agency that has minimal accountability to the public. 5 years after Mike Brown's murder started a national conversation on body cameras, the youth of Richmond are still asking for consistent use and transparency of footage when force is used. I do notice that the Richmond police department has expressed community policing and reform values, but I don't want to call armed patrols when mental health crisis workers, addiction medicine specialists, or conflict resolution would better address community needs. When looking at calls that lead to use of force, mental health calls were the top contributor.

Does this reflect our values? Do we care so little for our community that we not only provide minimal to no access to mental health resources, but also criminalize and harm people for having under treated conditions?

I watched the whole meeting last week and recognize that only a quarter of police positions requested were filled. I believe there is concern about staffing ratios and frequent and costly overtime when police perceive themselves to be understaffed.

Who is monitoring how police spend their time and who is defining the scope of their work? I just read about a lawsuit against RPD related to a traffic stop resulting in 3 unnecessary arrests. Over policing costs us too much. I don't want to hear about any other cost saving measures especially not to libraries and community services! The police budget and staffing needs a reduction in order to reallocate funds for community benefit. It's time to fund housing, health, and youth development and deprioritize the police. Thank you.

Ashley Scarborough-Gonzalez

Sent on the go please excuse typos

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Bernadette <bgroger@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 12:32 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Re: Public Comments - agenda item I-1

My name is Bernadette García-Roger a Richmond resident in the Panhandle Annex since 1985. I am writing to demand protection for the Richmond Public Libraries.

It is appalling that the City Council is considering cuts to already underfunded but vital community resources while increasing police salaries amid an already extensively funded police budget. The average salary per FTE in the police department is twice that of library employees. Budget cuts and layoffs will only exacerbate the financial struggle of our community.

At this moment in our country, it is more clear than ever, that we need to enhance public services that lift up and educate our black communities by investing in these spaces, not reducing staff and services. If we defund the services Blacks, Asians and Brown people depend on and disproportionately fund police services, what does that say about the priorities of our community?

The Richmond City Council was the first city to unanimously approve a resolution calling US Congress to denounce the Trump administration. Let's be one of the first cities to show we believe in community resources by not shutting down our libraries. If this were to happen - in my book you're no better than this horrific administration in Washington DC. Please do better and show your constituents that you really do care about each and every one of us.

Thank you,  
Bernadette

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Brooke Rhoads <brooke.rhoads@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 14, 2020 5:35 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments Agenda Item I-1

To Whom It May Concern:

Hello, my name is Brooke Rhoads and I moved to the East Bay two years ago after being born and raised in the midwest. I was energized and relieved to finally be living in a community that shared my values. I was excited to live in a place that invested in public goods, the environment, and progressive policy. Once I got here I was disheartened to learn the reality of the Bay Area. Income and wealth inequality is rampant. The homeless aren't cared for in a humane way, and the cost of living is astronomical causing mass gentrification and displacement of natives to the Bay.

However, I still had hope. I know this sounds too on the nose to be true, but I swear to God at one point a few months ago I said to myself, "Well, no place is perfect. At least I know basic public goods like schools and libraries will never be defunded like they were back home. I'm still lucky to be living in a progressive place." Then I learned about Richmond's public library crisis.

I cannot believe that something as basic the funding for a public library is being called to question. Especially given the pandemic and what that's done to peoples' ability to access resources coupled with the great need for current data and information about the spread and containment of the virus. To take away funding for a resource that provides both children and adults with free and easy access to not only books, but also online databases, movies, newspapers, and magazines is despicable. Now more than ever people need access to information to stay educated on what's happening in the world as well as the history of this country so we can better understand how we got to this point; a point in time in which a local government would seriously consider defunding a basic public good!

Libraries are essential to a functioning democracy and a just society. The people MUST have access to public spaces such as libraries. Libraries are one of the few public spaces still left in this country. They must also have free and easily accessible resources for literacy and education. Libraries are a cornerstone of our communities and our democracy. The fact that we're currently debating whether it's valuable to fund public libraries while simultaneously handing millions of tax payer dollars to fund militarized polices forces is astonishing. There are mountains of evidence that prove that over-policing is not the solution to crime. It's having alternative resources such as counseling, after school programs, and libraries; places for people to go and resources available to them to provide them with alternatives and knowledge.

To defund the libraries would not only be irresponsible, it would be a violent thing to do to the community. Please, reconsider your priorities and center the needs of the community above all else.

Best,  
Brooke Rhoads

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Claire Battis <Claire.Battis@cchealth.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 2:32 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments Agenda Item I-1

My name is Claire Battis and I am a social worker, member of East Bay DSA and Contra Costa County employee. As someone who works in local government, I know that too often budgets for vital community services are driven by finance departments with little understanding of or experience in the impact of those services. When you only look at numbers and make cuts across the board, you fail to see how those dollars translate into human lives and transformational change, you fail to see how devastating layoffs and cuts are to already underfunded community services like libraries, recreation, and mental health. Or maybe you only see the dollars the police association is giving you to keep the police department well buffered...

It is appalling that Richmond has 2x as many police per person than neighboring cities and you are proposing to increase the assistant police chief salary while students at Richmond high schools can't even get books. Your CHKS data shows a majority of Richmond students (70%+) don't attend an after school program and 1/3 are alone after school at least twice a week. 80%-94% of Richmond students are socioeconomically disadvantaged and what is your solution? To police them? Cut after school library hours and lay off staff? If you are so concerned about public safety what about the fact that almost HALF of Richmond students report not feeling safe at their schools and I assure you, that is not due to LACK of police. You need to invest, not divest, from community and educational programs. Research has shown that libraries are even valuable crime prevention tools, with a direct correlation between hours open and reduction of crime. Moreover, with 6 figure average salaries for police, you could easily fund several library staff. FUND YOUR LIBRARIES, NOT POLICE!!

Thanks,

Claire



## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Cordell Hindler <cordellhindler@ymail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 11, 2020 9:04 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** BUDGET SESSION I-1

hello Sabrina, as far as I-1 is concerned, here are my recommendations for a balanced budget

1. i would keep the travel/ training matter under miscellaneous
2. i would also keep the car allowances because the employees would like to use a city car to do business in Richmond
3. i would like to keep the festivals because it brings the community together when they come to Richmond.
4. i would NOT institute a hiring freeze because we are trying to Attract new talent to come to Richmond.

sincerely  
Cordell

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Derek Reimer <derekreimer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 2:39 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments - Agenda Item I-1

My name is Derek Reimer, and I am a Richmond resident.

I am writing to demand that you make no cuts to Richmond Public Libraries.

Our city budget is a declaration of our priorities. As elected leaders, your decisions about this budget will publicly affirm what you prioritize and what you do not.

During the June 9 City Council meeting, and in the midst of a financial crisis, this Council expressed support for more than a million dollars in NEW annual spending to EXPAND the Richmond Police Department.

Here is what you will be telling the people of Richmond, if you defund libraries and increase funding for the police department.

- People of Richmond, hiring new police officers is more important than saving the jobs of librarians.
- People of Richmond, keeping a jail open more is important than keeping our libraries open.
- People of Richmond, a system that criminalizes community members is more important than a system which educates our community members.
- People of Richmond, a gun in the hands of a police officer is more important than a book in the hands of a Richmond child.

Members of the City Council, you sit on the Council to serve and meet the needs of this community. You are hearing from the community. Your decisions must reflect the demands of this community. I join many others in demanding that you meet this moment and protect our libraries.

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Emma Kross <emma.kross@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 10:42 AM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments Agenda Item I-1

As others have mentioned:

I want to urge you to maintain adequate funding for our libraries.

Libraries have a large impact on the local economy and workforce development. They're open to all and create a common bond among all those who live in a community. And especially relevant here in Richmond, libraries are critically important for early literacy and partnering with all levels of education.

Strong libraries = strong communities

Thank you,

Emma Kross

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Helen Bloch <helenibloch@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 1:28 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public comments Agenda Item I1

Dear Councilmembers and Mayor Butt,

Public libraries are crucial parts of communities helping to bridge the digital divide and provide safe places to visit. They provide informational and recreational resources to all, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, income and language. They prepare children starting school and students doing homework. They help people find crucial services such as employment, housing and health care. During these unsettled, hard times, funding the Richmond Libraries is more crucial than ever. Please do not cut off or lessen this crucial lifeline.

Helen Bloch

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Joan Binalinbing <joanbinalinbing@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 12:36 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments- agenda item I-1

Hello,

I am writing to express my concern with the council's possible decision to cut funding towards Richmond public libraries. As a Richmond resident of over 20 years, I have always depended on the libraries growing up, and to see the libraries face such cuts is truly disheartening. Libraries are integral places of information with not only the vast amount of access to books one would otherwise have to pay for, but with internet access that others might not have the privilege of having for themselves. I urge the city council to rethink these cuts to such an essential public service to our community and also reevaluate where our priorities lie if we make cuts to libraries but continue to provide disproportionate funding for police.

Thank you.

Joan Binalinbing

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Katherine Gorrige <katherine.gorrige@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 12:12 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments Agenda Item I-1

My name is Katherine Gorrige and I am a resident of Richmond. I am writing to demand that the city council act in service of the people of Richmond. We demand the creation of a new budget that defunds the police department and reallocates those funds to departments that support the people of this community.

The closing of city libraries would be a tremendous loss for the people of this city. Rather than spend valuable city resources on policing this community, we want that money spent on our libraries.

Our request is simple: cut the police budget and raise the library budget.

Sincerely,  
Katherine

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Kevin Zhang <kzhang.kz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 11:57 AM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** public comments - agenda item #I-1

Hello,

My name is Kevin and I am a member and friend of IBX Fitness, a group fitness and personal training program that operates out of the Booker T Anderson community center in Richmond.

I am writing today about a concern regarding one of the Potential Budget Balancing Strategies for the current and next fiscal year which is reducing staff and hours of community centers. By reducing the hours and/or services of community center programs, IBX Fitness would have to reduce its program offerings, which would lead to cancelling the program. While I am more than happy complying with safety/health orders from the county, the reduced use and access of the BTA community center for the rest of the year or longer would cause me to lose access to a service that I care deeply for.

IBX Fitness has been great for my mental well-being as well as my physical health. It has provided me with a wonderful community of friends. It would mean the world to me if you reconsider the budget strategy.  
Thanks, Kevin

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Kim Wolf <kim.wolf.email@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 2:59 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments - agenda item I-1

Please consider funding the Richmond Public Libraries. Libraries provide such a depth and breadth of support for the entire community and are a vital resource for families, students and all aspects of the community.

Librarians provide a much needed service beyond simply providing guidance around books to read. They are in effect social workers for the community, connecting people to resources and services of all types.

Please protect this vital community resource!

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**Kim Wolf**



## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Kristine Kurovsky <kristine.kurovsky@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 1:50 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** I-1

I'm a longtime Richmond resident extremely concerned about cuts to library services. Cutting services at this moment in history when everyone is aware of how much is spent on institutions with no credibility is insulting to the people of Richmond.

Sincerely,  
Kristine Kurovsky

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Lindsey Moore <noodlemisery@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 2:53 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments - agenda item I-1  
**Attachments:** Save Richmond Public Libraries and Library Workers.pdf

Hello,

My name is Lindsey Moore, and I am submitting the following public comment to the Richmond City Council for item I-1:

Attached is a petition and comments signed by over 400 community members. All of these petition signers and community members want Richmond public libraries to stay open and keep serving the community. That means more than just opening the doors to the buildings, it means keeping the library staff who welcome community members, answer their questions, help them choose books, use computers, and learn new digital tools. **At Richmond Public Library these vital, community services are performed by full and part-time staff members across professional and para-professional classifications and they all matter.**

Thank you,  
Lindsey

## **Save Richmond, CA Public Libraries!**

**TO: Richmond California Mayor Tom Butt and Richmond CA City Councilmembers Ben Choi, Demnlus Johnson III, Eduardo Martinez, Jael Myrick, and Melvin Willis,**

We are the workers, patrons, parents and supporters of Richmond, CA libraries. **We are calling on Richmond city council to reject any budget proposal that permanently closes our libraries and lays off staff.** Public libraries are one of the most important resources our communities have to provide support for everyone. We should be expanding their services, not cutting them, especially during COVID-19.

Right now, the City is proposing to permanently close the Bayview and West Side library branches and the book mobile, as well as lay off all part-time workers in the Richmond library system. This would reduce service to only an understaffed main library when it reopens. The library may be removed from the budget altogether. **We understand that COVID-19 has hit the city's finances but cutting important social services like libraries is only going to make supporting Richmond residents harder and make racial inequalities worse during this crisis and beyond.**

The library is the only public educational institution that this City has. Libraries provide information and technology for those who don't have it, especially wifi and computers. They let parents know that their children are safe after school and provide shelter and warmth, no questions asked. They provide legal support to immigrants, education resources to all be they adult life-long learners, teachers, parents, teens and children, and help thousands of working class people enrich their lives through art and hobbies. All these things are provided to the people of Richmond regardless of their ability to pay, the color of their skin, or what country they were born in. If you take away the libraries, you will be taking away the heart of our community and increase the racial and economic disparities in our city.

**Because libraries are so important to us, we demand the following:**

- No library cuts! Do not eliminate the Bayview and West Side branches. These branches serve people, particularly children, who don't have transportation to the main library.
- No layoffs! The libraries cannot function well if they're understaffed and this puts unfair working conditions on the remaining library staff. Firing city staff and SEIU members would be extremely dangerous for them and their families under COVID-19.

- Full funding! The libraries and other important city services were already understaffed and underfunded before COVID-19. It's time to give them and the people of Richmond the support they need and fully fund our social services.
- Expand library services! Libraries around the country are providing important help to local residents even if their doors aren't open while Richmond is totally shut down. Work with library staff to design programs to support Richmond residents during COVID-19. They already have lots of ideas like phone support, curbside pick-up, story times on KCRT, and more!

The Bay Area is one of the richest places on the planet, but even before COVID-19 we weren't doing enough to support the poorest among us. The decision to eliminate libraries would tell our community we do not deserve better. We are calling on you, the members of the Richmond City Council, to choose public services over budget cuts and to stand with the working class of Richmond in protecting and supporting each other.

Signed,

Adam E  
Richmond, CA

Adam A  
Richmond, CA

Adriana V  
Richmond, CA

Alejandra D  
Richmond, CA

Amanda L  
Richmond, CA

Amiee F  
Richmond, CA

Ana L  
Richmond, CA  
the library is the heart of our communities.  
shooting them down is anarchy.

Angel E  
Richmond, CA

Angela O  
Richmond, CA

Arwen L  
Richmond, CA

Bernadette G  
Richmond, CA

beryl G  
Richmond, CA

Beth H  
Richmond, CA

Beth M  
Richmond, CA

Brenda I  
Richmond, CA

Brendan B  
Richmond, CA

Brian C  
Richmond, CA

Britnie S  
Richmond, CA

Capri R  
Richmond, CA

carmen T  
Richmond, CA

Catherine P  
Richmond, CA

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Christina F  
Richmond, CA

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Christina R  
Richmond, CA

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Christine S  
Richmond, CA

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Christine F  
Richmond, CA

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Christopher J  
Richmond, CA

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Claudia J  
Richmond, CA

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Crishanda V  
Richmond, CA

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Cynthia B  
Richmond, CA

What a terrible idea! No need to cut this invaluable resource which does so much good for so many...among whom are the most deserving and needful! NO NO NO!!

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Dave S  
Richmond, CA

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Davi J  
Richmond, CA

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David S  
Richmond, CA

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David L  
Richmond, CA

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David E  
Richmond, CA

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Derek R  
Richmond, CA

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Dharana K  
Richmond, CA

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Donna M  
Richmond, CA

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Dorothy G  
Richmond, CA

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Earlene G  
Richmond, CA

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Edith P  
Richmond, CA

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Elizabeth W  
Richmond, CA

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Elizabeth S  
Richmond, CA

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Elizabeth L  
Richmond, CA

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Elizabeth H  
Richmond, CA

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Emil M  
Richmond, CA

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Emily H  
Richmond, CA

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Emily P  
Richmond, CA

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Emma K  
Richmond, CA

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Erica B  
Richmond, CA

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Erica H  
Richmond, CA  
I have worked in public and academic libraries.  
I understand the importance of the public library in community-building!

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Erin K  
Richmond, CA

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Erin M  
Richmond, CA

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erin S  
Richmond, CA

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esther W  
Richmond, CA

---

Everlyn L  
Richmond, CA

---

Farm S  
Richmond, CA  
My daughter and I check out books weekly for her to read.

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Francesca H  
Richmond, CA

---

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Frank O  
Richmond, CA

---

Gail E  
Richmond, CA

---

Ganesh K  
Richmond, CA

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Geoff H  
Richmond, CA  
As a parent I do not want to raise my child in a world that places so much more value on policing than on community services like libraries and recreation services. Police are important, make no mistake, but surely we can do better.

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Grace L  
Richmond, CA

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Grover D  
Richmond, CA

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Heather M  
Richmond, CA

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Isabel B  
Richmond, CA

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Ivonne L  
Richmond, CA

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Jaime P  
Richmond, CA

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Janet O  
Richmond, CA

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Jared C  
Richmond, CA

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Jeanette J  
Richmond, CA

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Jeanne M  
Richmond, CA

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Jeanne K  
Richmond, CA

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Jen L  
Richmond, CA

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Jenise P  
Richmond, CA

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Jennifer S  
Richmond, CA

This library is a critical resource for so many in our community!

Children, students, ESL children and adults, folks who need a meeting space, folks who need access to a computer.

It is a central location for government forms and help with them.

It would be a huge disservice to our community to lose this critical resource.

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Jennifer K  
Richmond, CA

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Jenny B  
Richmond, CA

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Jescenia "Jessie" R  
Richmond, CA

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Jessica R  
Richmond, CA

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Jessica W  
Richmond, CA

I didn't grow up in Richmond, but as a kid, my family benefited greatly from having an accessible and local public library in our area. Libraries are very important and I hope you can work out a way to not take away this important resource.

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Joan B  
Richmond, CA

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John M  
Richmond, CA

---

jose D  
Richmond, CA

---

Jovanka B  
Richmond, CA

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Judith D  
Richmond, CA

As a lifetime resident of Richmond and a former Employee of the Richmond Public Library (both Shields Reid Branch and after the Branch Closure the Main Library). I know the effects of the Library being underfunded and understaff.

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Judy R  
Richmond, CA

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Julia W  
Richmond, CA

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kamala K  
Richmond, CA

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Karen S  
Richmond, CA

---

Karin S  
Richmond, CA

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Karlyn N  
Richmond, CA

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Katharine B  
Richmond, CA

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Katherine J  
Richmond, CA

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Katherine G  
Richmond, CA

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Kathleen M  
Richmond, CA

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Kent L  
Richmond, CA

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Kristen K  
Richmond, CA  
Don't cut library services!

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Krystal C  
Richmond, CA  
Do not take essential resources away

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Lana R  
Richmond, CA

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Larr F  
Richmond, CA

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Larry S  
Richmond, CA

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Laura T  
Richmond, CA

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Laura B  
Richmond, CA

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Laura A  
Richmond, CA

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Laurel B  
Richmond, CA

The Richmond library is such an invaluable resource for so many, especially now. Children rely on it for education and entertainment. They might learn more from library learning at this point than from school learning. It is even more important with summer coming and children needing more activities to occupy them, lacking the ability to go out and socialize with their friends. NO CUTS! Why doesn't the Richmond city government cut the bloated salaries of some of their representatives and put that money into more social services like libraries.

---

lauren A  
Richmond, CA

---

Laurie I  
Richmond, CA

---

Lesli Z  
Richmond, CA

---

Lilia E  
Richmond, CA

---

Linda C  
Richmond, CA

---

Lisa G  
Richmond, CA  
My daughter is 9 1/2. She started going to storytime when she was 1. we are still in touch with some of the friends she made there! We've become Facebook friends with our Librarian and reach out via Messenger all the time for advice on books and other things.

---

Lisa W  
Richmond, CA

---

Lisa H  
Richmond, CA

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Louise M  
Richmond, CA

---

Lucia D  
Richmond, CA

---

Lucretia B  
Richmond, CA

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Lynne O  
Richmond, CA

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Malaika G  
Richmond, CA

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Margaret D  
Richmond, CA

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Mari S  
Richmond, CA

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Marie S  
Richmond, CA

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Marina M  
Richmond, CA  
Defund police and fund other social services to help the youth.

---

Martha J  
Richmond, CA

---

matt T  
Richmond, CA

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Meg P  
Richmond, CA

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Melinda G  
Richmond, CA

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Melissa G  
Richmond, CA

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Michele G  
Richmond, CA

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Mona R  
Richmond, CA

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Nadia B  
Richmond, CA

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Nicole V  
Richmond, CA

---

nirmani K  
Richmond, CA

---

olga S  
Richmond, CA

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Olivia M  
Richmond, CA

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Pam S  
Richmond, CA

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Paul K  
Richmond, CA

The Richmond Public Library is now an even greater resource for residents in this time of hardship and struggle. Every effort needs to be made to keep its doors open with hours for everyone use.

---

Paul E  
Richmond, CA

---

Paula C  
Richmond, CA

---

Peitsa H  
Richmond, CA

---

Phuong D  
Richmond, CA

---

Quan H  
Richmond, CA

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Quanieka C  
Richmond, CA

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Rebecca M  
Richmond, CA

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Regina G  
Richmond, CA

---

Richard H  
Richmond, CA  
The libraries are the one FREE service that local governments provide to every member of the community. In times of economic upheaval it is essential to keep libraries open and available to everyone.

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Riley E  
Richmond, CA

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Ronan F  
Richmond, CA

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Rosa C  
Richmond, CA

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Ruth F  
Richmond, CA

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Ryan Y  
Richmond, CA

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Sadhana K  
Richmond, CA

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Salma B  
Richmond, CA

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Sarah T  
Richmond, CA

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Selene C  
Richmond, CA

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Sophie C  
Richmond, CA

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Stacey W  
Richmond, CA

---

steven B  
Richmond, CA

---

Sue T  
Richmond, CA

---

Susan H  
Richmond, CA

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Talia R  
Richmond, CA

---

Tarnel A  
Richmond, CA

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Teresa H  
Richmond, CA

La libreria es un lugar donde se apoya a Toda nuestra comunidad de Richmond y vecinos mi hijo actualmente tiene 10 años y le encanta todas Las actividades que Dan desde 2010 asistimos a history time,te party, magic show mas infinidad de actividades y apoyo en tareas y Las personas que trabajan son muy amables y serviciales, LA LIBRERIA es una coneccion y recurso para nuestra comunidad menos favoresida ( low income) en verano Toda la comunidad puede contar con un lugar seguro donde se puede tener recursos, libros, audiobook, pass para museos.

---

Tien L  
Richmond, CA

---

Tiffany P  
Richmond, CA

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Tim Abdellah F  
Richmond, CA

---

Ursula F  
Richmond, CA

The Main branch of the Richmond public library has the most wonderful children's collection. Our young son has been the beneficiary, and we are so grateful. All of the branches of the Richmond library deserve to remain open to give their wonderful offerings to their communities. Please maintain this vital service for ALL of the populations who use it--it is one of the last holdouts of a truly democratic society, and would be devastating to so many, if lost. Libraries are so much more than just books: they offer a multitude of resources, a safe space for children and the homeless, programming, summer reading support for kids, computer access, and a meeting place for the community, in addition to so, so many other offerings. Please, please, find a way to maintain this essential service for our Richmond residents. We will all get back to a "normal" of some sort someday soon, but there is no "normal" without libraries. Thank you for your consideration.

---

Uyen T  
Richmond, CA

---

Veronica C  
Richmond, CA

---

Victoria C  
Richmond, CA

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Virginia R  
Richmond, CA

---

Xittalli S  
Richmond, CA

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Daniel N  
Alameda, CA

---

Jeanne K  
Alameda, CA

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Maria M  
Alameda, CA

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Somak P  
Alameda, CA

---

Erin C  
Alameda, CA

---

Shane A  
Alameda, CA  
Find a better way to save money. The  
communities need their libraries!

---

Jonathan J  
Alamo, CA

---

Rebecca B  
Albany, CA

---

Marie A  
Albany, CA

---

Kim W  
Albany, CA

---

Rachel R  
Albany, CA

---

Marissa M  
Albany, CA

---

Michael L  
Albany, CA

---

Diah S  
Antioch, CA

---

Kyle P  
Aptos, CA

---

Janet S  
Auburn, CA

---

Baruch Z  
Bend, OR  
Libraries are one of the hallmarks of a  
democratic society. Close them and you are  
encouraging fascism.

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Danielle R  
Berkeley, CA

---

Juan C  
Berkeley, CA

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Armin A  
Berkeley, CA

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Laurel C  
Berkeley, CA

---

Ted E  
Berkeley, CA

---

Guenther W  
Berkeley, CA

---

michael T  
Berkeley, CA

---

Abigail G  
Berkeley, CA

---

Peter F  
Berkeley, CA

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Paul B  
Berkeley, CA

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Joseph C  
Berkeley, CA

---

Neha C  
Berkeley, CA

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Diane S  
Berkeley, CA

---

Cynthia P  
Berkeley, CA

---

Ben G  
Berkeley, CA

---

Andrew R  
Berkeley, CA

---

Richard M  
Berkeley, CA

---

Emmy S  
Berkeley, CA

---

Nickan F  
Berkeley, CA

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Jocelyn D  
Berkeley, CA

---

Nicole P  
Berkeley, CA

---

Alexandria L  
Berkeley, CA

---

Haydee O  
Berkeley, CA

---

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Nina S  
Berkeley, CA

---

Angela G  
Berkeley, CA  
Libraries are vital!

---

Briana R  
Berkeley, CA

---

Adina R  
Berkeley, CA

---

Ellen S  
Berkeley, CA

---

Dana B  
Berkeley, CA

---

Isaac K  
Berkeley, CA

---

Langston C  
Berkeley, CA

---

isabel S  
Berkeley, CA

---

Karin Louise A  
Berkeley, CA

---

Angel R  
Berkeley, CA

---

Megan M  
Berkeley, CA

---

Zoey C  
Berkeley, CA

---

MJ B  
Berkeley, CA

---

Nicole D  
Bristol, PA

---

Almetria V  
Castro Valley, CA

---

Angela M  
Castro Valley, CA

---

Lisa P  
Chicago, IL

---

Jamie B  
Chicago, IL

---

---

Raven M  
Clinton, CT

---

Ady O  
Concord, CA

---

Teresa H  
Concord, CA

---

Mat B  
Concord, CA

---

Felisa M  
Downey, CA  
Libraries are a way to open the world to  
children and adults! We must keep them  
funded and open!

---

Sarah K  
El Cerrito, CA

---

Raelene C  
El Cerrito, CA

---

Emily S  
El Cerrito, CA

---

Michelle B  
El Cerrito, CA

---

Pat T  
El Cerrito, CA

---

Brooke R  
El Cerrito, CA

---

Edward F  
El Cerrito, CA  
SAVE THE RICHMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY

---

Jeannie P  
El Cerrito, CA

---

Bridget L  
El Cerrito, CA

---

Heidi R  
El Cerrito, CA

---

George M  
El Cerrito, CA

---

Carrie W  
El Cerrito, CA

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Paula H  
El Cerrito, CA

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Alison M  
El Cerrito, CA

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Marc B  
El Cerrito, CA

---

Valerie B  
El Cerrito, CA

---

Elinor N  
El Cerrito, CA

---

Allison R  
El Cerrito, CA

---

Kelly G  
El Cerrito, CA

---

Candace S  
El Cerrito, CA

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Emily B  
El Cerrito, CA

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Caroline O  
El Cerrito, CA

---

Rebecca H  
El Cerrito, CA

---

Jessie S  
El Cerrito, CA

---

Duncan R  
El Cerrito, CA

---

Teresa I  
El Cerrito, CA

---

Kemi A  
El Sobrante, CA  
Don't get rid of the library's! They are too important to the community and getting rid of them would really disrupt a lot of family's.

---

Juliet E  
El Sobrante, CA

---

Noelle S  
El Sobrante, CA

---

Nancy S  
El Sobrante, CA

---

Marya K  
El Sobrante, CA

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Robin D  
El Sobrante, CA

---

Nancy B  
El Sobrante, CA

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erin A  
El Sobrante, CA

---

Noehmi G  
El Sobrante, CA  
I remember the book mobile since I was a child and it sparks the young mind to read. Richmond needs our library. Since my daughter was little she's had her library card and loves reading.

---

Elizabeth W  
El Sobrante, CA

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Luci R  
El Sobrante, CA

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Erick G  
El Sobrante, CA

---

Rebecca F  
El Sobrante, CA

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Jules H  
Emeryville, CA

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Miles L  
Emeryville, CA

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Anna C  
Emeryville, CA

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Darlene L  
Emeryville, CA

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Vivian P  
Emeryville, CA

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Caroline A  
Emeryville, CA

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James B  
Emeryville, CA

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channing K  
Emeryville, CA

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Alexander Z  
Emeryville, CA

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Neacy C  
Escondido, CA

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Margaret A  
Eugene, OR  
I used to live in the Bay Area, and worked for the Oakland Public Library. I remember the amazing work that the Richmond Librarians did to help vitalize and invigorate Richmond. They are a vital and integral part of the community, and gutting them will be cutting the heart out of the community. Every dollar invested in a library returns at least threefold to the community on the investment.

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Kristine B  
Fairfax, CA

---

DJ L  
Folsom, CA

---

Thomas W  
Glendale, AZ

---

Jennifer C  
Hayward, CA  
Libraries are one of the only way communities from all backgrounds can access free books! Especially during times like this it's important to keep it together!!!

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Daniel C  
Hayward, CA

---

Alexis V  
Hayward, CA

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Myrna G  
Hercules, CA

---

Julian C  
Hercules, CA

---

Theresa B  
Kennewick, WA

---

Lindsey M  
Lafayette, CA

---

Kristen C  
Lafayette, CA

---

Stephanie A  
Las Vegas, NV

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Elyse E  
Lititz, PA  
Libraries are invaluable resources in a community and should be preserved at all costs.

---

Spartakus K  
Livermore, CA

---

Melody T  
Livermore, CA

---

Vincent G  
Livermore, CA

---

Andrew S  
Long Beach, CA

---

Hannah K  
Los Angeles, CA

---

Ann S  
Los Angeles, CA

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Alejandro A  
Los Banos, CA  
I believe public libraries to be crucial institutions for the well-being of all society members, regardless of race or class. Services ought to be expanded, in order to reach out to those not privileged to adequate upward mobility. Has the city not thoroughly thought-out how a library budget cut is going to affect their community, and continue to marginalize immigrants and folks of color? This sets a dangerous precedent, if this budget cut moves forward then what will stop future cuts? This will only show that the city of Richmond is not considerate of the well-being and uplift of their citizens. Every person has the right to adequate library services, how will a weak budget fulfill that? Please, as a library worker from the Central Valley, refrain from taking that route. Strengthen the Richmond Public Library, strengthen the community!

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Douglas H  
Marina, CA  
RPL is an essential community resource.

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Ashley P  
Martinez, CA  
Divert money from the cops to the libraries!

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Laura D  
Martinez, CA

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Claire B  
Martinez, CA

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Kim D  
Martinez, CA

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Ariel C  
Martinez, CA

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Kathleen O  
McMinnville, OR

---

Mia S  
Mill Valley, CA

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Natasha S  
Moraga, CA

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Wendy T  
National City, CA

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Melissa G  
New York, NY

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Chuck G  
New York, NY

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Kristine N  
Novato, CA

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Maria C  
Oakland, CA

---

Will S  
Oakland, CA

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Helen B  
Oakland, CA

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G L  
Oakland, CA

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Rodney F  
Oakland, CA

---

Nancy F  
Oakland, CA

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Eric P  
Oakland, CA

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sidney L  
Oakland, CA

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Rex L  
Oakland, CA

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John S  
Oakland, CA

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Art S  
Oakland, CA

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Brendan K  
Oakland, CA

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Jamie G  
Oakland, CA

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Zephyr J  
Oakland, CA

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Eric R  
Oakland, CA

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Marissa S  
Oakland, CA

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Joshua H  
Oakland, CA

---

Amy M  
Oakland, CA

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Sydney M  
Oakland, CA

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Alexandra G  
Oakland, CA

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eric P  
Oakland, CA

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Richenda B  
Oakland, CA

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Hannah M  
Oakland, CA

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Jack K  
Oakland, CA

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Jane F  
Oakland, CA

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Arielle E  
Oakland, CA

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Ella P  
Oakland, CA

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Naseem R  
Oakland, CA

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Tanya O  
Oakland, CA

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Eny C  
Oakland, CA

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Amanda A  
Oakland, CA

---

Joe B  
Oakland, CA

---

Jillian J  
Oakland, CA

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LeAnn M  
Oakland, CA

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Julia H  
Oakland, CA

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Keith B  
Oakland, CA  
Fund good union jobs that serve the  
community! Union solidarity from UAW 2865 at  
UC Berkeley.

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Larisa S  
Oakland, CA

---

Jackie L  
Oakland, CA

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Stephen W  
Oakland, CA

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Olivia M  
Oakland, CA

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Connor P  
Oakland, CA

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Sabuk K  
Oakland, CA

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Maddie A  
Oakland, CA

---

Kira F  
Oakland, CA

---

Timothy V  
Oakland, CA

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Lara H  
Oakland, CA

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Collin M  
Oakland, CA

---

annie W  
Oakland, CA

---

james C  
Oakland, CA

---

Joanna S  
Oakland, CA

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Melissa N  
Oakland, CA

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Suzanna M  
Oakland, CA

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Madison H  
Oologah, OK

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Elise H  
Orinda, CA

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Lauren H  
Pacifica, CA

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Devin M  
Pinole, CA

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Gabby G  
Pinole, CA

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Roseann E  
Pittsburg, CA

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Ana M  
Pittsburg, CA

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Jean-Henry B  
Pleasant Hill, CA

---

Shirley S  
Pleasant Hill, CA

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Eileen A  
Pleasant Hill, CA

---

Elese L  
Pleasanton, CA

---

Sarah S  
Poquoson, VA  
Please save Richmond libraries. They are a  
vital part of the Richmond community and a  
critical service for many families and youth.

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Constance F  
Port Angeles, WA

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James U  
Rodeo, CA

I work within walking distance of one of the Richmond Libraries, and as a child, I used to rent books from there. These libraries are some of the finest and most comprehensive in the East Bay, and to close them would deprive the city of an invaluable archive of both history and knowledge. Many of my customers and myself agree that the Richmond Libraries are assets to the community, and the birthplace of gifted people from the city.

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Jess F  
Salem, MA

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Kimberly M  
San Diego, CA

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Tracy L  
San Diego, CA

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Megan G  
San Diego, CA

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Sean H  
San Francisco, CA

---

Lindsey H  
San Francisco, CA

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Kathryn W  
San Francisco, CA

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Cotey B  
San Francisco, CA

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Anne G  
San Francisco, CA

---

Larry R  
San Francisco, CA

---

Jacqueline L  
San Francisco, CA

---

Whit Z  
San Francisco, CA

---

Ellen H  
San Francisco, CA

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Gilbert L  
San Francisco, CA

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Anna B  
San Jose, CA

---

Natalia C  
San Jose, CA

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Brian D  
San Jose, CA

---

Alvaro R  
San Leandro, CA

---

Gustavo B  
San Leandro, CA

---

Erika O  
San Leandro, CA

---

Ami M  
San Leandro, CA

---

Cynthia C  
San Lorenzo, CA

---

Cristine S  
San Marcos, CA

---

Luis F  
San Marcos, CA

---

Charleszetta P  
San Pablo, CA

---

Tania S  
San Pablo, CA

---

Samantha S  
San Pablo, CA

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Patricia P  
San Pablo, CA

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Arleide S  
San Pablo, CA

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Jamila E  
San Pablo, CA

---

Anita C  
San Pablo, CA

---

Jacqueline S  
San Pablo, CA

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Elizabeth O  
San Pablo, CA

---

Alicia C  
San Pablo, CA

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Joselyne Q  
San Pablo, CA

---

Emily C  
San Pablo, CA

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Chris H  
San Pablo, CA

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Yvette M  
San Pablo, CA

---

Edgardo V  
San Rafael, CA

---

Danielle G  
San Rafael, CA

---

Eden H  
Santa Maria, CA

---

Rachel M  
Santa Rosa, CA

---

Warren R  
Santa Rosa, CA

---

Tyler D  
Seattle, WA

---

Brooke H  
Sebastopol, CA

---

Joseph K  
South San Francisco, CA

---

Yvonne S  
State College, PA

---

Paula K  
Sun City, AZ

---

Sinziana B  
Sunnyvale, CA

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Kellie M  
Sunnyvale, CA

---

Hannah P  
Sunnyvale, CA

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Shaun A  
Temecula, CA  
Library's are more important than Congress

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Rita M  
Tucson, AZ

---

Ann D  
Tucson, AZ

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Pat H  
Tucson, AZ

---

Brandon M  
Union City, CA

---

Monica N  
Usaf Academy, CO

---

Aj A  
Vallejo, CA

---

Skye E  
Vallejo, CA  
Richmond Public Libraries are essential.

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Kimberley T  
Vallejo, CA

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Gia M  
Vallejo, CA  
I used to take my children to the Richmond Library as a single mother many years ago. I have many great memories there. Also, I have friends that work there. It would be heart breaking if this wonderful resource, educational and magical center closed.

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Cherie M  
Vallejo, CA

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Alison C  
Vallejo, CA

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melika C  
Vallejo, CA

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Gordon M  
Walnut Creek, CA

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Cailin W  
Walnut Creek, CA

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Nina M  
Walnut Creek, CA

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Kate F  
Walnut Creek, CA

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Melissa M  
Walnut Creek, CA

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Jade B  
Watsonville, CA

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Michael L  
West Sacramento, CA

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Marc-André Robert <marc-andre\_robert@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 10:40 AM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Cc:** IBX Fitness; Sabrina Lundy  
**Subject:** Public Comments – Item I-1

Dear City council,

I am writing this email as a follow-up of a previous message I sent on May 26 (see below) regarding the city budget. IBX helped me a lot to go through this pandemic by promoting a healthy living style. The BTA physical location is a critical part of their fitness program and requires city support to operate. This enable them to provide services and maintain the community spirit that is an essential part of the healthy lifestyle they promote.

All the best,

Marc

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**From:** Marc-André Robert [[mailto:marc-andre\\_robert@hotmail.com](mailto:marc-andre_robert@hotmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 26, 2020 8:45 AM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Cc:** Marc-André Robert; IBX Fitness  
**Subject:** Importance of IBX program in pandemic - public comments – not on the agenda

Good evening, I am Marc-André Robert, member of IBX Fitness which operates out of the Booker T Anderson community center (BTA) in Richmond.

I'm writing because of budget cuts regarding item 10 in the Potential Budget Balancing Strategies. Reduction of hours and/or services of BTA would make IBX impossible to operate.

IBX Fitness is an important and healthy part of my life. It bolsters my physical and mental wellbeing, in addition to providing a positive environment where a community can thrive. Before IBX, I had back pain which went away after being a member of the community. Further, it helps me sleep better and improves my general health condition, and morale which all provide better protection against COVID-19 infections.

Community centers can be used to help fight against the pandemic by continuing offering physical and mental wellbeing programs in a safe setting. Please allow IBX to continue operating and provide much-needed services.

Best,  
Marc-André Robert

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Matthew Bacinkas <bazini02@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 12:12 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments - agenda item I-1

My name is Matthew Bacinkas and I am writing to demand protection for the Richmond Public Libraries. It is appalling that the City Council is considering cuts to already underfunded but vital community resources while increasing police salaries amid an already extensively funded police budget. The average salary per FTE in the police department is twice that of library employees. Budget cuts and layoffs will only exacerbate the financial struggle of our community. At this moment in our country, it is more clear than ever, that we need to enhance public services that lift up and educate our communities. We need to be investing in our community in these spaces, not reducing staff and services. If we defund the services people of color depend on and disproportionately fund police services, what does that say about the priorities of our community?

Sincerely,

Matthew Bacinkas

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Regina Gilligan <reginagilligan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 9:56 AM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** public comments agenda item I-1

Please reconsider the cuts and closures to our public libraries. I was one of those kids whose parents both worked and I went to my local branch and beyond doing my homework there, the librarian engaged with me and other children and over the course of time, shared her love of learning, and reading books. We even competed in contests over the summer on who could read the most books. That led to a lifelong interest in reading and learning.

Now when everything is on computer and what we learned during this pandemic is that many children have no access to the internet except at the library. Surely, you can find other ways to generate income and redirect city funds to keep this vital resource in the hands of the community that very much needs it.

Regina Gilligan, Richmond voter

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Sarah Young <sjyoung@berkeley.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 11:46 AM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Cc:** Young Sarah  
**Subject:** Public Comments - Agenda Item I-1

Dear City Council Members,

I am a resident of Richmond and it has come to my attention that the Council is considering cutting the Richmond libraries from the budget.

**Please save the libraries;** don't cut them from the budget. The libraries are a very important resource for all residents and especially during this time of COVID-19.

Thank you.

Sarah Young

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Sarwang Parikh <sarwangp@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 1:19 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments - agenda item I-1

*My name is Sarwang Parikh and I am writing to demand protection for the Richmond Public Libraries. It is appalling that the City Council is considering cuts to already underfunded but vital community resources while increasing police salaries amid an already extensively funded police budget. The average salary per FTE in the police department is twice that of library employees. Budget cuts and layoffs will only exacerbate the financial struggle of our community. At this moment in our country, it is more clear than ever, that we need to enhance public services that lift up and educate our communities. We need to be investing in our community in these spaces, not reducing staff and services. If we defund the services people of color depend on and disproportionately fund police services, what does that say about the priorities of our community?*

In solidarity,

Sarwang

[www.HeartRootTherapy.com](http://www.HeartRootTherapy.com)

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Sean McGovern <seanmcg39@berkeley.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 4:28 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments - agenda item I-1

I'm deeply concerned by the budget-balancing recommendations in Proposal B. Now, during COVID more than ever, is not the time to be withdrawing funds from such essential public, community services like libraries and librarians. Even before the pandemic and shelter-in-place, these areas have been notably under-funded, but these extraordinary times have revealed how essential it is that we look after every member of our community and provide essential services to make education, shelter, and the means of improving lives available to all. That is why the thought of closing the Bayview and West Side library branches and laying off part-time library staff is so worrying to me.

These services are essential for *everyone*: libraries provide spaces for people young and old to read, learn and rest, especially for youth outside of school hours. They also provide legal and educational support for immigrants, and enrich lives by offering opportunities to engage in the arts.

However, *cuts* to these services will disproportionately harm those who are less advantaged, such as families who cannot afford private daycare, educational resource alternatives, or private and peaceful places to rest. These cuts would exacerbate racial and economic inequalities well into the future by leaving our libraries underfunded beyond the pandemic.

I am, along with much of the community at this moment, also concerned with how *shielded* the police department is from these cuts, especially given that A) this department is already disproportionately well-funded, and B) social resources such as libraries are precisely the areas that are being highlighted as institutions which benefit and improve communities where law enforcement cannot (though the history of excessive funding for law enforcement has framed this department as the privileged mechanism for achieving peace and reducing crime). Holistic, community-based solutions which provide social resources to all, would tackle inequalities and help prevent crime closer to the source, where persistent under-investment in community services leaves people unable to fulfill their needs.

Please, do not lay off part-time library staff and cut libraries from the budget. There are other areas where savings can be made, especially in the police department.

Sean McGovern



**Sabrina Lundy**

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**From:** Ilona Clark <in70clark@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 7:29 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept; Ben Choi; Demnlus Johnson III; Eduardo Martinez; Jael Myrick; Melvin Willis; Nat Bates; Tom Butt - external; Trina Jackson  
**Subject:** Public Comment - City Council Item #J-1

To the City Council,  
Richmond's Rent Board has rubber-stamped yet another raise in fees to Richmond's housing providers - 80% of whom are small business owners according to their own data. Not only that, they have proposed another hefty fee increase on "Partially Covered" units which includes Affordable Housing for seniors and other residents. Exactly one year ago, the annual fee per Affordable Housing Unit was \$50. In FY 19/20 it was raised to \$112/unit and now \$124/unit is proposed. That is a total increase of 148%.

Richmond Rent Program fees are among the highest in the Bay Area, yet, unlike other jurisdictions, there is no opportunity to pass any of it through to renters.

The executive branch has generously agreed to no COLA for themselves this year after gifting themselves hefty raises on a regular basis in past years including a raise of almost 20% for the executive director just last year.

COVID is affecting everyone. Many housing providers are dipping into savings or going further into debt to support renters who can't make rent, while paying all the bills associated with providing housing - including the Rent Program fee. Everyone is making sacrifices because we are in it together. Meanwhile, the rent program staff are going about life as if this is business as usual and housing providers are money pits to be taken advantage of.

Please vote NO on this resolution.

J.RESOLUTIONSJ-1.ADOPT a resolution establishing the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Residential Rental Housing Fee in the amount of \$219 per Controlled Rental Unit and \$124 per Partially Covered Rental Unit, which includes Governmentally Subsidized Rental Units -Rent Program (Nicolas Traylor 620-6564)

--

A mistake that makes you humble is better than an achievement that makes you arrogant

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Malaika Gray <malaikagray5@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 6:58 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** public comment - agenda item K-1

Hello,

I wanted to voice my support for NOT increasing the budget of the Richmond police department. I urge Richmond councilmembers to explore alternate options for in-person response to mental health emergencies that does not involve the police, and to make the appropriate budget cuts to the police.

Thank you,

Malaika Gray



Virus-free. [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Alyssa Yu <yu.alyssam@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 11:59 AM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept; Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Ben Choi; Demnlus Johnson; Eduardo Martinez; Jael Myrick; Melvin Willis  
**Cc:** megan@apen4ej.org  
**Subject:** Comments on Agenda Item K-2

Good morning,

My name is Alyssa Yu, and as someone who had the blessing to serve and witness the power of the Richmond youth while I was with the Asian Pacific Environmental Network, I ask that you vote NO on agenda item K-2 and instead establish communication with the community to devise a solution that doesn't impact services, and in doing so limit the growth potential, for the next generation who will soon be our leaders. These students have already shown themselves to be capable, outspoken, and determined, and they deserve to have a voice.

Thank you for your time, and I hope you will put the needs of the future generation above any short-term or immediate gains of this item, which would ultimately have damaging long-term consequences.

Alyssa Yu

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Andrew Yeung <andrew@rysecenter.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 6:22 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments – Agenda Item K-2

Hello Mayor and City Council,

My name is Andrew Yeung and I am an adult ally with the RYSE Center. As someone who serves the youth of this community, I urge you to vote NO on agenda item K-2 and commit to working in partnership with the community on a solution that doesn't impact services to children and youth and increases revenue for the City.

Measure E&K is an invaluable step in investing in the present and future of our youth and of Richmond. Your actions to cap Kids First will deepen structural inequity in youth & families funding, services, and care, which will disproportionately impact Black and brown youth and community members.

**Please vote NO on agenda item K-2.**

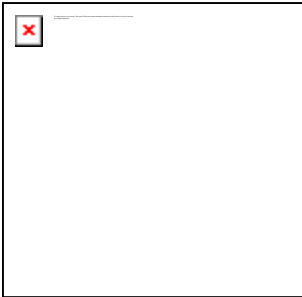
In community,  
Andrew

--

**\* Please note, RYSE will be working remotely until further notice.**

**You can visit our website for a list of virtual programming as well as updated COVID-19 and anti-racist resources \***

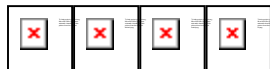
**#BLACKLIVESMATTER**



**Andrew Yeung**  
Economic Justice Program Manager  
**Pronouns:** he/him

**p:** 510.374.3401  
**c:** 626.589.1938

205 41st Street  
Richmond, CA 94805  
[www.rysecenter.org](http://www.rysecenter.org)



## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Blanca Hernandez <blanca@yesfamilies.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 12:27 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments – Agenda Item K-2

Hello Mayor and City Council,

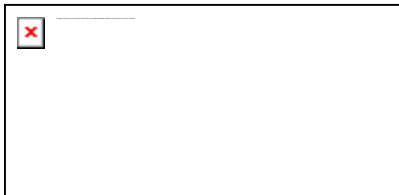
My name is Blanca Hernández, and I am an adult ally from YES Nature to Neighborhoods. As someone who canvassed for Measure E&K and worked with young people and families to get this measure on the ballot in 2018, I urge you to vote NO on agenda item K-2 and commit to working in partnership with community on a solution that doesn't impact services to children and youth. We need to have these services available to support the community in our COVID-19 recovery efforts.

While we know that everyone, including the systems, are being impacted, we need to honor this commitment which was voted by the community and for the community. Measure E&K will support in the community's recovery post COVID-19, but capping Kids First will cause more great harm to the community.

Sincerely,  
Blanca Hernández

--

Blanca Olivia Hernández  
Program Director  
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers



3029 Macdonald Avenue  
Richmond, CA 94804  
510.232.3032 ext. 306  
510.541.8737 cell  
510.232.3011 fax  
[www.yesfamilies.org](http://www.yesfamilies.org)  
[http://youtu.be/Z9E5O\\_SVuKU](http://youtu.be/Z9E5O_SVuKU)

To support our local and global community wellbeing, YES has closed our office until further notice, and cancelled or postponed all programming until further notice.

YES staff are working from home during this office closure, and we welcome you to be in touch. Please see [www.yesfamilies.org/staff-board](http://www.yesfamilies.org/staff-board) for contact information for all staff. I wish you and yours health and safety during this time.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Para apoyar el bienestar de nuestra comunidad local y global, YES ha cerrado nuestra oficina y cancelado o pospuesto toda la programación hasta nuevo aviso.

El personal de YES está trabajando desde casa durante este tiempo, y le invitamos a estar en contacto. Consulte [www.yesfamilies.org/staff-board](http://www.yesfamilies.org/staff-board) para obtener la información de contacto de todo

el personal. Les deseamos a usted y a los suyos salud y seguridad durante este tiempo.

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Charlene Harris <healingcirclesofhope@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 2:39 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments -Agenda item. K-2

### We strongly urge you to:

**1. Vote NO on agenda Item K-2.**

- Capping Kids First *will not* support any immediate revenue relief, so why put this on the ballot now when our community is feeling most vulnerable.
- There is no revenue allocation written into Kids First until 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 is only 1%.
- Measures E & K was widely supported by Richmond voters (*Measures E passed with 76% support*)

--

Healing Circles of Hope- MASK  
Executive Director/Charlene Harris  
Tel: 510-860-7496 \* Fax:510-237-5352  
Email: [healingcirclesofhope@gmail.com](mailto:healingcirclesofhope@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.healingcirclesofhope.org](http://www.healingcirclesofhope.org)

Healing Circles of Hope Facebook

Twitter: @HealingCirclesMASK

HEALING CIRCLES OF HOPE (MASK INC) OF RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA Facebook Group page

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Cole Goins <cole.goins@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 9:28 AM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments – Agenda Item K-2

Hello Mayor and City Council,

I'm an ally and supporter of RYSE. As someone who is committed to supporting programs and investments that uplift young people in Richmond, I urge you to vote NO on agenda item K-2 and commit to working in partnership with the community on a solution that doesn't impact services to children and youth and increase revenue for the City.

Measure E&K is a critical way to invest in the city's future by investing in its youth. Your actions to cap Kids First *will not* actually support any immediate revenue relief for the city, since there is no revenue allocation written into Kids First until 2021-2022. With the pandemic still in full swing, why put this on the ballot now when our community needs more investment, not less?

I also urge you to provide more transparency around the data for Measure H and the amount that the city has spent on children/youth in the past ten years, as well as the number of young people served. Making this information publicly available is critical for the community to understand the investments that are being made in our young people and better advocate for how tax dollars are spent.

Thank you for your time.



## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Cristina Haley <email4cris@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 2:20 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments - Agenda Item K-2

Dear City Council Members of Richmond,

My name is Cristina and I am a Richmond resident. I am writing to urge you to vote NO on item K-2!

Amidst a global pandemic and a global demand for racial justice we need to focus on how to ensure children, youth and families don't bear the biggest burden of the economic downturn. Capping Kids First will not provide any immediate revenue relief for any of us. It is a disgrace that this item has been put forward, at a time when our communities and our nation are crying out for a divestment of profit centered thinking and instead reinvest in community health.

We need solutions that center our children, youth and families and our most vulnerable residents. We demand that you find solutions that demonstrate your commitment to working in partnership with community organizations and unions and stand in solidarity with the Richmond community.

Vote NO on item K-2!

Cristina

## Sabrina Lundy

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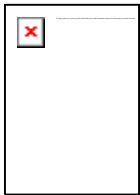
**From:** Denny Khamphanthong <denny@apen4ej.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 11:35 AM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept; Tom Butt - external; Demnlus Johnson; Ben Choi; Eduardo Martinez; Melvin Willis; Jael Myrick  
**Subject:** Public Comments - Agenda Item K-2

My name is Denny Khamphanthong and I'm a lifelong Richmond Resident who's attended Verde Elementary, Helms Middle School, and graduated from Richmond High School in 2012. As a Student, Worker, and Organizer in this community I'm urging you to vote no on item K-2 and commit to working in partnership with the community on a solution that doesn't impact services to children and youth and increase revenue for the city. Capping kids first will not provide any immediate revenue relief, so why put this on the ballot now when our community is feeling most vulnerable.

Growing up in Richmond was always a struggle and looking back at my education I can see how lack of resource, funding, and support affected me and my peers as we got older. These services are the only way for some children and youth to get the quality care, attention, education, and mentorship to grow in life. Capping funds on measures E & K will only cause more stress on educators and students who are already struggling with their transition to distance learning due to COVID. This proposed ballot measure will be confusing to voters and will take away from the progressive and real revenue measures unions and community based organizations are focused on to ensure children, youth, families don't bear the biggest burden of the economic downturn.

We know that in these moments everyone needs to participate in making the necessary cuts to ensure all of our community members can thrive. However capping a measure, without accurate data or authentic community engagement is not how a transparent and engaged democracy works. Leaders of the Kids First Coalition have been requesting to be at the table to identify solutions for the last few years. And many are helping to lead the new revenue measures. Do the right thing and work with community organizations and unions to come up with real revenue solutions that does not come at the expense of children and youths' futures.

--



**Denny Khamphanthong**

**Pronoun:** He, Him

**Richmond Community Organizer, Asian Pacific Environmental Network**

**p:** 510-236-4616 X 336 **a:** 12818 San Pablo, Richmond, CA 94805  
426 17th Street, #500 Oakland, CA 94612

**s:** [apen4ej.org](http://apen4ej.org) **e:** [denny@apen4ej.org](mailto:denny@apen4ej.org),

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Diana Diaz <diana@rysecenter.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 1:23 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Cc:** Tom Butt - external; Eduardo Martinez; Nat Bates; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis; Demnlus Johnson  
**Subject:** Public Comments – Agenda Item K-2

Hello Mayor and City Council,

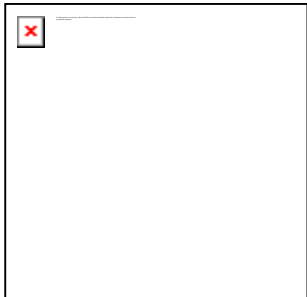
My name is Diana Diaz-Noriega and I am an adult ally from RYSE. As an organizer who canvassed for Measure E&K and mobilized communities to get this measure on the ballot in 2018, I urge you to vote NO on agenda item K-2 and commit to working in partnership with community on a solution that doesn't impact services to children and youth and increases revenue for the City.

Measure E&K would center the livelihoods of children, youth, and community, it is a direct reinvestment in their health, wellness, and development. Your actions to cap Kids First will only create more harm.

Best,

Diana

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**\* Please note, RYSE will be working remotely until further notice.  
You can visit our website for a list of virtual programming as well as updated COVID-19 and anti-racist resources \*  
#BLACKLIVESMATTER**

**Diana Diaz-Noriega**

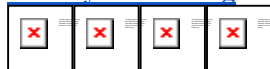
Youth Organizing Program Manager

**Pronouns: She/They**

**p:** 510.374.3401

**c:** 510.837.5499

205 41st Street  
Richmond, CA 94805  
[www.rysecenter.org](http://www.rysecenter.org)



Click here to donate: [www.rysecenter.org/donate](http://www.rysecenter.org/donate)

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Enrique Cornejo <ecornej1@uci.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 5:21 PM  
**To:** Ben Choi; City Clerk Dept; Demnlus Johnson; Eduardo Martinez; Jael Myrick; Melvin Willis; Nat Bates; Tom Butt - external  
**Cc:** megan@apen4ej.org  
**Subject:** Public Comments - Agenda Item K-2

Hello Mayor and City Council, My name is Enrique Cornejo and I am a teacher here in Richmond. As a person who grew up in this community, I've noticed how every year our public education and youth programs in Richmond take a hit due to lack of funds, budget cuts, and most recently incompetency from our leadership. However at the same time, I've seen the annual increases to the police department. I strongly recommend you to vote NO on agenda item K-2 and commit to working in partnership with the community on a solution that doesn't impact services to children, youth and increases revenue for the City.

Your actions to cap Kids First makes very little sense to me. In a time when the most vulnerable youth need our support, you can decide to increasingly invest in this initiative. You are investing in future generations and we can't put a price on that. A budget reflects the priorities of a city and its sad to see that since I've lived here, the priorities haven't seemed to change much. Policing over black and brown lives will never work. We need to do better.

Thank you for your time,

Enrique Cornejo

--

Enrique Cornejo  
Educator / Tutor / Web Developer ([Sample](#))  
Phone: 510.932.0200  
Calendar: [calendly.com/enriquecornejo](https://calendly.com/enriquecornejo)

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Joan Binalinbing <joanbinalinbing@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 10:24 AM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments - K2

Hello.

As a resident of Richmond for 20 years, I am urging city council to vote NO on agenda item K-2.

In addition, I urge the city council to partner with local community organizations on more progressive measures that bring in revenue and to not take away the critical supports that are needed by those most impacted by COVID19. We need transparency and we need effective collaboration!

Thank you.

Best,

Joan

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Kristin Lobos <kristinklobos@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 1:32 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comment - Agenda Item K-2 (please read this one, typo fixed)

My name is Kristin Kilian Lobos, I'm on the Richmond Fund for Children and Youth Oversight Board, we have been doing good work together as a board along with other community partners. Many people worked hard to create a Department of Children and Youth because we know our young people face many challenges and inequities, including systematic racism that many of us are protesting about right now. I am urging you to vote no on agenda item K-2! Capping Kids First will not support any immediate revenue relief. We are just starting to wrap our heads around the impact of shelter in place, both physically and emotionally on our children. The need is great! Richmond voters wildly supported Measure E & K! The youth are watching us, don't give our children the short end of the stick. Let's work together using sound data over the next two years to make adjustments to Measure E & K ,if needed. Our kids are our future! It's smart Government policy to invest in our future.

SERVICES FOR YOUTH ARE ESSENTIAL!

Thank you,

Kristin Kilian Lobos

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Lana Tilley <lane.tilley@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 9:25 AM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public comment - Agenda Item K-2

My name is Lana Tilley and I am an adult ally with RYSE. As an organizer who canvassed for Measure E&K and mobilized communities to get this measure on the ballot in 2018, **I urge you to vote NO on agenda item K-2 and commit to working in partnership with community on a solution that doesn't impact services to children and youth and increases revenue for the City.**

I support and add my voice to the following community demands:

**1. Vote NO on agenda Item K-2.**

- Capping Kids First *will not* support any immediate revenue relief, so why put this on the ballot now when our community is feeling most vulnerable.
- There is no revenue allocation written into Kids First until 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 is only 1%.
- Measures E & K was widely supported by Richmond voters (*Measures E passed with 76% support*)

**2. Authentically partner with community orgs and unions on progressive measures that bring in revenue and don't strip away critical supports from those most impacted by COVID-19.**

- This proposed ballot measure will be confusing to voters and will take away from the progressive and real revenue measures unions and community based organizations are focused on to ensure children, youth, families don't bear the biggest burden of the economic downturn.

**3. Transparent Data re: Measure H & current spending on children/youth budget and # of youth served.**

- The community has been requesting accurate data from the City regarding money spent on children and youth for the past ten years. To date we have only received inaccurate and overstated budgets with no data of youth served attached.

**4. Work with organizations and data in the next two years to make adjustments to Measure E&K, if needed.**

- We know that in these moments everyone needs to participate in making the necessary cuts to ensure all of our community members can thrive. However gutting a measure, without accurate data or authentic community engagement is not how a transparent and engaged democracy works.
- Leaders of the Kids First Coalition have been requesting to be at the table to identify solutions for the last few years. And many are helping to lead the new revenue measures.

Thank you,

Lana

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Lehidy Frias <lehidy@rysecenter.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 11:55 AM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments – Agenda Item K-2

Hello Mayor and City Council,

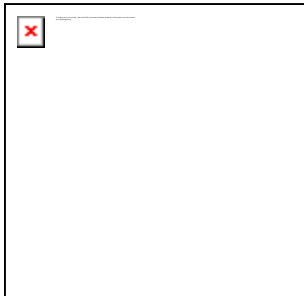
My name is Lehidy Frias and I am an adult ally from the RYSE Center. As someone who is committed to this community and work in community healing and restorative practices, I urge you to vote NO on agenda item K-2 and commit to working in partnership with the community on a solution that doesn't impact services to children and youth and increases revenue for the City.

Measure E&K is necessary to ensure a decrease in crime and an increase in community healing. Your actions to cap Kids First will endanger our current youth and the youth of tomorrow. The future of Richmond is your responsibility and capping the revenue for programs that support community healing will result in larger future costs as more youth will be funneled into the legal system, looking at the human capacity for impact in the community.

Best,

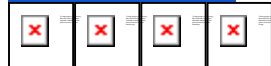
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**\* Please note, RYSE will be working remotely until further notice, visit our website for a list of virtual programming and resources \***



**Lehidy Frias**  
Restorative Practices Specialist  
**pronouns:** They/Them/Theirs  
**p:** 510.374.3396  
**c:** 401.559.0028

205 41st Street  
Richmond, CA 94805  
[www.rysecenter.org](http://www.rysecenter.org)





## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Malaika Gray <malaikagray5@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 12:54 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Fwd: public comment - agenda # K-2

Hello,

My name is Malaika Gray, my partner and I are Richmond residents and we urge Richmond city councilmembers to vote NO on item K-2.

We urge the City of Richmond to partner with community organizations and unions to work together on progressive measures that do not strip away critical supports from those most impacted by COVID-19.

We also urge you to ensure the release of transparent data from Measure H, such as the current spending on the youth budget, and the number of children served.

And lastly, to work closely with organizations and data in the next two years and make adjustments to Measures E and K if needed.

Thank you very much,  
Malaika Gray and John Kaiser



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## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Cadmus, Meghan <mcadmus@contracosta.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 1:41 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments – Agenda Item K-2

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to encourage you to vote NO on agenda Item K-2.

There are no immediate benefits, and long term benefits are menial at best, for which the consequence will be continued mounting pressure on our community that is already feeling vulnerable.

Thank you,

Meghan

--

*Need help filling out the Census questionnaire? [Click here!](#)*

### **Meghan Cadmus**

Site Coordinator at Contra Costa College

**SparkPoint Contra Costa**

Pronouns: She/Her ([What is this?](#))

**call / text** 510.255.0420

Contra Costa College

Career & Transfer Center SAB-227

2600 Mission Bell Drive

San Pablo, CA 94806

[mcadmus@contracosta.edu](mailto:mcadmus@contracosta.edu)

[www.sparkpointcenters.org](http://www.sparkpointcenters.org)

*Mission: Partner with agencies to empower individuals and families to become financially sustainable and advocates for social change.*

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Ninoangelo Lastimoso <ninoangelo94@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 1:26 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept; Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Ben Choi; Demnlus Johnson; Eduardo Martinez; Jael Myrick; Melvin Willis  
**Cc:** megan@apen4ej.org  
**Subject:** Public Comments - Agenda Item K-2

To the Mayor and City Council,

My name is Ninoangelo and I am a Richmond resident. As a young adult from this community I urge you to vote NO on agenda item K-2 and commit to working in partnership with the community on a solution that doesn't impact services to children and youth and increases revenue for the City. Measure E and K supplements the mental health of children and youth of this community who might be struggling with poor social environments and violence. With your actions to cap Kids First, it's difficult to imagine youth gathering the readiness and empowerment to progress with their skills, connectivity, and education.

Please reconsider,  
Thank you.



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## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Tara Malik <tara@rysecenter.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 2:45 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments – Agenda Item K-2

Hello Mayor and City Council,

My name is Tara Malik and I am an adult ally from the RYSE Center. As someone who is committed to this community by developing arts programs in partnership with staff and youth, local organizations, and WCCUSD, **I urge you to vote NO on agenda item K-2.** Our collective city-wide programs are a critical support for young people in developing their identity, creativity, and leadership through the arts. Measures E & K build on the legacy of young people who advocated for a city fund that would ensure Richmond's children and youth are physically, emotionally, mentally, and socially healthy, educated, and live in stable, safe and supported families and communities. Please commit to working in partnership with the community on a solution that doesn't impact services to children and youth and increases revenue for the City.

**Please:**

**1. Vote NO on agenda Item K-2.**

- Capping Kids First *will not* support any immediate revenue relief, so why put this on the ballot now when our community is feeling most vulnerable.
- There is no revenue allocation written into Kids First until 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 is only 1%.
- Measures E & K was widely supported by Richmond voters (*Measures E passed with 76% support*).

**2. Authentically partner with community orgs and unions on progressive measures that bring in revenue and don't strip away critical supports from those most impacted by COVID-19**

- This proposed ballot measure will be confusing to voters and will take away from the progressive and real revenue measures unions and community based organizations are focused on to ensure children, youth, families don't bear the biggest burden of the economic downturn.

**3. Transparent Data re: Measure H & current spending on children/youth budget/# of youth served.**

- The community has been requesting accurate data from the City regarding money spent on children and youth for the past ten years. To date we have only received inaccurate and overstated budgets with no data of youth served attached.

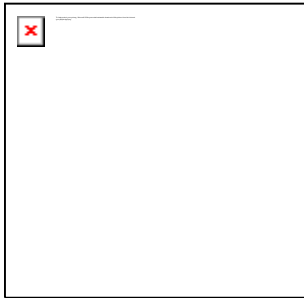
**4. Work with organizations and data in the next two years to make adjustments to Measure E & K if needed.**

- We know that in these moments everyone needs to participate in making the necessary cuts to ensure all of our community members can thrive. However gutting a measure, without accurate data or authentic community engagement is not how a transparent and engaged democracy works.

- o Leaders of the Kids First Coalition have been requesting to be at the table to identify solutions for the last few years. And many are helping to lead the new revenue measures.

Thank you,  
Tara

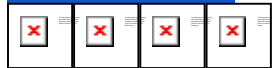
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**Tara Malik**  
Media, Arts, & Culture Director  
**pronouns:** she/her

**p:** [510.374.3401](tel:510.374.3401)  
**c:** [240.401.6811](tel:240.401.6811)

[205 41st Street](https://www.rysecenter.org)  
[Richmond, CA 94805](https://www.rysecenter.org)  
[www.rysecenter.org](https://www.rysecenter.org)



Send us a donation! [www.rysecenter.org/donate](https://www.rysecenter.org/donate)

**\* Please note, RYSE will be working remotely until further notice, visit our website for a list of virtual programming and resources \***

## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Megan Zapanta <megan@apen4ej.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 1:40 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept; Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Ben Choi; Demnlus Johnson; Eduardo Martinez; Jael Myrick; Melvin Willis  
**Cc:** Torm Nompraseurt  
**Subject:** Public Comments - Agenda Item K-3

Hi,

I am submitting this public comment on behalf of 16 APEN community leaders and Richmond residents AGAINST Item K-3.

Megan

To Honorable Mayor Tom Butt and all City Council Member City of Richmond, CA.

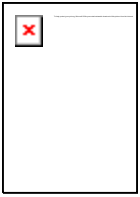
We are community leaders of the Asian Pacific Environmental Network and Richmond residents. We had worked for many years to ensure that our community has strong tenant protections and rent control. I strongly oppose Measure K-3, Repealing the Richmond Fair Rent, Just Cause for Eviction and Homeowner Protection ordinance. We are in the midst of an economic crisis and repealing this measure would bring stress to our families and neighbors.

We strongly urge you to oppose it and Voter NO.

Respectfully yours

1. Lipo Chanthanasak
2. Saeng Chanthanasak
3. Boon Manivong
4. Saeng Douangdara
5. Seng Syvanthong
6. Siengther Lakthanasouk
7. Inn Vilayngeun
8. Tom Chanthanasak
9. Keo Viengvilay
10. Kro Boonkert
11. Kham Vivideth
12. Boun Rattana
13. La Can Sengnang
14. Kam Setoui
15. Khan Souriya
16. Chomkeo Maneevorn

--



**Megan Zapanta**

**Pronoun:** She, Her

**Richmond Organizing Director**, Asian Pacific Environmental Network

**p:** 510-236-4616 X 331 **a:** 12818 San Pablo, Richmond, CA 94805

426 17th Street, #500 Oakland, CA 94612

**s:** [apen4ej.org](http://apen4ej.org) **e:** [megan@apen4ej.org](mailto:megan@apen4ej.org),



## Sabrina Lundy

---

**From:** Peter Selawsky <peter.selawsky@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 9:40 AM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments -- Agenda Item K-3

Dear members of the Richmond City Council,

I am a Litigation Attorney with the Eviction Defense Center (EDC), a non-profit law firm in Oakland. The EDC provides free representation to low-income Richmond tenants in unlawful detainer (eviction) lawsuits in Contra Costa County Superior Court. I am writing to express my opposition to Item K-3 on the City Council agenda, authorizing the City attorney to draft an ordinance to repeal and replace the Richmond Fair Rent, Just Cause for Eviction and Homeowner Protection Ordinance.

Richmond voters passed the current Richmond Rent Ordinance in 2016. Before that, Richmond tenants could be evicted without cause and had no meaningful legal protection against unlimited rent increases. That left Richmond's tenants unprotected in a climate of housing scarcity and rapid gentrification throughout the Bay Area. As rents rose, long-term and low-income tenants—disproportionately the elderly and disabled—were prey to the schemes of real estate speculators, the gentrifying demands and choices of corporate landlords, and the personal whims of small landlords. By passing the Richmond Rent Ordinance, the voters gave Richmond's most vulnerable citizens a basic assurance of security and stability in their housing, and spared many of them inevitable displacement and other significant future hardship.

Since 2016, the EDC has seen first-hand and on a case-by-case basis what a difference the current ordinance has made for Richmond tenants facing eviction. In less than 4 years we have seen Contra Costa Superior Court go from a jurisdiction that processes any and all evictions to a forum where Richmond tenants enjoy substantial protections. Now Richmond tenants can stay in their homes if their landlord lacks a legitimate reason for evicting them.

The eviction control protections of the current ordinance must be preserved—especially considering the spread of the COVID-19 virus. But without preserving the rent control component of the ordinance as well, eviction control is practically meaningless, since without rent control a landlord can effectively evict any tenant with a large enough rent increase. Any “repeal and replace” campaign that defangs rent control renders the entire ordinance toothless and leaves Richmond tenants vulnerable to the loss of their housing in the middle of a public health crisis. If there was ever a time to repeal tenant rights, it is certainly not now.

The campaign for the current ordinance was 4 years ago, and the ordinance received 64% of the vote. The Mayor now proposes to repeal and replace an ordinance that received that level of recent voter support in spite of his own opposition. He wants the City Council to approve this process before the public has seen any text of his proposed replacement ordinance. The Mayor's actions in 2016 and his actions now clearly show that he is more opposed to strong legal protections for Richmond tenants than he ever was to the status quo that left Richmond's poorest residents vulnerable under his watch. But the City Council does not have to rubber stamp legal language that does not yet exist. If the City Council votes to repeal and replace a ballot measure that passed four years ago without even knowing the details of what it's voting for, it will have abdicated its responsibility to the voters of Richmond.



I urge the City Council to reject this ill-timed and ill-considered proposal.

Sincerely,  
Peter Selawsky  
Litigation Attorney  
Eviction Defense Center

# Council Meeting - 6/16/2020

Meeting Time: 06-16-20 18:30

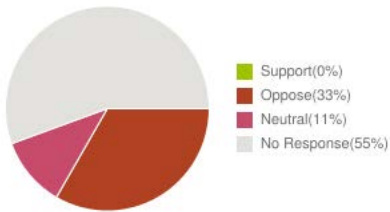
## eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Council Meeting - 6/16/2020	06-16-20 18:30	56	27	0	9	3

### 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 - 6/16/2020

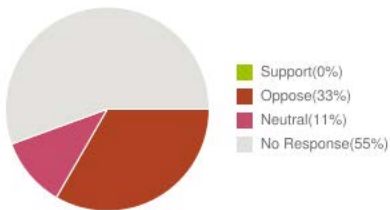
06-16-20 18:30

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
B. PUBLIC COMMENT BEFORE CLOSED SESSION	10	0	0	2
F. OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT	1	0	0	0
I-1. PROVIDE direction on implementing the recommended budget balancing proposal - Finance Department (Belinda Brown 620-6740/Markisha Guillory 620-5434).	11	0	4	1
K-1. APPROVE contract Amendment No. 1 with Mark43 in an amount of \$1,500,000. The proposed contract amendment would extend the term of the contract for five-years and increase the amended contract amount by \$1,500,000 for a total ten-year contract amount not to exceed \$3,000,000 - Police Department (Interim Chief Bisa French 621-1802). <STRONG>This item was continued from the May 26 and June 2, 2020, meetings.</STRONG>	2	0	2	0
K-2. AUTHORIZE the city attorney to draft an amendment to Measures E and K, to be placed on the November 2020 ballot, that will cap the maximum general fund allocation for Measures E and K with an amount equal to the net increase in revenue resulting from Measure H for each fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for the budget being adopted and to provide for an emergency waiver of Section 6 of Measure E - Office of the Mayor (Mayor Tom Butt 620-6503). <STRONG>This item was continued from the May 26 and June 2, 2020, meetings.</STRONG>	3	0	3	0

## Sentiments for All Agenda Items

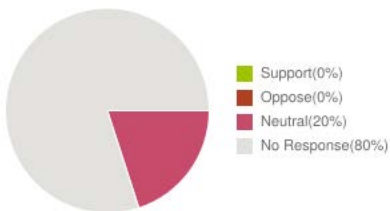
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

### Overall Sentiment



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

### Overall Sentiment



**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 2:52pm 06-16-20

I would like to know what meaningful steps the city is taking in light of the calls to defund police and add my support for defunding police and investing in social services. It is vital that we invest in services that help our community to thrive and divest from services that are clearly failing our community.

**Emily Johnson**

Location:

Submitted At: 2:24pm 06-16-20

Another voice urging you to defund the Richmond Police Department & redirect those funds into social services & a community-led safety program. In this time of increased food & housing insecurity, we must prioritize the basic needs of Richmond residents over systems of surveillance, threats and incarceration.

**Jessica Cortes**

Location:

Submitted At: 1:51pm 06-16-20

I hope the mayor has had time to read up on what "defunding the police" actually means since last week's council meeting. I would like to hear what our city is willing to do to divert funds from the armed police to more humane social services that assist people in need and help the community grow together.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 1:43pm 06-16-20

The city of richmond needs more funding for schools and libraries. Take money from the police force and put it towards our children's future. Richmond could be a city that other cities look to during this time. We need to prioritize education and help our city be the best it can be

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 1:32pm 06-16-20

Please protect the Richmond Public Libraries. It is appalling that you consider cutting an already underfunded but vital community resource while increasing police salaries amid an already extensively funded police budget. The average salary per FTE in the police department is twice that of library employees. Budget cuts and layoffs will only exacerbate the financial struggle of our community. At this moment we need to enhance public services that lift up and educate our communities.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 1:19pm 06-16-20

It is time for the city of Richmond to defund the Police and reallocate funds to education, housing, and community services. Engage in the conversation and come up with actionable steps to make change for the betterment of our community and in support of Black lives.

**Laura Bowles**

Location:

Submitted At: 1:00pm 06-16-20

Our city budget must prioritize investment in addressing education health, youth programs, libraries, community-sourced crime prevention, and housing inequity. We have a moral obligation to heed the call of the Black Lives Matter movement and divest from Police to achieve these aims. This is an opportunity to begin dismantling the structural racism inherent in a system that over-invests in punitive measures and defunds the organizations that allow our communities to thrive.

**Sadie Egan**

Location:

Submitted At: 12:44pm 06-16-20

Mayor Breed from SF and LA council members are putting forth plans to replace police officers with trained unarmed professionals for all noncriminal matters. What meaningful steps are you taking to respond to the calls to defund the police? Last week's joke motion from the Mayor and avoidance of discussion was very disappointing.

### Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 7:42pm 06-13-20

Is the City of Richmond planning on providing ANY type of assistance to landlords who haven't received rent for months now? There are so many protections for renters and NONE for landlords during this pandemic! You are making landlords pay for this out of their own pockets. The City of Richmond is collecting millions of dollars in fees from homeowners who rent out their properties, we deserve to have some support and attention during this crisis. You're pushing investors away from Richmond

### Dee Joyce

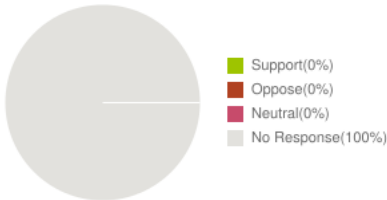
Location:

Submitted At: 12:39pm 06-13-20

Just a short note re: "Defunding the Police Department". Please don't laugh at or dismiss this suggestion, it is a "knee-jerk" reaction and implies that you do not have any comprehension of the concept. I refer you to a commentary by Nicholas Kristof of the New York Times reprinted in the June 12th East Bay Times. Or the example of Camden, New Jersey. Of course, Camden eliminated the Police Union from the equation in their success story. Do any of you have the guts for that? Well, do you?

Agenda Item: eComments for F. OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

### Overall Sentiment



### Guest User

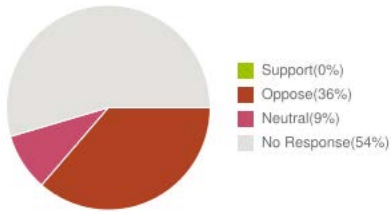
Location:

Submitted At: 2:59pm 06-16-20

I am writing to express my disapproval with the council's handling of the "Defund the police" motion last city council meeting. Mayor Butt proposed the motion without any forethought and many council members laughed it off. City Council: you serve the people. The people are asking you to have a serious discussion about defunding the police force. Do not take this lightly.

Agenda Item: eComments for I-1. PROVIDE direction on implementing the recommended budget balancing proposal - Finance Department (Belinda Brown 620-6740/Markisha Guillory 620-5434).

## Overall Sentiment



### Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 2:59pm 06-16-20

I've lived in Richmond for most of my life and have only benefitted from the presence and access to Richmond Public Libraries as my family growing up was low-income. Many of my peers who went through the school system here understand the value of the libraries as a space for learning and growth. The fact that the City Council is considering removing funds from our libraries and reallocating them to RPD is absolutely unacceptable.

### Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 2:56pm 06-16-20

I am a resident of Richmond asking you to reject any funding increases for the Richmond Police Department and to instead CUT RPD's budget. Mayor Butt, you say that the majority of Richmond citizens support the police, but recent protests and all of the emails you have been receiving have shown that not to be the case. We do not want or need police in our communities. RPD is currently being sued for violence against Black men, costing the city even more money. DEFUND RICHMOND POLICE.

### kimberly hernandez

Location:

Submitted At: 2:56pm 06-16-20

I have worked for the City of Richmond Police Dept for 35yrs , Inregards of the comment made about defunding the police I challenge each and everyone on the city council to go on ride alongs with officers during the weekend nightshifts for a whole shift and see what challenges they go through daily before making any LUDACRIS decisions on defunding the police. We already do more with less. how about we defund the council

### Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 2:53pm 06-16-20

No Library Cuts!

No Firings!

Full Funding!

Expand Library Services!

Our community needs libraries now more than ever. We should not be cutting funding for libraries, we should be expanding library services. Libraries are one of the few places in our society where all people can gather and learn and access all these resources for FREE. Cutting library funding removes educational access to children in disadvantaged communities.

### Deleted User

Location:

Submitted At: 2:41pm 06-16-20

I'm Amanda LeGaux, a city emp for 9yrs. and in public services for 29yrs. I've never witnessed a council care less about their city staff and the community as whole.How many of you can say you have personally walked the walk or even walked or rode with any or all city staff to fully understand what we do, from the janitor to sworn and non-

sworn RPD staff. Come elections if I do not approve of who my union wants to endorse, learn this now, I don't stay quiet and people WILL follow my lead.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 1:41pm 06-16-20

I demand protection for the Richmond Public Libraries. It is appalling that the City Council is considering cuts to already underfunded but vital community resources while increasing police salaries amid an already extensively funded police budget. The average salary per FTE in the police department is twice that of library employees. At this moment in our country, it is more clear than ever, that we need to invest in and enhance public services that lift up and educate our communities.

**Laura Bowles**

Location:

Submitted At: 1:06pm 06-16-20

I oppose the closure of our library branches and other community investments such as pools and youth enrichment. Our current budget prioritizes punitive responses by heavily investing in policing and divesting from the services that help us thrive.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 1:02pm 06-16-20

I understand there is a proposal to cut funding to the Library and its staff. Libraries are essential for all communities, even a refuge for some for learning, researching and just enjoying the delight of reading a book. For anyone who is considering cuts to the library, please read *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean. It will give you a new appreciation for the importance of a library's role in the community.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 1:00pm 06-16-20

Please do not cut funding from Richmond libraries. If anything, now is the most crucial time to invest in community programs. I understand the city is in a huge deficit, but cuts should be taken from the top. Libraries and other social services build the foundation of the community's education, well-being, and safety. They should take funding priorities.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 12:35pm 06-16-20

The residents of Richmond need their libraries now more than ever. We need internet access; job search, resume & interviewing resources; story times and books for our kids; books, newspapers, magazines, ebooks and downloadable movies and music to keep us entertained and informed during COVID restrictions. Folks in Richmond depend on their libraries - to take away these services in favor of funding other departments' ludicrous overtime pay is reprehensible.

**Dee Joyce**

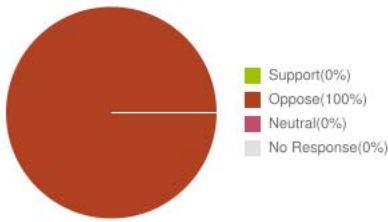
Location:

Submitted At: 12:30pm 06-13-20

There are some common threads in the public comments of the previous council meeting: the overwhelming pleas from both residents and non-residents to fund community programs that are of immense support to our most vulnerable citizens. The highest paid need to take the brunt of the salary reductions. Asap. I know there is a "march" by the unions this Tuesday. I wish they wouldn't. We are all in this together. The residents are going to hurt more than they will and I wish they could see it.

Agenda Item: eComments for K-1. APPROVE contract Amendment No. 1 with Mark43 in an amount of \$1,500,000. The proposed contract amendment would extend the term of the contract for five-years and increase the amended contract amount by \$1,500,000 for a total ten-year contract amount not to exceed \$3,000,000 - Police Department (Interim Chief Bisa French 621-1802). <STRONG>This item was continued from the May 26 and June 2, 2020, meetings.</STRONG>

### Overall Sentiment



### May Nguyen

Location:

Submitted At: 12:22pm 06-16-20

As a Richmond resident of District 5, I strongly oppose extending this contract and increased budget for the police department. These funds would better serve the community, especially our most at-risk working class Black community, if they were distributed to preventative programs. This means funneling that proposed \$1.5mil to fund housing, education, mental health services and food programs instead. Let's join Minneapolis and other cities who are taking this bold action!

### Guest User

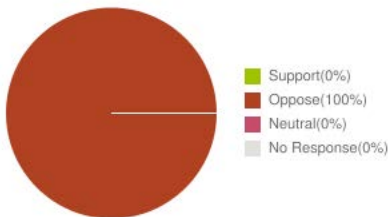
Location:

Submitted At: 7:00pm 06-15-20

I am a resident of District 3 and I oppose extending the contract with the police department. Police do not make us safer. Instead of spending \$71 Million on the police, we should be redirecting those funds to the services that actually prevent crime and violence: housing, education, food, and healthcare. We should be investing in our communities. Defunding the police may seem radical, but this is not a new idea: Camden, NJ disbanded their police force and Minneapolis has vowed to do the same.

Agenda Item: eComments for K-2. AUTHORIZE the city attorney to draft an amendment to Measures E and K, to be placed on the November 2020 ballot, that will cap the maximum general fund allocation for Measures E and K with an amount equal to the net increase in revenue resulting from Measure H for each fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for the budget being adopted and to provide for an emergency waiver of Section 6 of Measure E - Office of the Mayor (Mayor Tom Butt 620-6503). <STRONG>This item was continued from the May 26 and June 2, 2020, meetings.</STRONG>

### Overall Sentiment



### Sadie Egan

Location:



Submitted At: 12:33pm 06-16-20

Do not Cap Measures E & K, work with community partnerships and orgs to make adjustments instead.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 10:26am 06-16-20

Stand by Richmond's youth. Vote NO on agenda item K-2.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:45pm 06-15-20

PLS NO ON K-2

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** cassiasbox@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 4:52 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Item F - Open Forum: Defund RPD

Dear Richmond City Councilmembers,

As a Richmond resident, homeowner, taxpayer, and voter, I demand that you:

Reduce the Richmond Police Department Budget by 50% (20% is not enough)

Remove all police from all schools.

Impose a moratorium on future spending for the Richmond Police Department, including the capping of spending for equipment, capital improvements, and overtime

Create a committee, which includes community experts, to develop a transformative justice plan to transition services out of the Richmond Police Department and into a restorative justice and comprehensive community safety program

Cassia M. Stepak

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Armin Arethna <arminarethna@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 4:54 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments - agenda item I-1

*Greetings!*

*My name is Armin Arethna and I am writing to demand protection for the Richmond Public Libraries. It is appalling that the City Council is considering cuts to already underfunded but vital community resources while increasing police salaries amid an already extensively funded police budget. The average salary per FTE in the police department is twice that of library employees.*

*Budget cuts and layoffs will only exacerbate the financial struggle of our community. At this moment in our country, it is more clear than ever, that we need to enhance public services that lift up and educate our communities. We need to be investing in our community in these spaces, not reducing staff and services. If we defund the services people of color depend on and disproportionately fund police services, what does that say about the priorities of our community?*

*Our community, children and adults, love and use the Richmond Public Library. We need to save it for the good of everyone. Protect and make our Richmond Public Library prosper, and our community will also prosper.*

*Thank you,  
Armin Arethna*

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Joselyne Quiroz <joselynequiroz24@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 3:01 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments - agenda item I-1

- I've lived in Richmond for most of my life and have only benefitted from the presence and access to Richmond Public Libraries as my family growing up was low-income. Many of my peers who went through the school system here understand the value of the libraries as a space for learning and growth. The fact that the City Council is considering removing funds from our libraries and reallocating them to RPD is absolutely unacceptable.

--

Thank you,

Joselyne Quiroz  
Voice and Guitar Teacher  
(415)635-8604

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Katherine Jubelirer <katherine.jubelirer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 3:55 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments - agenda item I-1

My name is Katherine Jubelirer and I am writing to demand protection for the Richmond Public Libraries. It is appalling that the City Council is considering cuts to already underfunded but vital community resources while increasing police salaries amid an already extensively funded police budget. The average salary per FTE in the police department is twice that of library employees. Budget cuts and layoffs will only exacerbate the financial struggle of our community. At this moment in our country, it is more clear than ever, that we need to enhance public services that lift up and educate our communities. We need to be investing in our community in these spaces, not reducing staff and services. If we defund the services people of color depend on and disproportionately fund police services, what does that say about the priorities of our community?

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Kristina Sterling <ksterling5@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 3:58 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments - agenda item I-1.

Dear Richmond City Council members,

I am writing to urge you to not close any library branches and to not lay off necessary staff. I am a school psychologist in WCCUSD and Richmond children are already so far behind in their literacy skills, it would be a true act of negligence to take away something is vital as a library.

I encourage you to refund Richmond Police if you are needing to make up for budget deficits.

Thank you,  
Kristina Sterling  
School Psychologist, WCCUSD  
Richmond resident

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Tina Babst <tinachen.ccwn@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 3:47 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** public comments – agenda item #I-1

Dear City Council,

I would like to ask the city council to not reduce the hours and/or staff of the BTA Community Center. My husband and I moved here 3 years ago and we joined IBX Fitness, an amazing workout group that hosts classes in the BTA Community Center on Mondays, Wednesdays from 7pm-9pm and Saturdays from 9:30am-11:00am.

IBX depends on the community center to keep offering classes to members like us who depends on IBX to improve our wellbeing. We would not be able to stay active if it wasn't for the wide variety of workouts IBX can host in the indoor and outdoor spaces at BTA Community Center.

Last but not least, I want to mention that we met so many people in the community at the BTA Community Center, many of which are now our friends and neighbors. Please keep our community center open and accessible for our community.

Thank you,  
Tina Babst

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**Tina Babst**

Sr Product Designer  
(925) 872-6756 | [tinachen.ccwn@gmail.com](mailto:tinachen.ccwn@gmail.com)

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Kathleen Maloney <kathleen@irenescullyfoundation.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 4:39 PM  
**To:** Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Jael Myrick; Melvin Willis; Demnlus Johnson; City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments – Agenda Item K-2

Hello Mayor and City Council,

My name is Kathleen Maloney and I am an adult ally from the Irene S. Scully Family Foundation, a local family foundation that supports Richmond youth and families through public education grantmaking. As someone who has been committed to this community for over 13 years, I urge you to vote NO on agenda item K-2 and commit to working in partnership with the community on a solution that doesn't impact services to children and youth and increases revenue for the City.

We know that in these moments everyone needs to participate in making the necessary cuts to ensure all of our community members can thrive. However gutting a measure, without accurate data or authentic community engagement is not how a transparent and engaged democracy works. Leaders of the Kids First Coalition have been requesting to be at the table to identify solutions for the last few years. I strongly hope you will consider a truly meaningful and inclusive approach to implementing Measures E and K.

Thank you for your consideration.

Warmly,

Kathleen Maloney  
Executive Director  
Irene S. Scully Family Foundation  
100 Drake's Landing Road, Suite 105  
Greenbrae, CA 94904  
p.415.461.4451  
f.415.925.4334  
[www.irenescullyfoundation.org](http://www.irenescullyfoundation.org)



## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Ashton Hulse <hulseashton@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:41 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments - Agenda Item F (General Public Comment)

I am a Richmond resident in support of defunding the police department. I support following SF Gov London Breed's lead. I am in favor of replacing some of our police power with mental health/ addiction/ and homeless professional service.

I have witnessed first hand how our police handle responding to calls from or about people who are on drugs. While their response was not in any way negative, I do believe that with proper training and resources for the people who need them; our community will see real change in the way of improvement.

Thank you

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** dewanda joseph <dewanda1@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:34 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT on ITEM F -- OPEN FORUM

My Name is DeeWanda Joseph, formally with Ceasefire Richmond, presently with Ceasefire East & Central CoCo County.

I am a Mental Health Clinicial and Alcohol and Other Drugs Counselor, I am also the founder of Yaa- NEEMA Healing Circle in Richmond

I agree that the City of Richmond should be investing in services that will undergird our over used police department. Services that include Mental Health Responders in West County. Currently we don't have a service that operates in this area, which leaves citizens to call law enforcement who are ill equipped to handle mental health crisis. I've witnessed law enforcement on the scene of a mental health call which resulted in the person in crisis sustaining black eyes and swollwen jaw (she was only 5'0' about 90lbs) when three officers accosted her. Sad.

We currently don't have detox or AOD Treatment in the immediate area, which leaves a void our community for services which are greatly needed.

We created Yaa-NEEMA due to lack of service and response time and limited access to our community around gun related deaths. When monies are made available for these seVICES our law enforcement personnel will be freed to handle "crimes" that are more serious and that they have been trained to cover.

Thank you

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Lourdes Lozano <lourdez.lozano22@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 6:03 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments – Agenda Item F (General Public Comment)

Good evening, my name is Lourdez Lozano

I am a Richmond resident and proud Latina working on immigration issues in our community.

I am also a mother, grieving the loss of her 25 year old son due to the brutal and unnecessary force displayed by the Richmond Police Department.

My son was hurting. He was deeply depressed, not eating and not sleeping. Like any mother, I was devastated and very concerned about his mental well being, especially when he came home with a rifle and made threats to harm himself.

I reached out for help from many community resources and was turned away because my son wasn't a minor and needed to self-surrender for mental healthcare.

I went to the San Pablo police and they redirected me to RPD due to my residency. I went to the precinct for help and waited for 3 hours without ever receiving support.

Upon arriving home it became clear that my son was a danger to himself. I called 911 for support and was told to get to a safe place. The police arrived and I was blocked from entering my own home while armed officers entered and a helicopter circled above.

When I was allowed to re-enter my home, my beautiful baby was dead. I do not know how he died and there has been no investigation.

I blame the system and unfortunate circumstances and as a result I demand that we prioritize mental health care over our so called system of "community policing" here in Richmond.

We need a whole different system to de-escalate these urgent health care crises. We need to make mental health support accessible and responsive so people can get the support they need when they need it.

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Edith Pastrano <epastrano@calorganize.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:11 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM I-1 ACCE MEMBERS/RESIDENTS' COMMENTS

### WE ARE CALLING FOR :

- **Hard hiring freeze** meaning, absolutely no new hires.
- **Cuts from the top.** If there are going to be cuts made to salaries, the highest paid staff should take the biggest percentage decrease, while salaries of the lowest-paid staff should not be touched. The pay and overtime for the 200 highest-paid Richmond city employees (without benefits and pensions) adds up to \$40 million of the city's budget. Every 1% decrease in pay for the top 200 employees would raise \$400,000 toward closing the deficit.
- **Protect funding for libraries and services.** Instead of investing more in police, we should invest in services such as libraries, recreation, code enforcement, health services, and homeless programs.
- **We are calling for** a 20% reduction of the Richmond Police Department's budget for next year
- **An immediate moratorium** on future spending for RPD. This includes capping spending for equipment, capital improvements, and overtime.
- **Create and fund a committee** that includes community experts to develop an implementation plan to transition services out of RPD and into a restorative and comprehensive community safety program.

**Ana Gonzalez**, Richmond tenant resident. I live on 11th St. and I'm also a tenant's rights advocate and parent leader and volunteer at Peres Elementary and member of the community group ACCE (Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment) If there is anything we can all agree on is that we all want safer streets, and deserve better libraries and parks. It's important to keep a robust budget for these departments to thrive and for our children to grow. Instead of investing more in police, we should invest in services such as libraries, recreation, code enforcement, health services, and homeless programs. Please do not cut funding to libraries, parks and recreation, code enforcement and traffic safety departments.

**Blanca Retano**, I live at 2001 Gaynor Ave in Richmond. Many of you might know this infamous apartment building for its frightening amounts of code violations. I have had to deal with numerous infestations of rats, cockroaches and most recently bed bugs. Not too long ago I had to call code enforcement on a Saturday morning when I had my mom and dad visit from Mexico who I haven't seen in many years. After trying to get a hold of the manager with no luck, I informed code enforcement and let them know that there was water seeping through the ceiling down the walls like a waterfall feature in my bathroom. I was scared it would cause a short in the electrical. I forgot the man's name but he helped me get a hold of the landlord and in 15 minutes he showed up at my door and got to work quickly. I don't know how the city would function with an understaffed code enforcement unit which already is stretched thin. I am also a mother of 3 kids and I am concerned that the city is thinking of slashing funds for the library. My kids and other folks in the community need a library. It's part of what makes a community and where many gather to have local meetings. Not to mention the need for local functioning and safe parks and recreation. We need to make sure the funds for these departments are not

always getting the short end of the stick. Our communities need the services. Please consider looking elsewhere to balance the city budget because this is not the way. Doing so is not even going to put a dent in the deficit. City council and staff need to figure out how to bring in revenue to the city services. Don't take away what we barely have.

**Gaby Mercado** Hello members of the council. I don't agree with the idea of cutting the budget for libraries, parks and recreation, code enforcement and traffic safety if there are other means of revenue to close the budget gap, please find out what they are. These are vital public services that we depend on. I care about Libraries and parks and recreation because I have a daughter who is 7 yrs old and is very active and academically driven. We need you all to show that we care about our community with intent by not touching a single penny from these departments. We need to preserve these now more than ever. My daughter and I would like to still have safe parks to go for walks in this time of COVID-19. There is nothing more sad than knowing that our representatives are okay with taking away many services that we need. It's really uncalled for and disgusting. I expect more from you because you make things happen for us and we rely on the decision making that you all take. **Please consider our demands.**

**Sara Rodriguez**, I am a member of ACCE a tenant. I would like to side with my comrades about the concern for the city budget. I think things are tight in this economy and especially during these times where there is even more pressure on all of us financially. I don't think that cutting city services is a good idea especially because we are talking about essential work in the city and not to mention the staff workers. What will happen to them? The city should be doing everything possible to maintain it's staff employed now more than ever. I'd like to add that I usually take a walk at the park by Kennedy, I live on Taft Ave. and I would like to see that our parks are unkempt because I know people like to visit the parks there. It would be a shame if this council decided on taking these types of measures when other options exist.

**Cristina Lorenzana**, I am a tenant, I live on Barrett Ave. and I have been an ACCE member of the local Richmond chapter for a little over 4 years. In that time I have been getting more and more involved in my city politics. So I come before this board today because I am concerned about the potential budget cuts that are underway. Parks and Recreation as well as our libraries are an important part of maintaining a vibrant community. Code enforcement is another essential service that must stay! Who is going to make sure everything is up to code in our city? This proposal is not thought out very well.

**Juan Lozano**- Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts. I am a Richmond resident and member of Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment. I disagree with the city's plan to slash funds from very important departments city wide. First of all, Code Enforcement is too much of an essential department to be messed with. Our city libraries need more funding not less. We demand the following as measure to balance the budget in favor of the community that you serve that would bring in the highest value for the Richmond community.

**Angela Flores**, I am writing to you today because I have heard some concerning news that has to do with budget cuts to some very important services that our community relies on. I have three kids. They like to read and I am always making sure that they are always expanding their opportunities inside and outside of their schooling. I don't like the idea that services like Code Enforcement, Parks and Recreation as well as Libraries are being forced to take a cut. This has almost become a routine and I believe it's because there is a lack of revenue to the city budget. Please do not take these services for granted because they are what keeps the city together. Thank you for your time and hope you'll consider the following approach to the city budget.

**Elizabeth Castro**, Richmond. I am an ACCE member and I live on Bissell Ave, and would like to express my concern for the city budget. I have 5 children now with my newborn. I want you all to know that my children

are avid volunteers for the city of Richmond events. Ever since they were little they have always liked to volunteer in anything that they liked. I have been more aware about what it means to stand up for what is right and definitely during this time. I ask that this body consider other options to fix our city budget. You can't possibly go to bed at night knowing that you are doing away with vital services that we all need. Probably do some fundraising to keep everything balanced throughout the year in the budget and not take away from seniors, workers, children and vulnerable people. Do the right thing. I have faith that you all want the best for my children and other children from our community and there is nothing that would be more devastating to know that our parks and traffic safety could possibly be defunded. My children love to clean up as volunteers and love to step up when the city has events, I know things are different because of COVID 19 but it's no excuse for taking funds away. We need these funds to be there when we go back to a routine that was once before COVID-19. Remember that you are putting jobs on the line. Please follow the recommendations that the community has put forth as suggestions to help balance the city budget.

**Martha Pastrano** Richmond tenant, I've lived on S. 30th St for over 15 years. But have been a Richmond resident for over 30 years. The conditions of our streets lack attention. Over the years of living on this street, the pavement has deteriorated and multiple pot holes now decorate our narrow streets. The back street on Hoffman is notorious for having debris and illegal dumping. We need a budget for code enforcement and traffic safety in order to maintain our streets safe. The city needs to find other sources of revenue to fill the gap in the budget. Cutting our services like code enforcement and traffic safety is not the way to do it. These resources need to stay in these departments to suit our community needs. Also, cutting library hours is not going to fill the gap, again, not only will it take away from our community, this will negatively affect our city workers by having unnecessary layoffs. Please find the following measures of budget balancing options before making your decisions.

**Hipolito Pastrano**, I am a Richmond resident for over 30 years, also a local ACCE member. I would like to start off by saying that I am not in favor of reducing the budget for services that are essential to the city. Code enforcement is already understaffed and our neighborhoods need upkeep. Traffic safety is very important as well as our libraries and parks and recreation. There are a number of ways to close up the deficit in the budget, pulling in resources through other measures should be considered but cutting budgets that are already underfunded is not the best way to fix this problem. Take every measure to protect these services, you all can do his by taking the following measures before taking important service away.

**Jose Murillo**. There are 5 people living in my family. I am very disappointed to know that the city is proposing to make cuts to services that we desperately need. We can't take any more deprivation. I work very hard to make sure that I am doing everything I can to take good care of my children and my wife. To learn that in this time when the city should be taking care of us and looking for our best interest is very disappointing. I am writing to express my concern around the budget cuts that are being considered for the fiscal year. The city should protect the vital services that we need in my community at all cost. I would like my kids to be able to go to the library and to enjoy the parks in Richmond. I know we are in a pandemic and there are grave decisions that need to be made in order to see a future but right now we must think about services that are sacred, that is; Code enforcement, traffic safety, and parks, especially right now. We need to take our kids for walks to relieve stress that the quarantine is causing many people. So I am calling on the City Council to do the following for balancing the City Budget to fix the deficit.

**Edith Pastrano**, community organizer with ACCE. As a lifetime Richmond resident, I have fond memories of going to the Richmond library and having such a wonderful experience there as a child, checking out books and finding a passion for learning new things. Over the years I have seen how our libraries, art programs, and other extracurricular activities constantly get shorthanded. It's heartbreaking because this tells me that our community resources are not a priority for the city when it comes to investing in it. As if that's not enough, the parks and recreation department as well as Code Enforcement are also under threat. I have had to personally reach out to parks and recreation to make sure someone came out to pick up a bunch of trash, needles,

tampons and shit, to make sure the area where kids play, is clean and safe. I have also made calls to code enforcement a number of times for friends and family because this is the unit whose job it is to make sure health and safety codes are not being violated and ensure that complaints get resolved. This is too much of an essential department that reducing staff or its budget actually seems like a legal issue. If the city can't handle the cases that we already have now, I can't even imagine what it will look like when Richmond's Code Enforcement Department can't even get the jobs done properly, or how this will reflect if other governing bodies have to step in to pick up the slack. Others have also made a really good point about keeping the employees employed which I will also agree with. In conclusion, I see no reason for these essential services to be tampered with, if anything, I suggest cutting the police department budget and for city staff to take a paycut, we all are taking punches. These are the budget balancing options that myself and members of the community are calling on you all to take if you want to close the deficit so bad.

**Veronica Medina Hernandez**, I am an ACCE member. I do not agree with this council to create budget cuts for our services. I have kids that look forward to going out and taking a walk at the park. We have never been more grateful to take joy in that until this quarantine. I would like to have our libraries functioning so my kids can benefit from them. When I heard that other cuts could be made like to the traffic safety and city enforcement I was sad because we need to make sure that our streets and our buildings are being kept up and that they are safe. We make sure that everyone is keeping safe because we have to now. How can the city not take care of us and keep us well and safe? We all want the best for our families so please do everything to maintain our services running smooth, so follow our demands. Thank you.

**Briceida Guzmán**- I live on Coalinga ave. in Richmond and I am an ACCE member. I am not okay with any budget cuts to our libraries and vital city services that we depend on for the betterment and safety of our community. Please do whatever you can to avoid taking away from our kids, our seniors, our safety. Where there is a will there's a way and I implore you all find another way, there is always another way and I believe you all can and will do better. I have no doubt in my mind that this council can work to see if there is another way to fix discrepancies in the budget without having to slash essential services and firing city workers. I am calling on you to follow the previous measures recommended.

**Ezequiel Chum**, Richmond resident. I am an ACCE member. Thank you for your time. I would like for you all to know that I have been more aware about what it means to stand up for what is right and definitely during this time. I ask that this body consider other options to fix our city budget. No to budget cuts to our services. I call on you to do the following to figure a different way that will align with the communities best interest at hand.

**THANK YOU STAFF and Members of the Council.**

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Andrea Mullarkey <andrea.mullarkey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 6:39 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments - agenda item I-1

Good evening,

I am Andrea Mullarkey, a Richmond resident, an SEIU1021 member and a library worker. I ask you to please fully fund and fully staff the Richmond Public Library in this budget.

This is a time when our communities need more public service. We need educational supports and social supports and a safe, welcoming haven from the systemic violence and inequality of our world. We need a community place to bring our inquiry and our weariness and our loneliness and our thirst for knowledge that can lead to action. In short, we need libraries. And I do not just mean we need library buildings and shelves with books on them. No, we also need the library workers who are part of the communities they serve, who know the patrons, understand the collections, and are driven by a passion for service and learning and growth, both individual and collective.

As you deliberate on how to close the budget gap, consider dipping into the reserves. Economic conditions like these are exactly the reason we have reserves. But I urge you not to cut staff, neither full nor part-time, and not in any classification. Workers make city services more than buildings and things; they enliven them so they become part of the lives and development of residents.

Thank you.



## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Angelica Delgado <angelicalilydelgado@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 6:38 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Item F - Open Forum

Dear Mayor and City Council,

My name is Angelica Delgado and I am a third/fourth generation Richmond resident. As someone whose roots in Richmond trace back to the late 1960's, I know first-hand the many ways policing and systemic racism impacts the physical health and mental wellbeing of my community. However, my knowledge around this issue does not only come from personal experience.

During my time as an undergraduate student at Santa Clara University, I conducted research and wrote a paper on police brutality and its impacts on Black and Brown lives and communities. I received a university award for that paper and it was published online, currently holding over 17,800 downloads since June 2016, making it the number four research paper being read internationally. A link to the paper can be found here: [https://scholarcommons.scu.edu/meier\\_award/1/](https://scholarcommons.scu.edu/meier_award/1/)

Richmond has been spending extraordinary amounts on policing, but has not yet seen improvements around safety, education, home ownership, employment, mental health, and true engagement of youth/resident leaders in upstream policy and funding decision-making processes. It is imperative that we take action and create an alternative budget that meaningfully restricts Richmond Police Department funds, and reallocates those funds towards investing in social services, community-based preventative programs, and trauma-informed responses to emergencies, which have been shown to be much more effective at promoting safety and social equity than policing and incarceration. We need a budget that prioritizes and places focus on racial and health equity.

In order to to begin that process, I urge that you implement the following:

- A 20% reduction of the Richmond Police Department's budget for next year.
- A moratorium on future spending for the Richmond Police Department. This includes capping spending for equipment, capital improvements, and overtime.
- The creation of a committee that includes community experts to develop a transformative justice plan to transition services out of the Richmond Police Department and into a restorative and comprehensive community safety program.

Change begins with policy and funding. I hope that you embody the courage, pride, and purpose of this community, and choose to dismantle racial inequities in Richmond by adopting and implementing the items stated above.

Thank you,  
Angelica Delgado, MPH

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** claudia jimenez <jimenez.claudia78@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 6:33 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments Agenda item I-1

Hello City Clerk,

I would like the following message to be read for public comments. Thank you

Public comments Budget I-1

Good evening city council members and mayor, my name is Claudia Jimenez, a Richmond resident. Today, city council members have another opportunity to vote your values. All over the country, thousands of people are protesting and demanding that leaders move funds from a punishment system to a restorative system.

Here in Richmond hundreds of youth marched to demand that city leaders reinvest in services that actually make people safe. Safety for many communities does not mean more police in the streets or more police responding to mental health emergencies or homelessness.

Safety means that those communities most impacted by criminalization get the resources needed to excel. Safety means that libraries are kept open and recreational activities expand so that the city can provide safe places for our youth and children.

We urge city council members to consider the hard hiring freeze proposal in order to preserve existing jobs and in order to preserve services cuts should be from the top highest paid staff and from the police.

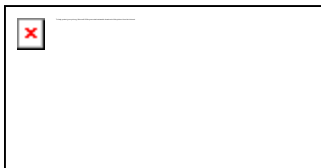
I want to thank city council member Melvin Willis who two years ago proposed the idea of investing in youth programs over police. This is the kind of leadership this city needs.

Again tonight you have an opportunity to show us, the community you represent, if you are with us or not. You will show us by voting to re-direct funds from a system that it is not providing public safety equal to all residents and vote to preserve valuable services like libraries and recreational programs.

Thank you

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



## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Dave Severy <davidsevery@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 6:35 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Agenda Item I-1 Public Comment

*Good Evening Councilmembers,*

*My name is Dave Severy and I am writing to demand protection for the Richmond Public Libraries. It is appalling that the City Council is considering cuts to already underfunded but vital community resources while increasing police salaries amid an already extensively funded police budget. The average salary per FTE in the police department is twice that of library employees. Budget cuts and layoffs will only exacerbate the financial struggle of our community. At this moment in our country, it is more clear than ever, that we need to enhance public services that lift up and educate our communities.*

*The Richmond libraries provide my three year old daughter with resources that are essential to her education and development. Taking away the opportunity for her to explore new reading material and participate in story times in the name of fiscal austerity sets a dangerous precedent for our city.*

*We need to be investing in our community in these spaces, not reducing staff and services. If we defund the services that people of color depend on and disproportionately fund police services, what does that say about the priorities of our community?*

*Now more than ever, budgets should be seen as moral documents. I urge you as leaders to uphold the values of our city by supporting an increase in library funding.*

*Thank You,  
Dave Severy  
510-457-1479*

**Sabrina Lundy**

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**From:** Dulce Galicia <galiciadulce6@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 6:00 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments - Agenda Item F General Public Comment

## **My name is Dulce Galicia and I am a committed Richmond community member.**

Tonight I write to speak out in opposition to item K-2 and K-3.

The cost of policing is exacted first and foremost in the damage to Black lives—and second in an enormous drain on public resources. Every dollar spent on police is a dollar not spent on schools and city services. Richmond police department receives 41% of the City's budget and those are funds that can best be invested in critical community needs.

I am asking that you budget for a 20% reduction of the Richmond Police Department's budget for next year. In addition, capping spending on equipment, and capital improvements.

We need to prioritize funding health, housing, schools, jobs, families and futures!

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**Dulce Galicia, MPP**  
510.932.6031

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Ngonidzashe Kundidzora <dzashekundidzora@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 6:27 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments – Agenda Item F (General Public Comment)

Hello, my name is Dzashe Kundidzora. I am a Richmond resident and a psychologist. Today, I am calling on you to take bold action to reimagine public safety. For the past few weeks our council has debated how to balance the 2020-2021 budget. This has happened amidst the backdrop of national and local calls to defund the police. Today, I am urging the council to turn that vision into reality, by instituting the following:

1. Approve a motion to reduce the Richmond Police Department budget by 20%
2. Place a moratorium on future spending for the Richmond Police Department which includes capping spending for equipment, capital improvements, and overtime spending.
3. Create and fund an ad hoc committee composed of community leaders and key stakeholders to develop a plan to transition critical services and functions outside of the scope of the police department to a transformative justice, restorative and comprehensive community safety program.

We are in a moment where critical services like the library and school funding are being threatened. The City is considering repealing and reducing tenant protections and youth programs. Yet our city has the 40th largest police budget in California. This year alone, the police budget made up over 40% of the city's general fund, totaling over 71 million dollars.

Our solution is simple. Take the funds out of the Police Budget and create alternative systems to respond to: mental health, drug addiction, homelessness, blight, code enforcement, and more.

When we talk about defunding the police we mean reinvesting directly in our communities health and well-being.

Thank you  
Dzashe Kundidzora

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Eddy Chacon <exchacon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:23 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Item F - Open Forum -

Hi,

My name is Eddy Chacon, i am a Richmond community member. I would like to demand 20% reduction of the Richmond Police Department's budget for next year

Next, i would like to demand a moratorium on future spending for RPD. This includes capping spending for equipment, capital improvements, and overtime.

Also in demand, the creation of a committee that includes community experts to develop a transformative justice plan to transition services out of Richmond's Police Department and into restorative and comprehensive community safety program.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Eddy Chacon

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Edmund Steen <edmund.steen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:05 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Item F - Open Forum

Hello,

I am reaching out regarding the following: Public Comment on Item F - Open Forum

I am demanding the following:

1. A 20% reduction of the Richmond Police Department's budget for next year.
2. A moratorium on future spending for RPD. This includes capping spending for equipment, capital improvements, and overtime.
3. The creation of a committee that includes community experts to develop the transformative justice plan to transition services out of RPD and into a restorative and comprehensive community safety program.

Best Regards,  
Edmund Steen

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Eli Moore <moore.eli@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 6:39 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments – Agenda Item F (General Public Comment)

Dear Council and Mayor,

I don't think it makes sense to send men and women with guns trained as police to respond to mental health crises, to noise complaints, disputes between neighbors, and other situations where people need help, but don't need policing. Too often, these situations escalate and someone loses their life or ends up with a criminal record or worse. We can do better. We won't have real safety and equity until we do.

We have to recognize that the build up of policing and imprisonment was a political project. As Richard Nixon's aid later admitted, "We knew we couldn't make it illegal to be either against the war or black people, but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin. And then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities"

Creating a scapegoat and disrupting communities was the goal. Then over the last four decades, billions of dollars went into policing and prisons in Black communities and other low income communities of color.

As white people, we were told this would make us safer. But we were usually offered a different system - one with assumptions of innocence, second chances, and opportunities to make things right without having our future or our life taken.

It is way past time to make things right. Thankfully, we may be in a historic moment. We may be in the moment when the devastating social experiment of mass incarceration and over policing is finally dismissed.

Middle class and wealthy communities are safe not because they have a ton of police. They don't. They are safe because people have what they need. Because there is steady investment in physical and mental health, education, stable housing, arts and culture, and more.

The nation is waking up, and the city council has the opportunity to show it is too. Please remove resources from the police budget and invest them in mental health, youth programs, non-law enforcement emergency response, and support to the Black community.

Thank you  
Eli Moore  
Richmoned resident



## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Al M <alix.mazuet@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 6:34 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM I-1 Budget

Dear City Council,

My name is Alix Mazuet. I am a Richmond resident and property owner.

Now is the time to reimagine public safety.

For the past few weeks our council has debated how to balance the 2020-2021 budget. This has happened amidst the backdrop of national and local calls to **defund the police**. Today, I am urging the council to turn that vision into reality, by instituting the following:

1. Approve a motion to reduce the Richmond Police Department budget by 20%
2. Place a moratorium on future spending for the Richmond Police Department which includes capping spending for equipment, capital improvements, and overtime spending.
3. Create and fund an ad hoc committee composed of community leaders and key stakeholders to develop a plan to transition critical services and functions outside of the scope of the police department to a transformative justice, restorative and comprehensive community safety program.
4. Ensure that there is accountability: Richmond Police Department must be held accountable for the actions AND their spending.

**We are in a moment where critical services (our public schools, libraries, youth programs, parks and recreations, housing) are being threatened. Yet our city has the 40th largest police budget in California. This year alone, the police budget made up over 40% of the city's general fund, totaling over 71 million dollars.**

Our solution is simple. Take the funds out of the Police Budget and strengthen or create alternative programs and systems to respond to: housing that people can afford, homelessness, blight, code enforcement, accountability, technological upgrades.

When we talk about defunding the police, I do not mean defunding for the sake of defunding. I mean that we need to allocate the money where it is truly needed, where it makes sense, where it will truly make a difference in public safety: money lost in police spending is a total loss; investing directly in our communities health and well-being will increase public safety,

Cordially,

Alix Mazuet

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Shoji . <jeffshoji@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 6:33 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments – Agenda Item F (General Public Comment)

The City budget is a moral document. It serves to create the Richmond that reflects our values.

Even before our fiscal crisis, the insane amount of money we committed towards policing came at the cost of providing real human services that actually match the needs of our community. If you can't imagine a Richmond without police, how can you continue to be ok with the reality of disinvestment and lack of services that created this situation.

As councilmembers, you've heard over and over from all sorts of youth, entrepreneurs, employers, and community activists and leaders: we need services, resources and respect.

Nobody is saying we can solve all our problems by sending unarmed social workers at every problem. We are saying most problems cannot be solved with a badge and a gun.

If you can believe that Richmond has gotten better in the past decade, I hope you can believe that the majority of that improvement happened outside of the police station. I am asking you to do the following:

1. Approve a motion to reduce the Richmond Police Department budget by 20%
2. Place a moratorium on future spending for the Richmond Police Department which includes capping spending for equipment, capital improvements, and overtime spending.
3. Create and fund an ad hoc committee composed of community leaders and key stakeholders to develop a plan to transition critical services and functions outside of the scope of the police department to a transformative justice, restorative and comprehensive community safety program.

It's time to acknowledge that the progress RPD has made has not prevented them from using excessive force, creating costly lawsuits, and harming the credibility of civil society. Our solution is simple. Take the funds out of the Police Budget and create alternative systems to respond to: mental health, homelessness, blight, code enforcement, and more.

Jeff Shoji  
Richmond Resident

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Joanna Pulido <joanna@yesfamilies.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:42 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Item F - open forum

I am demanding the following

1. a 20% reduction of the Richmond Police Department's budget for next year.
2. A moratorium on future spending for RPD. This includes capping spending for equipment , capital improvements, and overtime.
3. The creation of a committee that includes community experts to develop a transformative justice plan to transition services out of RPD and into a restorative and comprehensive community safety plan.

--

Joanna Pulido  
Youth Engagement Specialist  
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers



[\(510\)232-3032](tel:5102323032) office  
[\(510\)232-3011](tel:5102323011) fax  
[\(510\)255-1533](tel:5102551533) cell  
3029 MacDonald Avenue  
Richmond CA 94804  
[joanna@yesfamilies.org](mailto:joanna@yesfamilies.org)

To support our local and global community wellbeing, YES has closed our office and cancelled or postponed all programming through June, or until further notice.

YES staff are working from home during this office closure, and we welcome you to be in touch. Please see [www.yesfamilies.org/staff-board](http://www.yesfamilies.org/staff-board) for contact information for all staff.

I wish you and yours health and safety during this time.  
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To support our local and global community wellbeing, YES has closed our office and cancelled or postponed all programming from March 16 – May 3, or until further notice.

If you would like to enroll a young person for summer camp, please visit [www.yesfamilies.org/summer-camp](http://www.yesfamilies.org/summer-camp).

YES staff are working from home during this office closure, and we welcome you to be in touch. Please see [www.yesfamilies.org/staff-board](http://www.yesfamilies.org/staff-board) for contact information for all staff.

We wish you and yours health and safety during this time.

Para apoyar el bienestar de nuestra comunidad local y global, YES ha cerrado nuestra oficina y cancelado o pospuesto toda la programación entre el 16 de marzo hasta el 3 de mayo, o hasta nuevo aviso.

Si desea inscribir a un niño/a o joven al campamento de verano, visite [www.yesfamilies.org/summer-camp](http://www.yesfamilies.org/summer-camp).

El personal de YES está trabajando desde casa durante este tiempo, y le invitamos a estar en contacto.  
Consulte [www.yesfamilies.org/staff-board](http://www.yesfamilies.org/staff-board)  
para obtener la información de contacto de todo el personal.  
Les deseamos a usted y a los suyos salud y seguridad durante este tiempo.

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** John Brown <johnbrown0059@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 6:55 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comment. Item-I-1

City Council Members and Mayor,

Like i said on my last comment at the last meeting, this budget problem can be solved if you cut some of the police budget. I'm not saying you should cut it all or make a huge cut. But 70 million dollar budget when the police are bullies with guns is too much. I just read in the news and watched a video of the cops beating up and tasing black people for smoking weed. Is this what we are paying them for? We have murders and violent crimes in Richmond and yet here are these cops beating people up for smoking weed. And on top of that the people who were beat up and tased are suing Richmond. We don't have the money for that. You are giving these people 70 million dollars and they are costing you more than 70 million dollars. Please reduce their budget.

John Brown

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Laura Thomas <laurakthomas@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 6:37 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments Agenda Item I-1

Good evening, my name is Laura Thomas, a Richmond resident who has been unemployed since 2019.

In that time we have collected help from what might be considered "government bail out programs" such as Medicaid, Unemployment Insurance, SNAP benefits (food stamps), free lunches from Caliber: Beta Academy, Paid Family Leave insurance for the months I spent rearranging our lives to help my grandma pass from this world to the next one, all amidst trying to survive and stay mentally sane during a global pandemic where I was sheltering in place with people whom I love dearly, my husband and two kids!

What was missing in this time was easy access to tools that help keep me sane, such as accessing food or household supplies in an easy, affordable or timely manner and without risk to my health due to coronavirus. I have also been missing in person access to my extended family, friends and the community I rely on to keep me sane in the "easiest of times" which I think we can all agree these haven't been, despite our very real privilege! I haven't had access to my favorite hiking trails so my health and exercise routine has taken a big hit at a time where our new hobbies include baking, eek!! My reflection and my 42+ year old joints are definitely letting me know things are a wee bit out of balance.

Happily, I was able to pivot and adapt quickly as everyone in my Bay Area bubble has learned how to do, if they didn't already know how!

I have had so much support from a loving community that have supported me and my family through this very hard time while asking for little or nothing in return and for that I'm grateful.

My privilege is real. AND my life has been incredibly hard over the last several years. Still, my whiteness is not the reason for my struggles. My mental health, my gender, my socio-economic standing, my weight, my age, my family of origin and my experiences...those and more have played a huge part, NOT my whiteness.

My resourcefulness and survival skills come at a high personal cost to myself and my family even as we have weathered this latest storm on a fairly safe ship.

My husband starts a new job next week, essentially saving our life as we currently know it. We won't have to sell our house or move across the country. Our kids never went without anything they truly NEEDED (food, shelter, clothing, etc.) and I believe they are stronger and more resilient for having to endure this.

Our life won't ever look the same, but it will also go on without any real, longterm trauma or loss (as things stand now). Sadly, that's not the case for so many BIPOC.

That is why I am asking that Richmond fund mental health, public libraries and other community services and defund the police.

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[Help Save Richmond Public Libraries](#)

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Lucero Vera <lucerovera0720@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:40 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Item F - Open Forum

We are asking you to Defund the Police to Balance the Budget & Reimagine Safety

1. 20% reduction of the Richmond Police Department's budget for next year
2. A moratorium on future spending for RPD. This includes capping spending for equipment, capital improvements, and overtime.
3. The creation of a committee that includes community experts to develop a transformative justice plan to transition services out of Richmond's Police Department and into restorative and comprehensive community safety program.

Thank you,

Lucero Vera & Lisette Vera



## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Lucielle Riley <llooster@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 6:05 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comment On Item F

City Council Members Of Richmond,

I would like to see the police department protect and serve tax payers like me, who need peace officers in our neighborhoods to keep the peace. I do not want my county real estate tax dollars used to fund police brutality of mentally ill community members. We need psychiatric professionals, trained in de escalation to perform those duties. I do not wish to see my my city tax tax dollars used to fund police harassment of my black neighbors who are exercising their first amendment rights to speak out against four and a half centuries of state sponsored terrorism at the hands of the historical lineage of plantation owner slave patrols. I do not want my state tax dollars funding military style police equipment in my streets. Furthermore, I demand that my city budget fund community services with proven track records to improve the lives of the least fortunate amongst our community.

Specifically, I want to see:

- 1) A 20% reduction in the RPD budget for this fiscal year.
- 2) A moratorium on future spending for RPD. This included a cap on spending for capital improvements, overtime, and equipment.
- 3) The creation of a committee that includes community experts to develop a transformative justice plan to transition services out of RPD and into a restorative and comprehensive community safety program.

Let's Get It Right In Richmond!

Lucielle Riley  
3107 Fiesta Court  
Richmond CA 94803

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Luis Chacon <lfchacon7@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:27 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Item F - Open Forum

Thank you for your time.

I'm reaching out today to ask that you seriously consider the opportunity that stands before us. As human beings we have an opportunity to truly shift our approach to ensuring the safety, dignity, and humanity of people in Richmond-- in particular Black people in Richmond.

I stand in complete agreement with the demand for:

- 20% reduction of the Richmond Police Department's budget for next year
- A moratorium on future spending for RPD. This includes capping spending for equipment, capital improvements, and overtime.
- The creation of a committee that includes community experts to develop a transformative justice plan to transition services out of Richmond's Police Department and into restorative and comprehensive community safety program.

I understand RPD's concern around jobs and completely appreciate their concern about public safety being impacted. I hope they can appreciate that defunding RPD would open other public sector positions that they can fulfill should their positions be eliminated. Those new positions will allow them to continue their mission of protecting and serving the people of Richmond, with less personal physical risk for all.

Thank you,

Luis

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Luis Pacheco <luispacheco.ucb@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:49 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Cc:** Tom Butt - external; Ben Choi; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Melvin Willis  
**Subject:** Public Comments – Agenda Item F (General Public Comment)

Hi, my name is Luis Pacheco and I am a Richmond resident. Today, I am calling on you to take bold action to reimagine public safety. For the past few weeks our council has debated how to balance the 2020-2021 budget. This has happened amidst the backdrop of national and local calls to defund the police. Today, I am urging the council to turn that vision into reality, by instituting the following:

1. Approve a motion to reduce the Richmond Police Department budget by 20%
2. Place an immediate moratorium on additional spending for the Richmond Police Department which includes capping spending for equipment, capital improvements, and overtime spending.
3. Create and fund an ad hoc committee composed of community leaders and key stakeholders to develop a plan to transition critical services and functions outside of the scope of the police department to a transformative justice, restorative and comprehensive community safety program.

We are in a moment where critical services like Richmond Kids First and Tent Control are being threatened. The City is considering repealing and reducing tenant protections and youth programs. Yet our city has the 40th largest police budget in California. This year alone, the police budget made up over 40% of the city's general fund, totaling over 71 million dollars.

Our solution is simple. Take the funds out of the Police Budget and create alternative systems to respond to: mental health, homelessness, blight, code enforcement, and more.

When we talk about defunding the police we mean reinvesting directly in our communities health and well-being.

Sent from my iPhone

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Marisol Lara <marisoljlara@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:31 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Item F

My name is Marisol Lara and I'm a resident of Richmond.

RPD has been a waste of our resources. Last year, the RPD budget was \$74,990,406, the majority of which comes from the Richmond general fund. While we've been spending extraordinary amounts on policing, we have not seen improvements to safety, homelessness, mental health, or affordability in our city. Instead, we see wasteful and harmful actions of our police. This isn't just happening in our city, this is happening in many cities across the country and we demand a change in our city for the sake of the future generations to come. I and many other Richmond residents demand:

1. A 20% reduction of the Richmond Police Department's budget for next year
2. A moratorium on future spending for RPD. This includes capping spending for equipment, capital improvements, and overtime
3. The creation of a committee that includes community experts to develop a transformative justice plan to transition services out of RPD, into a restorative and comprehensive community safety program.

I call on you to meaningfully restrict the RPD budget and instead use those extraordinary resources towards solving homelessness, which is felt most by our Black neighbors and veterans. Social programs and education generally have been shown to be much more effective at promoting safety and social equity than policing and incarceration.

We can be a beacon for other cities to follow if only we have the courage to change. We need these beneficial social service programs, not temporarily but consequently to help better the lives and futures of the people in Richmond.

Sincerely,

Marisol Lara

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** May Nguyen <maynguyen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:32 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Item F - Open Forum

Hello,

My name is May Nguyen and I am a Richmond resident and taxpayer of District 5 (Richmond Annex). I demand the following in regards to Richmond Police Department funding:

1. A 20% reduction of the Richmond Police Department budget for next year. NOT a \$1.5 million increase as is currently proposed.
2. A moratorium on future spending for RPD. This includes capping spending for equipment, capital improvements and overtime.
3. The creation of a committee that includes community experts to develop a transformative justice plan to transition services out of RPD and into a restorative and comprehensive community safety program.

Richmond should follow the lead of cities like Minneapolis and create space to consider how the abolition of the police would result in safer, healthier communities in our city.

Thank you,  
May Nguyen

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** M Parker <mparker@rts-tech.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 6:22 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** For Open Forum Item F 6/16/20

Mike Parker

Two years ago Councilmember Willis proposed taking 20% of the budget that now goes to the police and putting it to other and more effective ways of providing public safety. The mayor tried to use that to stir up fears among Richmond residents that it would leave them defenseless. The Mayor, for whom the Richmond Police Officers Association made more than \$32,000 in campaign contributions, wasn't any more interested in a serious discussion then than now.

Now the people are saying it is the past time for discussion. We need real action. We need to look at everything the city does through the lens of addressing the **causes** of poverty, crime, mental illness. We need to recognize that the police are an ineffective Band-Aid on a gaping wound in society and even part of the problem.

We can start today by reducing the Police budget by 20% so that we have the money tomorrow to immediately start programs that provide alternative ways of dealing with 911 calls for mental illness, neighbor problems, and traffic control. It's a budget -- the broad sweep of our overall plan for now—we can start filling in the details with actions over the next month.

Without action you are only pretending to be listening.

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Pam Stello <pamstello@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:45 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept; Eduardo Martinez; Melvin Willis; Ben Choi; demnlus johnson; Jael Myrick; Nat Bates  
**Subject:** Public Comments — Agenda Item F (General Public Comments)

Dear Members of the Council,

My name is Pam Stello and I am a Richmond resident. Today, I am calling on you to take bold action to reimagine public safety. For the past few weeks our Council has debated how to balance the 2020-2021 budget. This has happened amidst the backdrop of national and local calls to defund the police. Today, I am urging the council to turn that vision into reality, by instituting the following:

1. Approve a motion to reduce the Richmond Police Department budget by 20%
2. Place a moratorium on future spending for the Richmond Police Department which includes capping spending for equipment, capital improvements, and overtime spending.
3. Create and fund an ad hoc committee composed of community leaders and key stakeholders to develop a plan to transition critical services and functions outside of the scope of the police department to a transformative justice, restorative and comprehensive community safety program.

We are in a moment where critical services like libraries are being threatened. The City is considering repealing and reducing tenant protections and youth programs. Yet our city has the 40th largest police budget in California. This year alone, the police budget made up over 40% of the city's general fund, totaling over 71 million dollars.

Our solution is simple. Take the funds out of the Police Budget and create alternative systems to respond to: mental health, homelessness, blight, code enforcement, and more.

When we talk about defunding the police we mean reinvesting directly in our communities health and well-being.

Thank you for you support of this incredibly important opportunity to make a difference for the people and youth of Richmond and future generations.

Sincerely,

—Pam Stello  
Richmond Resident

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Randy Joseph <rfjoseph23@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:02 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments-Agenda Item F (General Public Comment)

Dear City Council Members and Mayor:

We, the undersigned, urge you today to take bold action to reimagine public safety and shift city resources toward restorative justice systems, mental health services, and support to the Black community in Richmond. For the past few weeks, our council has debated how to balance the 2020-2021 budget. This has happened amidst the backdrop of national and local calls to defund the police. Today, we are urging the council to turn that vision into reality, by instituting the following:

1. Approve a motion to reduce the Richmond Police Department budget by 20%
2. Place an immediate moratorium on additional spending for the Richmond Police Department which includes capping spending for equipment, capital improvements, and overtime spending.
3. Create and fund an ad hoc committee composed of community leaders and key stakeholders to develop a plan to transition critical services and functions outside of the scope of the police department to a transformative justice, restorative and comprehensive community safety program. This committee should include Black youth and adults affected by over-policing, have its own budget of \$50,000 for community engagement and technical assistance, have access to any city data it needs, and be tasked with returning to council with a plan in less than six months.

Like many other Black communities and communities of color, Richmond has been over-policed and under-protected. Our city over-uses police, having them respond to a wide range of situations that would be better served by another system. For instance, in the last year, Richmond police responded to 1,596 situations where someone made a 5150 call – a mental health crisis where someone could hurt themselves or someone else. This is an average of more than 4 of these calls per day. The police respond to calls about blight, noise complaints, drug overdoses, protests, loitering, a suspicious person, truancy, homelessness, public intoxication, attending public events and neighborhood council meetings, and others. We believe our community can come up with a better approach to responding to these situations, and it will make us safer.



## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Roman Grimsley <roman.infantry@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 7:18 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEM F - OPEN FORUM

1. A 20% reduction of the Richmond Police Department's budget for next year.
2. A moratorium on future spending for RPD. This includes capping spending for equipment, capital improvements, and overtime
3. The creation of a committee that includes community experts to develop a transformative justice plan to transition services out of RPD and into a restorative and comprehensive community safety program

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Rosalind Welch <rosalindwelch@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:23 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Item F - Open Forum

I am a life-long resident of Richmond, CA. Four generations of my family live in Richmond, CA. I would suggest:

1. BRING BACK THE ONS (Office of Neighborhood Safety), give it a REAL and sustainable budget. Let them work outside the parameters of Richmond Police. It's own separate entity and program.
2. A 20% reduction of the Richmond Police department budget for the next year, and place that money in education, programs i.e. "Summer Job" programs and Richmond Scholar program.
3. A moratorium on future RPD spending this includes no more funding militarized equipment, capping spending for equipment and especially OVERTIME.
4. Creation of a committee that includes community experts and Richmond "citizens of color" (especially Black citizens) to develop a transformative justice plan and a comprehensive community safety program.

I ask you to #reinvestinthepeople!

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Sarahi Gonzalez <sarahigonz55@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 6:25 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Item F

Hello,

As a resident in Richmond, living here for 20+ years I have noticed that there needs to be a lot of reform with the way our budget is managed. I am calling for the following:

- 1) 20% reduction of the Richmond Police Department's budget for next year
- 2) A moratorium on future spending for RPD. This includes capping spending for equipment, capital improvements, and overtime.
- 3) The creation of a committee that includes community experts to develop a transformative justice plan to transition services out of Richmond's Police Department and into a restorative and comprehensive community safety program.

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Selene Calderón <scalderon93@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:23 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comment- Agenda Item F (General Public Comment)

Good afternoon city council,

Thank you for your time and the work you do to support our community. I would like to comment and ask our city to:

- Reduce the Richmond Police Department's budget for next year by 20%
- Implement a moratorium on future spending for RPD. This includes capping spending for equipment, capital improvements, and overtime.
- The creation of a committee that includes and is led by community experts to develop a transformative justice plan to transition services out of RPD and into a restorative and comprehensive community safety program.

We must ensure that our police department increases and ensures community safety. Plus, ensure that citizens in this city receive the resources they need when there is an emergency. Deescalation should be at the forefront of any police intervention and we need to start asking what does this person truly need? The answer should not always be criminal charges or police. When resources are needed they don't always have to come from folks wearing police badges but rather from trained professionals focused on a person's well being and the well being of this entire city.

Thank you,

Selene Calderón

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Tania Pulido <pulido.tania@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:23 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments – Agenda Item F (General Public Comment)

Comment:

Good evening council,

My name is Tania Pulido, I am a long time Richmond resident and live in Belding Woods neighborhood. I stand in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement in Richmond and support the following demands we are collectively pushing: 1. A 20% reduction in the police budget, 2. A moratorium on future spending for the police, and 3. The creation of a community committee to develop a timeline and action plan to transition services out of the Richmond police. Our youth have spoken, and its time for us to listen and support the future we all deserve—a future where we are all treated with dignity and respect. The police consume 40% of our budget, but the majority of residents still don't feel safe. We need to invest in services we know work! Youth services, housing protections, public spaces, mental health, and restorative justice.

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Teresa Kearns <teresakearns419@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 7:00 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public comments-agendaitem #I-1"

Good evening council members and city staff, my name is Maria Teresa Kearns. I'm a mother volunteer with the West County Regional Group sponsored by First 5 Contra Costa and a mother of two young daughters.

Today I'm writing to you to request that you don't make any budget cuts to the libraries or recreation department. Those services are vital sources for our community. That's where our children receive tutoring, do homework, meet with friends and learn.

The children are the ones that benefit the most from the library but they're not the only ones. The library also offers other services for adults like, citizenship classes, printing services, resume help, voting registration etc. people print their resumes there to be able to go out to look for a job, they check their e-mails, print important documents and it also is just a calm and safe place where to sit down and just read a book.

Personally, I am a mother of an autistic child and I know she would be severely impacted if the library was to reduce its services. The library is a place where she can actually focus, before the pandemic we were constantly using the study rooms, tutoring, reading time, and other classes offered. Imagine how hard it would be for a child, especially an autistic child to be excited about getting their routine back once the shelter in place is over and then realize many of those "normal" things are gone. It would be heart-breaking and yet another trauma for them.

So please, DO NOT make any budget cuts to our libraries or recreation department. Where will children with no computers and no internet go for homework help if not their local community centers or libraries? Not everyone is privileged enough to have internet, a computer and a printer at home.

I ask you to please look for budget cuts somewhere else where our children will not be severely impacted.

Thank you!

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Veronica Galvez <endlessplaycenter@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:26 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Cc:** Tom Butt - external; Ben Choi; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Melvin Willis  
**Subject:** Public Comments – Agenda Item F (General Public Comment)

Hi, my name is Valerie Jameson and I am a Richmond resident. Today, I am calling on you to take bold action to reimagine public safety. For the past few weeks our council has debated how to balance the 2020-2021 budget. This has happened amidst the backdrop of national and local calls to defund the police. Today, I am urging the council to turn that vision into reality, by instituting the following:

1. Approve a motion to reduce the Richmond Police Department budget by 20%
2. Place an immediate moratorium on additional spending for the Richmond Police Department which includes capping spending for equipment, capital improvements, and overtime spending.
3. Create and fund an ad hoc committee composed of community leaders and experts to develop a plan to transition critical services and functions outside of the scope of the police department to a transformative, restorative and comprehensive community safety program.

We are in a moment where critical programs like the **Richmond Kids First Initiative and Rent Control** are being threatened. Yet our city has the 40th largest police budget in California and has been struggling to balance the city's budget for 3 consecutive weeks. This year alone, the police budget made up over 40% of the city's general fund, totaling over 71 million dollars.

Our solution is simple. Take the funds out of the Police Budget to help alleviate the burden on the critical services our communities need to thrive, and commit to creating alternative systems to respond to: mental health, homelessness, blight, code enforcement, and other functions that can exist outside of the police department.

When we talk about defunding the police we mean reinvesting directly in our communities health and well-being.

Thank you for your consideration!

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Veronica Galvez <prissval@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:43 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Cc:** Tom Butt - external; Ben Choi; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Melvin Willis  
**Subject:** Public Comments Agenda Item F (General Public Comment)

Hi, my name is Veronica Galvez and I am a Richmond resident. Today, I am calling on you to take bold action to reimagine public safety. For the past few weeks our council has debated how to balance the 2020-2021 budget. This has happened amidst the backdrop of national and local calls to defund the police. Today, I am urging the council to turn that vision into reality, by instituting the following:

1. Approve a motion to reduce the Richmond Police Department budget by 20%
2. Place an immediate moratorium on additional spending for the Richmond Police Department which includes capping spending for equipment, capital improvements, and overtime spending.
3. Create and fund an ad hoc committee composed of community leaders and key stakeholders to develop a plan to transition critical services and functions outside of the scope of the police department to a transformative justice, restorative and comprehensive community safety program.

We are in a moment where critical services like \_\_\_\_richmonds kids first and rent control\_\_\_\_\_ are being threatened. The City is considering repealing and reducing tenant protections and youth programs. Yet our city has the 40th largest police budget in California. This year alone, the police budget made up over 40% of the citys general fund, totaling over 71 million dollars.

Our solution is simple. Take the funds out of the Police Budget and create alternative systems to respond to: mental health, homelessness, blight, code enforcement, and more.

When we talk about defunding the police we mean reinvesting directly in our communities health and well-being.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)



## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Welch & Rochell Executive Services <wandr10395@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:42 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Item F

It's about time the City of Richmond took this seriously! This is what I want to see in my city:

1. A 25% reduction in the Richmond Police Department and place that money in education, programs like the Office of Neighborhood Safety and summer and afterschool job programs.
2. Make programs like ONS (Office of Neighborhood Safety) a priority, instead of a side-note. Seriously, this should be a much bigger program and a lot more funding!
3. Create a committee of community experts and Richmond citizens (especially African-American citizens) to develop a comprehensive community safety program.
4. Invest some of that budget money in solutions for homelessness, our citizen's mental health and more extra-curricular activities for our children.
5. No more militarized police. And no more overtime! A police officer **should not** be making \$300,000 in a year with overtime. For godsake, this is ridiculous!

Take that money and #reinvestinthepeople, #defundthepolice.

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Yenny Garcia <yenny181@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:48 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Open Forum Item F

I urge you to work with our community leaders.

Our solution is simple. Take the funds out of the Police Budget and create alternative systems to respond to: mental health, overdoses, homelessness, blight, and more. When we talk about defunding the police we mean reinvesting directly in our communities health and well-being.

The City Budget is the embodiment of our public values. With your decision this month on the budget, you will show us what your values are.

--

With Regards,

Yenny Garcia

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Sylvia Soule <sylviaesoule@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:22 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public comments – agenda item #J-1

Hello, I am writing to comment about the Richmond Rent program. I was helped very greatly by this service when my housemate recently tried to evict me without just cause. The person that I spoke to at the Rent program responded quickly to my email and gave me very helpful advice. I feel this service is imperative to prevent renters in Richmond from being taken advantage of. I hope the City Council will adopt the Rental housing fee to continue this service.

Sylvia Soule  
M.S. CCC-SLP

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Sara Cantor <secantor@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 9:57 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** public comment - item K-1

My name is Sara Cantor and I am a resident of Richmond. I am writing to oppose agenda item K-1. I want to start by saying that I have nothing against Brisa French - she seems like a very thoughtful person who cares about her community a lot.

I heard from a lot of the officers that they care about our city and enjoy supporting our residents. I support them in that. If they want to serve the city, there are so many options to do so. They can become an EMT. A nurse. A teacher. A librarian. Defunding the police and funding city services would cut their current position, but new opportunities to serve would open up. Why do they need a badge and a gun to serve? Do not fall for their rhetoric of loving the community - the community does not love them back, and we do not want them.

We, the people of Richmond, demand that you oppose all funding increases to the Richmond Police Department, and that includes an extension of the Police Chief's contract.

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Valerie Jameson <valjam92@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 7:34 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comment Opposing item K.1

Hello Council,

My name is Valerie Jameson, and I am writing a quick note to express my concern regarding this proposed expense and urge you to consider voting no on K.1. We are in a moment where countless community members are coming together and calling for a reimagination of public safety. This includes moving key functions out the police department and developing a transformative justice program to respond to emergencies. In order to initiate the process of rethinking the size and scope of police department programs and services, all future spending should be halted.

The creation of an ad hoc committee should be formed in partnership with community leaders and experts in restorative justice and they should be given an opportunity to present before the council and work with the city manager to initiate an implementation plan.

While the council has completed next steps to balance the budget, I believe it is critical that you refrain from long term spending for the police department until adequate attention has been given to the nuanced conversation of defunding the police to reinvest in other key social services and departments.

I urge you to vote no on K.1 and put a moratorium on all other requests for funding from the police department.

Thank You!

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Edith Pastrano <epastrano@calorganize.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:15 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT K-2 ACCE MEMBERS/RICHMOND RESIDENTS

**1. Vote NO on agenda Item K-2.**

- Capping Kids First *will not* support any immediate revenue relief, so why put this on the ballot now when our community is feeling most vulnerable.
- There is no revenue allocation written into Kids First until 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 is only 1%.
- Measures E & K was widely supported by Richmond voters (*Measures E passed with 76% support*)

**2. Authentically partner with community orgs and unions on progressive measures that bring in revenue and don't strip away critical supports from those most impacted by COVID-19.**

- This proposed ballot measure will be confusing to voters and will take away from the progressive and real revenue measures unions and community based organizations are focused on to ensure children, youth, families don't bear the biggest burden of the economic downturn.

**3. Transparent Data re: Measure H & current spending on children/youth budget and # of youth served.**

- The community has been requesting accurate data from the City regarding money spent on children and youth for the past ten years. To date we have only received inaccurate and overstated budgets with no data of youth served attached.

**4. Work with organizations and data in the next two years to make adjustments to Measure E&K, if needed.**

- We know that in these moments everyone needs to participate in making the necessary cuts to ensure all of our community members can thrive. However gutting a measure, without accurate data or authentic community engagement is not how a transparent and engaged democracy works.
- Leaders of the Kids First Coalition have been requesting to be at the table to identify solutions for the last few years. And many are helping to lead the new revenue measures.

**Cristina Lorenzana**

**Ina Mason**

**Virginia Ramirez**

**Emelia Bermúdez**

**Elizabeth Castro.** I am a Richmond resident, I live with my family and all my 5 kids and my husband. I make sure that my children are constantly bettering themselves to have a brighter future, two of my kids are involved with city planning and events, they love to volunteer and help out. E & K is supposed to bring in funding to more programs and services for youth and children in Richmond and we need to adhere to the whole purpose. There is no reason to cap the measure when it hasn't even had enough time to flourish results within the community. Thank you for your efforts.

**Blanca Retano.** I am a mother of 3 children and I always do whatever I can to get my kids into as many programs and extracurricular activities as possible. The funding from E & K is supposed to help fuel and start programs for our youth in the city of Richmond. As a mother, a parent leader in Chavez elementary school, I do my best to get involved in things that will better the development not only of my own kids but also other kids, and parents as well. I would request that E & K not be capped under any circumstances. Invest in youth, invest

in our community. Capping Kids First *will not* support any immediate revenue relief, so why put this on the ballot now when our community is feeling most vulnerable. Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Hipolito Pastrano** - am a Richmond resident and a local member of ACCE (Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment). I am not in favor of capping funding from E & K. The city's finances can be fortified through other means of revenue. Capping funds from E&K will set back the full potential of and intention behind the measure. We need to continue fueling more children's programs and not limit them.

**Martha Pastrano**- Richmond resident and I want to express that we need youth programs for children and youth in Richmond. We need to come together as a community to pass revenue measures that help shore up our city's finances, not cap measures E and K. I used to work for the after school program at Stege elementary where all my three children attended. I was blessed to build relationships with my children's friends and parents. In my group, I taught knitting and crochet. Other parents taught arts and crafts. I saw many of these students grow up to be really respectful adolescents. We need to invest in our youth and give them opportunities to expand their knowledge and wisdom, they are our future nurses, doctors, public officials and leaders. Let's show our children that they deserve to be invested in. Please don't back track all the efforts toward that goal by capping E and K. Thank you for investing in our future.

**Ana Gonzalez**, Richmond resident ACCE member and parent leader at Peres Elementary School. I have 2 children that attend there and 1 grand daughter that attends there as well. My eldest son is 17 attending Richmond High. Being a very active leader in the community and in my children's lives, access to resources and programs for youth is very important to me. My son's teacher and other parents at school really pushed for E & K because we need more revenue to fund programs for youth and children in order to expand their opportunities and prepare them for challenges to come in their life. We need to cultivate our children's interest and curiosity, and water the seeds to allow their full growth. The best opportunity we have is when they are young, the earlier in their life we invest the better. Do not cap revenues from E & K, that's like putting restraints on their little branches and limiting their growth. Let's give our kids the opportunities we never had.

**Angela Flores**, I am a Richmond tenant, I have 3 children and I take care of my neighbors children. I wish there were more programs and more funding for the programs that do exist. My daughter is taking classes at East Bay Center For Performing Arts. She loves dance, music classes and is really missing her friends right now. Measures like E and K are supposed to plump up these programs and create more opportunity for kids like mine and like others in the Richmond community. There is no revenue allocation written into Kids First until 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 is only 1%. Placing the item on the consent calendar prevents the public, who widely supported Measures E & K, from speaking on the item which passed with 76% support in favor. Give this measure the chance to fulfill its merits. Don't cap this fund especially if people who put it on the ballot haven't had a say in it.

**Jose Murillo** and I am a member of the community group ACCE in the Richmond chapter. I have a family and I am doing the best that I can in these times I am not making ends meet. I won't deny that but I am doing the best that I can. I want the best for children as much as I am sure you all want the best for your children too. Measures E and K were supposed to bring revenue for youth services from the uncontrollable purchases and sales of extremely unaffordable housing that is displacing people like me and my family. If there were issues with the transfer tax, it should have been discussed before. We need these funds to help our youth thrive in the city of Richmond. Please vote no to capping the revenue from E and K. Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Jose Murillo

**Briceida Guzman**. I live in Richmond, I'm an ACCE member (Alliance Of Californians For Community

Empowerment) and I'm writing to say that This proposed ballot measure will be confusing to voters and it's going to take away the possibility of having really well funded services and programs. Why not work with the groups and allies that put this on to figure out if there are changes that need to be made? A large percentage of people in Richmond voted for this because people want this for our kids. You can't make decisions about work that you haven't done. Don't put a cap on Richmond's future. Thank you for the consideration, Briceida G.

**THANK YOU CITY STAFF!!**

**- ACCE Members**



## Sabrina Lundy

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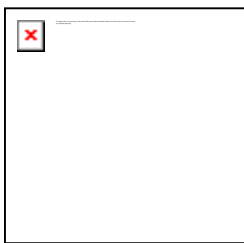
**From:** David Scott <david@rysecenter.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 9:01 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public Comments - Agenda Item K-2

Mayor and city council,

My name is David Scott and I'm an adult ally who serves youth victims of violence in Richmond. We are watching impossibly well resourced police departments across the country commit violent act after violent act upon citizens who have suffered months of economic losses alongside other deep indignities of this political moment. I am urging you to vote NO on K-2 not only to reaffirm your commitment to the young people of this city, but also as a stark rejection of the looting of public services - the politics as usual of the past thirty years - that has lead us directly to this moment.

Nearly all major and minor fiduciary crises resolve according to the same playbook - cut public schools, cut community programs, cut the resources that affirm the worthiness, the dignity, the goodness, and the potential of a city's given constituency. It is clear that something different must be done. Measure E&K was a moment where YOUR constituency stood up and FAITHFULLY participated in the civic process, believing their elected representation would honor the fragile hope we have for something better for our kids. Your actions to cap Kids First will be a resounding abuse of that faith; what's more, no matter what you espouse publicly, it places you firmly in alliance with the economic and political imagination of the very same forces that leave our youth dead outside their mother's and father's doors.

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**\* Please note, RYSE will be working remotely until further notice, visit our website for a list of virtual programming and resources \***

**David Scott**

Trauma Response Specialist

**pronouns:** he/him

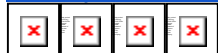
**p:** [510.374.3401](tel:510.374.3401)

**c:** 916.917.0813

[205 41st Street](https://www.rysecenter.org)

[Richmond, CA 94805](https://www.rysecenter.org)

[www.rysecenter.org](https://www.rysecenter.org)



Send us a donation! [www.rysecenter.org/donate](https://www.rysecenter.org/donate)

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Valerie Jameson <valjam92@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 6:58 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Public comment in opposition of K.2

Good evening,

My name is Valerie Jameson, I am a Richmond resident urging you to vote NO on K.2.

As a WCCUSD alumnae, current WCCUSD parent, and community advocate, I am disheartened to learn that our city is considering putting forward an amendment on the November ballot that undermines the will of the voters to have a dedicated funding allocation that explicitly serves our communities children and youth. Hundreds of youth, young adults, residents and allies worked tirelessly for years to push for local funding decisions that align with the public's will and our communities values. The passage of K.2 would be neither good policy nor democratic practice. PLEASE do not support the erosion of funds to the Department of children and youth.

Rather than change the terms of a hard-earned and community-supported effort, chose to authentically partner with local groups that have consistently been willing to come to the table and collaborate. Putting forward an amendment that ties Measure's E&K's success to measure H, without transparent data, is a lose-lose situation. Families, children, and youth risk losing further resources and services in a time of widespread instability. The city will lose community trust, and valuable time trying to impose a faulty ballot measure on stressed, anxious, and burdened families. It is a time to be politically courageous. Youth are watching, and need to see their elected officials upholding their values, hopes, and dreams, backed with financial investment in their future from their city.

Please invite the oversight committee and community groups into the conversation of determining what other options can be collectively determined BEFORE the 1% set aside goes into effect. Youth and children are not responsible for the current budget shortfall, and should not bare the burden of financial disinvestment. They need to see themselves reflected in the cities budget and prioritized. Passing item K.2 will only lead to further hostility, mistrust, voter apathy, and lack of faith in our local government. There is much than financial trade-offs riding on this decision. Please vote no on item K.2.

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Pamela Christian  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 6:13 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** Fwd: PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM K-3 ACCE MEMBERS/RESIDENTS' COMMENTS

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Edith Pastrano <epastrano@calorganize.org>  
**Date:** June 16, 2020 at 5:46:18 PM PDT  
**To:** Pamela Christian <pamela\_christian@ci.richmond.ca.us>  
**Subject: Re: PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM I-1 ACCE MEMBERS/RESIDENTS' COMMENTS**

I'm sorry, I keep getting the same message. will copy email messages here hopefully you will be able to see it.

Dear members of the council,

As the Pandemic is still very much hitting the most vulnerable in our community, we are not in a place to withstand the potential of losing our housing. Landlord and Mayor, Tom Butt's plan to dismantle tenant protections is cruel and a clear view of where his priorities lie when it comes to our community. We call on the council to not move forward with the drafting of this, it is unnecessary and will be confusing to the voters. Members of ACCE (Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment ) have been on the frontlines fighting for issues in the community that we care about, especially around housing, we engaged thousands of tenants, homeowners, allies and community folk. Majority of the voters voted in favor of Rent Control and Just Cause Evictions ordinance. We need you to respect this and find ways to support the community during these hard times, not pull the rug under our feet.

**James Osch**

**Ina Mason**

**Sasha Graham**

**Martha Pastrano.** I'm a Richmond ACCE member, and tenant for 30 years. I want to express my disappointment and fear behind the intention of a repeal of our tenant protections under Rent Control and Just Cause for evictions. I question and fear what the purpose of something like this means in this dreadful time when we need to be sheltered in place. This is completely contradictory to the actions that cities and counties are doing to protect tenants right now.

Getting rid of the law is frightening because as it is, California has the worst homelessness crisis due to the housing crisis. People will be pushed out as landlords will try to start evicting tenants, increasing their rents, and taking any other actions to due away with tenant's rights the minute Rent Control and Just Cause is repealed. We need housing security now more than ever before

and this is opposite of housing security. As a tenant and supporter of Rent Control and Just Cause, I do not want our rights to be infringed upon.

**Hipolito Pastrano**, The idea of repealing Rent Control & Just Cause for Evictions makes absolutely no sense. The pandemic we are currently in has put me and millions of people in a vulnerable place when it comes to housing. People all over California are struggling through the Corona-crisis on top of the housing crisis we have been in for a lot longer. This is not the time to inject fear into us by taking the only protections away from tenants like myself. You have no idea what it feels like to lose your job and wonder how you are going to make rent. Thankfully I have not had to miss a payment towards my rent but a number of my neighbors and co-workers are not in the same situation I am in. We are able to take turns making payments in my family but only because we all have our little savings. You will be doing a dis-service to your constituents by setting forth a repeal of Rent Control and Just Cause for Evictions.

**Gabriela Mercado**, ACCE member. I live on Bissell Ave. With my 7 year old daughter. Before rent control and just cause for eviction law was passed, I was afraid that I would lose my housing because the landlord increased my rent \$200. Now I'm faced with that same fear only the fear intensifies because I lost my job to the COVID-19 halt. I have applied for rental assistance and other resources to keep food on the table, but I feel like I can't keep up. Rent is coming up soon and I still don't know what is going to happen. The repeal of Rent Control and Just Cause for Eviction is uncalled for and a hundred steps in the wrong direction. We are dealing with multiple layers of issues. Housing is the most expensive it's ever been and the lack of affordable housing makes the rent control and just cause for eviction protections so vital by ensuring that tenants have rights and protections against massive rent increases and unjustified evictions. Think about the hundreds of thousands that would end up on the street when cruel landlords decide to take advantage of this opportunity to kick tenants out to the curb. There's no cure for COVID-19 but you can make life a whole lot better by not taking away housing rights from vulnerable people in a very unfortunate and unprecedented time. Do not move forward with repealing rent control and just cause.

**Blanca Retano**, Richmond tenant and active leader for tenant rights in the local Richmond ACCE chapter. I am very nervous that the idea of a repeal of Rent Control and Just Cause for Eviction comes at a time where we are experiencing a huge uncertainty when it comes to housing. I had to borrow money to pay 2 months of rent I couldn't make payments for because my husband and I have lost our jobs and we can't work from home. Thankfully my husband is starting to work a few more hours and we are able to cover the cost of food and other bills but we will still be owing money for our rent. In simple terms, this is the worst time to put forth anything that repeals tenants rights. This is of major importance to me and many tenants. Please do not throw us to the wolves. Do not repeal Rent Control and Just Cost for Evictions.

**Ana Gonzalez**, I am a Richmond tenant, I live on 11th street and I'm an ACCE member and advocate for tenant protections. I am disgusted at the mayor's intent to destroy what little security we have right now. How can you be on the side of money and power during this time of uncertainty and despair? People are struggling and suffering. I am a mother of 6 and a caregiver to my husband. How can you take away the law that I and many fought in the streets to make it a reality for tenants like myself? And you want to take that away from us during this devastating

crisis! How dare you? Mayor, I know you never supported Rent Control. By taking away these very much needed tenant protections, you are revealing to me and my family and the rest of Richmond tenants that you don't care about what will happen to us. We can't pay our rent, because COVID-19 took away our jobs. There is little to nothing we can do to make money, and what little we can scrounge up, please believe we pay what we can to the landlord because we know they are struggling too, but I will be damned if I let my children and my sick husband starve. Touch your heart, Butt. Your position on the council requires you to think about all of us, not just yourself. You might not be hurting because you are a rich man and could probably roll around in money as a wealthy, successful landlord. Meanwhile, my husband's hands are tired and grimy because at his 72 years of age, he is still breaking his back doing what he can, working odd jobs, hauling up old, heavy appliances off the street to sell for metal. You are lucky to only have to hear a transcript of my plea while sitting in your comfort. What you need to do during this time of crisis is work towards the interest of the people who helped get you elected to serve. You need to be out here trying to figure out how to help and make life a little easier for us who are hurting not trying to sweep the rug from under us. The time to do good more than ever before is now, but you are doing the opposite. My children were along my side while going door to door supporting you as mayor. We trusted that you would be better for us, but we are now very disappointed because you turn your back on us. I pray for you and for this council to find your path in this time of crisis.

**Elizabeth Castro**, as a tenant and a mother with 5 kids including a little one of 3 months and my husband, I can't begin to say how concerned I am with the possible repeal of rent control. It's the only reason we are able to still afford to live here after 15 years. My husband barely went back to work but his hours are minimal and we are scrapping whatever money possible. This is not what you do during a time of crisis as severe as this. You do not put peoples lives in danger in this way. This is when you are supposed to be with us not against us and this idea is just a bad one with horrible repercussions. No to repealing Rent Control and Just Cause

**Angela Flores** and I live on Pennsylvania ave. in Richmond in a rent controlled apartment with my family. I think that repealing rent control and just cause is the worst thing that could possibly happen to tenants. It's disheartening to know that there is an agenda item for this at the time of COVID-19. Our lives are already out of control and everyone I know stands uncertain with what is happening, and now this? There are no words to express the amount of stress that I am under as a parent to know that just like that, all the hard work and effort we put in will be for not if the repeal happens. No to repeal of tenant protections, we need protection not rejection.

**Jose Murillo** and I am a tenant in Richmond and am a member of the ACCE chapter here. I am concerned about the proposed ordinance to repeal Rent Control and Just Cause for Evictions Ordinance. Right now, with everything that is going on as far as the COVID19 pandemic, I am terrified what landlords might do the moment they learn that there is a change to the existing law. I'm not saying that every landlord is evil but there will be those that will take advantage of the situation and tenants will suffer. Because of the pandemic we are in, I haven't been back to work until recently and this has made it very difficult to provide for my family, thanks to protections that have been put in place we have rights and have a security when it comes to housing. Please do not move forward with this draft, it is not necessary, it is dangerous to the safety of tenants and homeowners.

**Briceida Guzman,**

As a resident of Richmond and a supporter of Rent Control and just cause for evictions, I feel

that there is a different motive behind drafting an entire new ordinance to repeal one that is already in place and is protecting us from being priced out and gentrified. Rent Control came a long way from getting passed and then suspended by ill efforts thanks to the CAA, to then getting on the ballot and passing again. This is not the time to be messing with peoples' housing security. Who is drafting this ordinance and why? When Rent control was brought up, the people were the ones behind it, getting signatures, organizing. Who is behind this ordinance if not the ones who weren't okay with it in the first place. I don't trust that there is anything good for us tenants and homeowners in that ordinance.

THANK YOU CITY STAFF!

-ACCE Members and Friends

On Tue, Jun 16, 2020 at 5:41 PM Pamela Christian <[pamela\\_christian@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:pamela_christian@ci.richmond.ca.us)> wrote:

Yes, resend. We did not receive your email for that item. We will look out for it.

Thanks!!

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 16, 2020, at 5:37 PM, Edith Pastrano <[epastrano@calorganize.org](mailto:epastrano@calorganize.org)> wrote:

Thank you so much Pam!

I got a message that the email for K-3 comments was blocked. Not sure if I should resend it?

Edith Pastrano  
Community Organizer  
Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment  
(ACCE)  
C. 510.672.6261

On Tue, Jun 16, 2020 at 5:15 PM Pamela Christian <[pamela\\_christian@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:pamela_christian@ci.richmond.ca.us)> wrote:

Thank you so much Edith. This is much easier to manage.

Very much appreciated!!!

Pamela Christian

City Clerk

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 16, 2020, at 5:10 PM, Edith Pastrano <[epastrano@calorganize.org](mailto:epastrano@calorganize.org)> wrote:

**WE ARE CALLING FOR :**

- **Hard hiring freeze** meaning, absolutely no new hires.
- **Cuts from the top.** If there are going to be cuts made to salaries, the highest paid staff should take the biggest percentage decrease, while salaries of the lowest-paid staff should not be touched. The pay and overtime for the 200 highest-paid Richmond city employees (without benefits and pensions) adds up to \$40 million of the city's budget. Every 1% decrease in pay for the top 200 employees would raise \$400,000 toward closing the deficit.
- **Protect funding for libraries and services.** Instead of investing more in police, we should invest in services such as libraries, recreation, code enforcement, health services, and homeless programs.
- **We are calling for** a 20% reduction of the Richmond Police Department's budget for next year
- **An immediate moratorium** on future spending for RPD. This includes capping spending for equipment, capital improvements, and overtime.
- **Create and fund a committee** that includes community experts to develop an implementation plan to transition services out of RPD and into a restorative and comprehensive community safety program.

**Ana Gonzalez**, Richmond tenant resident. I live on 11th St. and I'm also a tenant's rights advocate and parent leader and volunteer at Peres Elementary and member of the community group ACCE (Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment) If there is anything we can all agree on is that we all want safer streets, and deserve better libraries and parks. It's important to keep a robust budget for these departments to thrive and for our children to grow. Instead of investing more in police,

we should invest in services such as libraries, recreation, code enforcement, health services, and homeless programs. Please do not cut funding to libraries, parks and recreation, code enforcement and traffic safety departments.

**Blanca Retano**, I live at 2001 Gaynor Ave in Richmond. Many of you might know this infamous apartment building for its frightening amounts of code violations. I have had to deal with numerous infestations of rats, cockroaches and most recently bed bugs. Not too long ago I had to call code enforcement on a Saturday morning when I had my mom and dad visit from Mexico who I haven't seen in many years. After trying to get a hold of the manager with no luck, I informed code enforcement and let them know that there was water seeping through the ceiling down the walls like a waterfall feature in my bathroom. I was scared it would cause a short in the electrical. I forgot the man's name but he helped me get a hold of the landlord and in 15 minutes he showed up at my door and got to work quickly. I don't know how the city would function with an understaffed code enforcement unit which already is stretched thin. I am also a mother of 3 kids and I am concerned that the city is thinking of slashing funds for the library. My kids and other folks in the community need a library. It's part of what makes a community and where many gather to have local meetings. Not to mention the need for local functioning and safe parks and recreation. We need to make sure the funds for these departments are not always getting the short end of the stick. Our communities need the services. Please consider looking elsewhere to balance the city budget because this is not the way. Doing so is not even going to put a dent in the deficit. City council and staff need to figure out how to bring in revenue to the city services. Don't take away what we barely have.

**Gaby Mercado** Hello members of the council. I don't agree with the idea of cutting the budget for libraries, parks and recreation, code enforcement and traffic safety if there are other means of revenue to close the budget gap, please find out what they are. These are vital public services that we depend on. I care about Libraries and parks and recreation because I have a daughter who is 7 yrs old and is very active and academically driven. We need you all to show that we care about our community with intent by not touching a single penny from these departments. We need to preserve these now more than ever. My daughter and I would like to still have safe parks to go for walks in this time of COVID-19. There is nothing more sad than knowing that our representatives are okay with taking away many services that we need. It's really uncalled for and disgusting. I expect more from you because you make things happen for us and we rely on the decision making that you all take. **Please consider our demands.**



**Sara Rodriguez**, I am a member of ACCE a tenant. I would like to side with my comrades about the concern for the city budget. I think things are tight in this economy and especially during these times where there is even more pressure on all of us financially. I don't think that cutting city services is a good idea especially because we are talking about essential work in the city and not to mention the staff workers. What will happen to them? The city should be doing everything possible to maintain it's staff employed now more than ever. I'd like to add that I usually take a walk at the park by Kennedy, I live on Taft Ave. and I would like to see that our parks are unkempt because I know people like to visit the parks there. It would be a shame if this council decided on taking these types of measures when other options exist.

**Cristina Lorenzana**, I am a tenant, I live on Barrett Ave. and I have been an ACCE member of the local Richmond chapter for a little over 4 years. In that time I have been getting more and more involved in my city politics. So I come before this board today because I am concerned about the potential budget cuts that are underway. Parks and Recreation as well as our libraries are an important part of maintaining a vibrant community. Code enforcement is another essential service that must stay! Who is going to make sure everything is up to code in our city? This proposal is not thought out very well.

**Juan Lozano**- Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts. I am a Richmond resident and member of Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment. I disagree with the city's plan to slash funds from very important departments city wide. First of all, Code Enforcement is too much of an essential department to be messed with. Our city libraries need more funding not less. We demand the following as measure to balance the budget in favor of the community that you serve that would bring in the highest value for the Richmond community.

**Angela Flores**, I am writing to you today because I have heard some concerning news that has to do with budget cuts to some very important services that our community relies on. I have three kids. They like to read and I am always making sure that they are always expanding their opportunities inside and outside of their schooling. I don't like the idea that services like Code Enforcement, Parks and Recreation as well as Libraries are being forced to take a cut. This has almost become a routine and I believe it's because there is a lack of revenue to the city budget. Please do not take these services for granted because they are what keeps the city together. Thank you for your time and hope you'll consider the following approach to the city budget.

**Elizabeth Castro**, Richmond. I am an ACCE member and I live on Bissell Ave, and would like to express my concern for the city budget. I have 5 children now with my newborn. I want you all to know that my children are avid volunteers for the city of Richmond events. Ever since they were little they have always liked to volunteer in anything that they liked. I have been more aware about what it means to stand up for what is right and definitely during this time. I ask that this body consider other options to fix our city budget. You can't possibly go to bed at night knowing that you are doing away with vital services that we all need. Probably do some fundraising to keep everything balanced throughout the year in the budget and not take away from seniors, workers, children and vulnerable people. Do the right thing. I have faith that you all want the best for my children and other children from our community and there is nothing that would be more devastating to know that our parks and traffic safety could possibly be defunded. My children love to clean up as volunteers and love to step up when the city has events, I know things are different because of COVID 19 but it's no excuse for taking funds away. We need these funds to be there when we go back to a routine that was once before COVID-19. Remember that you are putting jobs on the line. Please follow the recommendations that the community has put forth as suggestions to help balance the city budget.

**Martha Pastrano** Richmond tenant, I've lived on S. 30th St for over 15 years. But have been a Richmond resident for over 30 years. The conditions of our streets lack attention. Over the years of living on this street, the pavement has deteriorated and multiple pot holes now decorate our narrow streets. The back street on Hoffman is notorious for having debris and illegal dumping. We need a budget for code enforcement and traffic safety in order to maintain our streets safe. The city needs to find other sources of revenue to fill the gap in the budget. Cutting our services like code enforcement and traffic safety is not the way to do it. These resources need to stay in these departments to suit our community needs. Also, cutting library hours is not going to fill the gap, again, not only will it take away from our community, this will negatively affect our city workers by having unnecessary layoffs. Please find the following measures of budget balancing options before making your decisions.

**Hipolito Pastrano**, I am a Richmond resident for over 30 years, also a local ACCE member. I would like to start off by

saying that I am not in favor of reducing the budget for services that are essential to the city. Code enforcement is already understaffed and our neighborhoods need upkeep. Traffic safety is very important as well as our libraries and parks and recreation. There are a number of ways to close up the deficit in the budget, pulling in resources through other measures should be considered but cutting budgets that are already underfunded is not the best way to fix this problem. Take every measure to protect these services, you all can do this by taking the following measures before taking important services away.

**Jose Murillo.** There are 5 people living in my family. I am very disappointed to know that the city is proposing to make cuts to services that we desperately need. We can't take any more deprivation. I work very hard to make sure that I am doing everything I can to take good care of my children and my wife. To learn that in this time when the city should be taking care of us and looking for our best interest is very disappointing. I am writing to express my concern around the budget cuts that are being considered for the fiscal year. The city should protect the vital services that we need in my community at all cost. I would like my kids to be able to go to the library and to enjoy the parks in Richmond. I know we are in a pandemic and there are grave decisions that need to be made in order to see a future but right now we must think about services that are sacred, that is; Code enforcement, traffic safety, and parks, especially right now. We need to take our kids for walks to relieve stress that the quarantine is causing many people. So I am calling on the City Council to do the following for balancing the City Budget to fix the deficit.

**Edith Pastrano,** community organizer with ACCE. As a lifetime Richmond resident, I have fond memories of going to the Richmond library and having such a wonderful experience there as a child, checking out books and finding a passion for learning new things. Over the years I have seen how our libraries, art programs, and other extracurricular activities constantly get shorthanded. It's heartbreaking because this tells me that our community resources are not a priority for the city when it comes to investing in it. As if that's not enough, the parks and recreation department as well as Code Enforcement are also under threat. I have had to personally reach out to parks and recreation to make sure someone came out to pick up a bunch of trash, needles, tampons and shit, to make sure the area where kids play, is clean and safe. I have also made calls to code enforcement a number of times for friends and family because this is the unit whose job it is to make sure health and safety codes are not being violated and ensure that complaints get resolved. This is too much of an essential department that reducing staff or its budget actually seems like a legal issue. If the city can't handle the cases that we already have now, I can't

even imagine what it will look like when Richmond's Code Enforcement Department can't even get the jobs done properly, or how this will reflect if other governing bodies have to step in to pick up the slack. Others have also made a really good point about keeping the employees employed which I will also agree with. In conclusion, I see no reason for these essential services to be tampered with, if anything, I suggest cutting the police department budget and for city staff to take a paycut, we all are taking punches. These are the budget balancing options that myself and members of the community are calling on you all to take if you want to close the deficit so bad.

**Veronica Medina Hernandez**, I am an ACCE member. I do not agree with this council to create budget cuts for our services. I have kids that look forward to going out and taking a walk at the park. We have never been more grateful to take joy in that until this quarantine. I would like to have our libraries functioning so my kids can benefit from them. When I heard that other cuts could be made like to the traffic safety and city enforcement I was sad because we need to make sure that our streets and our buildings are being kept up and that they are safe. We make sure that everyone is keeping safe because we have to now. How can the city not take care of us and keep us well and safe? We all want the best for our families so please do everything to maintain our services running smooth, so follow our demands. Thank you.

**Briceida Guzmán**- I live on Coalinga ave. in Richmond and I am an ACCE member. I am not okay with any budget cuts to our libraries and vital city services that we depend on for the betterment and safety of our community. Please do whatever you can to avoid taking away from our kids, our seniors, our safety. Where there is a will there's a way and I implore you all find another way, there is always another way and I believe you all can and will do better. I have no doubt in my mind that this council can work to see if there is another way to fix discrepancies in the budget without having to slash essential services and firing city workers. I am calling on you to follow the previous measures recommended.

**Ezequiel Chum**, Richmond resident. I am an ACCE member. Thank you for your time. I would like for you all to know that I have been more aware about what it means to stand up for what is right and definitely during this time. I ask that this body consider other options to fix our city budget. No to budget cuts to our services. I call on you to do the following to figure a different way that will align with the communities best interest at hand.

**THANK YOU STAFF and Members of the Council.**

**Sabrina Lundy**

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**From:** Debi Clifford <debicliff@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 6:38 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** public comment - agenda item K-3 Rent Control - for Tues June 16, 2020

Dear City Clerk,

Please include these comments in the record of tonight's City Council meeting.

Thank you,

Debi Clifford

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Dear Mayor Butt and City Council members,

I urge you to **vote NO on Item K-3 tonight! Please preserve our city's hard-won Rent Control, Just Cause for Eviction and Homeowner Protection Ordinance** that made Richmond a statewide leader in protecting its residents' housing.

I am a Richmond landlord and taxpayer. I own a duplex and rent out the second unit at a stable, below-market rate in order to guarantee my tenant my own version of rent control. Although I rely on the rent to support my fixed income, I am committed to providing fairly-priced housing. Our city should do the same for all of its residents.

I am especially appalled that you, Mayor Butt, would propose **weakening** rent control at a time when many of our residents are already terrified that they will be evicted and lose their homes due to the economic fallout from COVID-19. Instead of enacting this insensitive and destructive proposal, we should be innovating new ways to further protect our renters and homeowners at this traumatic time. How can we be taking away renter protections during COVID when our Governor and County have done just the opposite by enacting special protections for renters at risk of losing their homes?

I appeal to you, Mayor Butt, and **all Council members** to reject this destructive proposal! Vote no on Item K-3!

Thank you for your continued service to our city at this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Debi Clifford

## Sabrina Lundy

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**From:** Valerie Jameson <valjam92@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 7:03 PM  
**To:** City Clerk Dept  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT OPPOSING ITEM K-3

Good evening City Council,

I am reaching out to voice my strong opposition of K.3 on behalf of Richmond LAND and myself as a Richmond resident. I find it grossly inappropriate for the council to be voting on an item that directly goes against the will of the voters. I strongly disagree with any council action putting forward a ballot measure that repeals and limits protections and services that Richmond residents have fought to put before the electorate and won by a wide margin. The city of Richmond has a **model** rent control and just cause for eviction program that is far superior than the protections implemented in AB 1482. It would be a tremendous disservice to our community to put forward a ballot measure to repeal tenant protections, especially in a moment when our communities are experiencing unprecedented hardships, limited resources, and heightened anxiety.

It is insensitive and damaging to our communities health and wellbeing. I sympathize with the added challenges that staff and council find themselves in trying to cure our structural deficit and find new dollars for affordable housing in a time when the city is experiencing loss of revenue and limited federal dollars for housing development. However, Richmond's rent control department is a sustainably funded program that has a dedicated revenue stream that is tied to a necessary administrative oversight body, to ensure adequate accountability of public funds. To remove that infrastructure would be a poor decision. As an emerging community land trust, Richmond LAND opposes the red herring claim that a repeal ballot measure would result in better allocations of landlord fees.

It is a disservice to our community to treat tenant protections, affordable housing development, and neighborhood stabilization as a zero-sum game. This is a moment when all of our elected officials should be unequivocally championing stronger housing and shelter protections, and bringing together community stakeholders that care about finding new solutions to emergent affordable and dignified housing challenges stemming from COVID-19. It should not be an opportunity to impose top-down rulings to alter past decisions. This will desperately erode public trust, remove and limit critical protections for residents made vulnerable, and result in retroactive **voter suppression**. Despite how any particular member of the council personally feels about the outcomes of past elections, they should not be allowed to usurp the public process and put forward ballot measures in a time when voter protections, engagement, and turn-out have been and will continue to be seriously compromised.

I urge you all to vote no on K.3  
Thank you!