

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, June 23, 2020

The Richmond City Council Evening Open Session was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Mayor Thomas K. Butt via teleconference.

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) ADVISORY

Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Contra Costa County and Governor Gavin Newsom have issued multiple orders requiring sheltering in place, social distancing, and reduction of person-to-person contact. Accordingly, Governor Gavin Newsom has issued executive orders that allow cities to hold public meetings via teleconferencing. Both <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/> and <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/3914/Richmond-Coronavirus-Info> provide updated coronavirus information.

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

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

Written public comments were received via email and eComment. Comments received by 3:00 p.m. on June 23, 2020, were put into the record and considered before Council action and were submitted by email to cityclerkdept@ci.richmond.ca.us. Comments received via email during the meeting and up until the public comment period on the relevant agenda item closed, were read into the record. Comments were also received via telephone during the public comment period.

Attached herewith all written public comments received.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Ben Choi, Demnlus Johnson III, Eduardo Martinez, Jael Myrick, and Mayor Thomas K. Butt.

Absent: Vice Mayor Bates arrived after roll call and Councilmember Melvin Willis arrived after the Council adjourned to Closed Session. .

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 - EXISTING LITIGATION (paragraph (1) of Subdivision [d] of Government Code Section 54956.9):

Stephenson vs. City of Richmond

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 REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR (Government Code Section 54956.8):

Property: Port of Richmond (Terminal 3)

Agency negotiators: Jim Matzorkis

Negotiating party: Richmond Terminal 3 Partners (Bobby Winston, Orton Development and Tom Lockard)

Under negotiations: Price and terms of payment

Cordell Hindler stated that Lisa Stephenson was the best Human Resources Director in Richmond.

The Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 5:05 p.m. Closed Session adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 6:30 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

A motion by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Vice Mayor Bates, added an emergency item for a final budget presentation by the unions, passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Choi, Johnson III, Martinez, Myrick, Willis, and Vice Mayor Bates. **Noes:** Mayor Butt. **Absent:** None. **Abstain:** None. Item G-3 was removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion at the end of the agenda. A motion by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember Johnson III, suspended the rules and removed Item G-3 from the Consent Calendar to be discussed after approval of the Consent Calendar, passed by the

following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Choi, Johnson III, Martinez, Myrick, Willis, and Vice Mayor Bates. **Noes:** Mayor Butt. **Absent:** None. **Abstain:** None.

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 reported that the City implemented a contactless building permit application process. Building permits were applied for and paid on-line. Ms. Snideman also reported about street resurfacing projects. A Zoom meeting regarding fireworks was planned to allow the community to address issues surrounding complaints about the large number of fireworks being displayed in the city. Interim Police Chief Bisa French stated that there were not enough police officers to adequately respond to fireworks calls and officers in the Special Investigations Section were assigned to solely respond to fireworks calls.

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Tarnel Abbott thanked staff for returning library employees to work to offer much needed library services to the community.

William Shadduc urged the City Council to fully fund the libraries.

Elsa Stevens spoke in support of Interim Police Chief Bisa French being selected as the permanent chief.

Marina Zubareva and Randy Joseph gave comments in support of defunding the police and reinvestment in mental health and community programs.

Sara Cantor and Claudia Jimenez expressed concerns regarding the call-in system during City Council meetings.

CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Vice Mayor Bates, seconded by Councilmember Johnson III, the items marked with an (*) were approved by the unanimous vote of the City Council:

***G-1.** Introduced an ordinance amending Richmond Municipal Code Chapter 9.48 (Integrated Pest Management) by repealing sections 9.48.035 (Sale of Pesticides) and 9.48.045 (Enforcement for Sale of Pesticides) to comply with California Food and Agricultural Code section 11501.1.

***G-2.** Approved a contract with Andy's Roofing Company Inc. for re-roofing the Richmond Fire Department Station 67, located at 1131 Cutting Boulevard in an amount not to exceed \$160,500.

G-3. The matter to award on-call professional service contracts to three firms: Ghirardelli Associates, mack5, and Swinerton Management & Consulting, for as-needed construction management and inspection services for capital projects, in an amount not to exceed \$450,000 per firm, from grant funds, Gas Tax, and Measure J funds with no impact to the General Fund, for a three-year term with the option to extend the term for two additional years was presented by Vice Mayor Bates.?? The City Council expressed concern regarding the city not hiring Richmond residents or minorities to work on projects. Senior Civil Engineer Tawfic Halaby stated that documents are carefully reviewed during the Request For Proposal(RFP) process to ensure compliance with local hiring ordinances. The item was continued to the June 30, 2020, City Council meeting to provide the local hiring information.

***G-4.** Introduced an ordinance amending Chapter 2.52 (Contracting and Purchasing Procedures) of the Richmond Municipal Code to increase the formal bidding threshold and authorize the acceptance of electronic bids.

***G-5.** Adopted **Resolution No. 66-20**, authorizing placement of liens and special assessments for unpaid garbage collection service fees on County property tax records

***G-6.** Accepted and appropriated a \$59,900 Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) grant from Contra Costa County ("County"); approved a contract with TentMakers, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$59,900 through June 30, 2021, to provide outreach and support to unsheltered people who reside in homeless encampments across West County; and approved Amendment No. 2 to the contract with County for Coordinated Outreach Referral and Engagement (CORE) services to continue services to the City for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 at no cost to the City since HEAP funds will be used pay for these services.

***G-7.** Adopted urgency **Ordinance No. 12-20 N.S.**, authorizing the Zoning Administrator to issue special temporary use permits and waive requirements of Article XV of the Richmond Municipal Code related to outdoor dining, sales and community assembly to facilitate certain business and organizational operations impacted by COVID-19.

***G-8.** Approved a contract with Vallier Design Associates, Inc. for landscape architectural design and engineering services for the Boorman Park Project in an amount not to exceed \$388,370 with a contract term ending date of December 31, 2022.

***G-9.** Authorized the cancellation of the 3rd of July Fireworks Celebration event for health and safety reasons as indicated by the orders of the Contra Costa County Health Officer and authorized an amendment to extend the contract with PyroSpectaculars to July 3, 2022, fireworks event to the current contract as indicated in the vendor's Production Agreement.

***G-10.** Approved the amended North Richmond Waste & Recovery Mitigation Fee Expenditure Plan for Fiscal Year 2020/21, as recommended by the North Richmond Waste and Recovery Mitigation Fee Joint Expenditure Planning Committee.

EMERGENCY BUDGET SESSION

Sean Staulbaum presented the union groups budget proposal, which highlighted the following: additional department deferrals; freeze additional vacancies; hard hiring freeze; defer OPEB pre-funding contribution for Fiscal Year 2021. The following individuals gave comments via e-mail or telephone: Luis Padilla, Gayle McLaughlin, Will Shattuc, Claudia Jimenez, Paul Larudee, Stacey Walker, Alix Mazuet, Randy Joseph, Dorothy Gilbert, Beryl Golden, Claire Battis, Alix Mazuet, Emily Ross, Yen Do, Kevin Tisdale, Tarnel Abbott, Jiggy Athinlingam, Ignacio Carmona, Veronica Medina, Ezequiel Chum, Cornelio Perez, Raul Vasquez, Irene Gonzalez, Elsa Stevens, Laura Godinez, Mike Parker, Sara Cantor, Michelle Chan, Taylor Kennedy, Sadie Egan, Jane Courant, Andrea Mularkey, Michael Gliksohn, Eddy Chacon, Laura Mangels, Jose Palma, Valerie Jameson, Luis Chacon, and Councilmember Martinez. Discussion ensued. A motion by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember Martinez, to adopt union budget proposal Option E, excluding double counted amounts, adding back the Lieutenant position, and with no cuts for employees' making under \$100,000 per year. The motion failed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Martinez and Willis. **Noes:** Vice Mayor Bates, Councilmembers Choi, Johnson III, Myrick, and Mayor Butt. **Absent:** None. **Abstain:** None. A motion was made by Councilmember Myrick, seconded by Councilmember Willis, to delay the police vehicle replacements in the amount of \$880,000. A substitute motion was made by Vice Mayor Bates, seconded by Mayor Butt, to place the matter of the police vehicle replacements on the budget checklist and reviewed at the next City Council meeting, passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Choi, Johnson III, Vice Mayor Bates, and Mayor Butt. **Noes:** Councilmembers Martinez, Myrick, and Willis. **Absent:** None. **Abstain:** None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

H-1. Continued to the June 30, 2020, City Council Meeting - the matter to introduce an ordinance establishing certain fees for the proposed Master Fee Schedule.

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

Councilmember Willis reported that he attended a Father's Day street painting mural with Councilmembers Choi and Martinez on Macdonald Avenue.

Councilmember Johnson III announced that a coalition of African American organizations organized a Juneteenth Caravan on Friday, June 27, 2020, at 10 a.m., which began in North Richmond on Fred Jackson Way and ended at Kennedy High School.

Councilmember Martinez reported that there was a Juneteenth celebration at Marina Bay Park on Saturday, June 20, 2020.

Mayor Butt appointed himself, and Councilmember Johnson III, and Vice Mayor Bates to an ad hoc committee to review police procedures and policies.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m., to meet again on Tuesday, June 30, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor

Sabrina Lundy

From: Cordell Hindler <cordellhindler@ymail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2020 9:11 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT BEFORE CLOSED SESSION

hello Sabrina, i have a comment in regarding the case before closed session,

i think that Lisa Stephenson was the best hr director in Richmond, she has been respected not only by her staff, but as union rep, hopefully that she will be able to return as soon as possible

sincerely
Cordell

Sabrina Lundy

From: Amanda G Lucas <aglucasla@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:53 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Open forum for public comments – not on the agenda

I, Amanda Lucas from Richmond, am writing to express my support for the libraries and other critical communities to receive more share of the city's budget. While I support our police department and believe they should receive an adequate budget that will allow them to continue to successfully serve and protect our communities and for appropriate training programs, I do think that some of the budget allocated should continue to be spread through the community services and parks.

Please reconsider the budget portion size assigned to the police and review how some funds could go to our libraries and communities.

Amanda

Sabrina Lundy

From: ANN RATILAINEN <aratilainen@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2020 10:19 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Cc: Adrian Sheppard; Eric Govan
Subject: Open forum for public comments – not on the agenda
Attachments: HiddenThunderhead overgrowth.jpg; 20200420_123913_resized (1).jpg; 20200619_130105.jpg; 20200619_130204.jpg

Dear City Council,

Our Neighborhood is above LaMoine (Cheese Park). We are fortunate that the City of Richmond has open space around us. After living here for 29 years this open space has become overgrown with brush and trees which has led to a lot of dry, brittle debris on the ground creating a very large fire hazard. The neighbors surrounding this space have consistently kept 10+ ft between our homes and this space. However, even the limited grass mitigation done by the City has created a larger fire hazard as now all the dry grass is on the ground and ready to ignite. Please see pictures included.

Fire Chief Sheppard came out Friday, 6/19 to see for himself and Fire Marshall Govan is scheduled to come out to assess the situation this week. Goats were researched and are available to come in July. The biggest cost of goats is setting up the fencing required. However, since all the yards are fenced in, there would be a small amount of fencing needed.

We look forward to hearing what Fire Marshall Govan determines can be done and wanted to bring awareness of the increasing fire hazards on and around the City of Richmond's property to the City Council's attention.

Thank you,
Ann

Ann Ratilainen

aratilainen@comcast.net

(510) 604-0827 mobile







Sabrina Lundy

From: Cordell Hindler <cordellhindler@ymail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 8:44 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

hello Sabrina, i have some comments to go into the record

1. i was appalled to hear what people were saying about Adrian Shepard, i think that he is the best fire chief that the City of Richmond has ever did seen. the Folks at the RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COORDINATING COUNCIL enjoy having the fire chief at their monthly meetings to provide us tips on how to prevent house fires.

2, i was deeply appalled that the City Council has spent 3 and a half hours talking about the budget, i have attended other city council meetings in west county, and they do not spend that much time going thru the matter, they move onto the next item on the agenda

3. in the words of CLAIR HUXTABLE, let the record show that i was the one that did the research on what other cities have done in regarding reporting structures, for e.g city manager.

in the words of Sister Mary Clarence from sister act 2: back in the habit,

if you want to be somebody, if you want to go somewhere you better wake up and pay attention

sincerely
Cordell

Sabrina Lundy

From: Erick Gutierrez Prado <11197egp@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:31 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: open forum for public comments - not on the agenda

it is incredibly frustrating, infuriating, and patronizing that the budget was not placed on the agenda for today's meeting. People worldwide are demanding an immediate change to fight back against institutional racism and inequality, demanding that our money be spent more productively, effectively, and creatively than simply handing almost half of every dollar to RPD, how is it that the Richmond City Council can see those demands, turn around, and think "you know what is the decision that will most benefit our community, CUTS TO THE PROGRAMS THAT ALMOST EVERYONE AGREES ARE ACTUALLY VITAL.

Go around the city, how many people on the street that you meet are going, "yes, those libraries are taking up too much money"? NO ONE. So why the Council would even contemplate cutting libraries of all programs is beyond me, completely asinine, and quite frankly embarrassing.

Richmond has a chance to be a leader on the national stage, to lead the charge, to work for its own community, and cutting library funding as opposed to police funding is as backwards, ill-advised, and short-sighted as can be.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Jeannette Kortz <jeannekortz@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 8:07 AM
To: Ben Choi; Eduardo Martinez; Melvin Willis; Nat Bates; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick
Cc: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Open Forum for Public Comments

- Dear City Council,
-
- I urge you to reallocate funding from the police budget in order to prevent the City from reducing or closing services.
-
- Please form a task force with Black youth and people impacted by policing to develop a plan to re-imagine public safety in the community.
-
- Use the community letter that was signed and sent to the Council by twelve organizations last week for ideas and inspiration.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Kortz
Richmond Resident

Sabrina Lundy

From: jessica angulo <angulojessica09@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 9:29 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: open forum for public comments – not on the agenda

How is it that the City Council is planning to pass a budget by June 30th without having it as an agenda item at tonight's council meeting? We need more transparency on what the final decisions will be as this budget will affect LIVES! **NO CUTS, NO LAYOFF, NO FURLOUGHES ON THE BACKS OF CITY WORKERS AND SERVICES THEY PROVIDE THE COMMUNITY!**

Sabrina Lundy

From: Kaila Baće <kailamcb@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:14 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment - Item F - (Open Forum)

I do not support how much funding the Police Departments receives while so many necessary community services go without the money they need to keep our town healthy, educated, and thriving. I support defunding the police, and redistributing funds to education, health, and other community services. Please tell us how you are going to fight to be antiracist and take care of everyone in our community. Thank you.

Kaila Bace

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Kaila Baće

[Firemaid Soundcloud](#)

[Bows Soundcloud](#)

[Big Tree Bandcamp](#)

[Brass Magic Bandcamp](#)

Sabrina Lundy

From: Kate Britton <callkmb@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:52 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Open forum for public comments –not on the agenda

Dear City of Richmond,

This comment is in regards to the opening of Richmond swimming pools and therefore, funding within the budget for that activity. As a heart patient and someone who has had more than a few surgeries and also has several old injuries, the water therapy I get from exercising in the pool is invaluable to me. I implore you to provide funds within the budget to ensure that the pools are able to open when restrictions ease.

My thanks in advance for your consideration of this matter as you move forward with the budget.

Best,
Kate Britton

Sabrina Lundy

From: Malaika Gray <malaikagray5@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 8:37 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Open forum for public comments

Dear Councilmembers and Mayor Butt,

As Richmond residents, we urge you to support the reduction of the Richmond Police budget by 20% and put a moratorium on extra spending AS WELL AS establish and appropriately fund a committee of community leaders charged with helping to guide the transition of particular services out of the police department and into a transformative justice and community safety program. Including mental health crisis support. Such a committee would need to be made up of community leaders and key stakeholders, including Black community members affected by over-policing, and people representing the voices of undocumented community members. We know there are safer alternatives out there and we challenge you to be on the right side of history in this crucial moment and make a vote of confidence for true community safety and well-being.

Thank you.



Virus-free. www.avg.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Marie Sefton <seftonmj@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:54 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Re: Open forum for public comments- not on the agenda

The city of Richmond spends \$71,266,250, or 40% of the general expenditure budget, on the police. Surely some of this money could be reallocated to support our libraries. Literacy and education are proven to decrease crime rates so why are we cutting funding to the programs that make our community a safer and healthier place?

Marie Sefton
Richmond

Sabrina Lundy

From: Marina Melara <marina.melara88@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:04 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: open forum for public comments – not on the agenda

Dear City Council,

Right now is the time to really listen and deliver to the people in your community. Now is the time to really make a difference and make a positive impact. We understand that our city faces many obstacles and we want to stay safe. However, sometimes it is needed to work on the root of the problem first. More funding is needed to help people, especially our youth.

On the Monday before quarantine was official, I approached a group of about 15-20 kids on bikes who were waiting on a peer who was fixing his bike. The young man was fixing his bike in the middle of the street. My fear was not them or them causing an accident; my fear was that someone would call the police on them. I've worked with youth before and felt confident in approaching them. I talked to them and they understood, said thank you, and moved to the side-walk. These kids were Black and Brown and between the ages of 12-15. I left hoping that they wouldn't be stopped for simply being kids and riding their bike. I imagined my own child being their age (currently 3 years old) and me having to make a choice of keeping him indoors or risking him acting like a child his age and being arrested because of it.

So my question is: What if we had a program for them? What if we could take funding from PD and take our youth on bike trips? This will avoid PD being called on them and can cultivate a passion that can turn into a career path. I understand this is a very specific example but it can be broadened.

It may sound like I am an idealist, and maybe I am at some point, but the reality is that many other cities who have resources for their community see a positive impact.

I would like to see our resources stay and grow by taking some PD funding and putting it into our youth. I would also like to have the city put effort in making sure our community knows about the resources.

Thank you for your time,
Marina M.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Natalie Russell <natalieerussell@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:22 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Open forum for public comments – not on the agenda.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a citizen of Richmond, and I am concerned about the proposed cuts to the Richmond public libraries and pools. Our community needs libraries. Libraries are places where children can learn, explore, and safely spend time off the streets. Pools are places where folks in our community can learn life-saving skills. These are places where our community can grow together. Our police department gets 40% of our budget. I'm sure the money to save the libraries and pools can be found somewhere.

Natalie Russell
natalieerussell@gmail.com
(925) 586-1323
www.onthenat.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Ryan Zulewski <ryan.zulewski@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:44 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Open Forum for Public Comments-Not on the agenda

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Ryan Zulewski and I am a resident of Richmond. Libraries are such an integral part of our society that doing away with any kind of funding for them to continue hurts our society as a whole.

I ask that our elected officials publicly state that there will be no cuts to the library budgets. They are badly needed to ensure a place of learning, community and progress is always fully available to the city of Richmond.

Best Regards,
Ryan

Sabrina Lundy

From: Susan Wehrle <mudmudrabbit@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:00 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Pubic Foreum, City Council Meeting

I am a Richmond resident. I want to remind you that the SWIMMING POOLS are very important to those of us with disability, who can not partake in other forms of exercise. Please fund and open the pools when possible. Thank you,

Susan Wehrle
mudmudrabbit@gmail.com
(510) 234-0645

Sabrina Lundy

From: Yvonne Cuellar
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 8:00 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS- NOT ON THE AGENDA

I am one of only three **Civilian** Crime Scene Technicians for the city. We are SEIU Local 1021 and we process crime scenes for victims within the City Of Richmond.

After conducting a salary survey, we will be the lowest paid Crime Scene Technicians behind the City of Pinole. Please place the budget on the agenda for this Tuesday. Please do not cut services to the community or pay and benefits of city workers.

Thank you!

Council Meeting - 6/23/2020

Meeting Time: 06-23-20 18:30

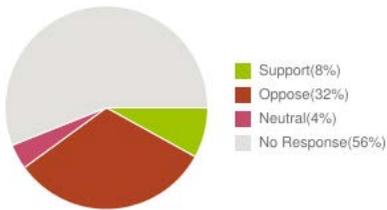
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Council Meeting - 6/23/2020	06-23-20 18:30	34	25	2	8	1

Sentiments for All Meetings

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

Overall Sentiment



Council Meeting - 6/23/2020

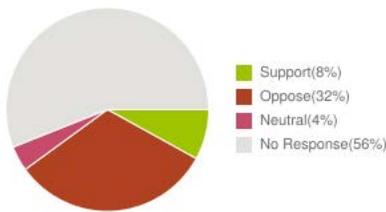
06-23-20 18:30

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
B. PUBLIC COMMENT BEFORE CLOSED SESSION	4	2	2	0
F. OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT	21	0	6	1

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

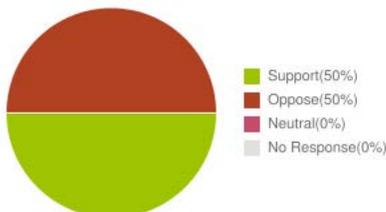
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



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

Overall Sentiment



Rachel KF

Location:

Submitted At: 3:13pm 06-22-20

Contra Costa County just recorded its most new cases of COVID-19 in one day. The county's social distancing protocol directs those who can work from home to do so, and it states anyone working in the office must be six feet apart. All Richmond city employees have been called to the office full time, though many share cubicles, and they are not being asked to prove they are COVID negative. Why is the city manager being so reckless with employees right now? Why is the office suddenly full again?

kevin mathieu

Location:

Submitted At: 9:22am 06-22-20

Why is H-1 being delayed / continued by City Staff - what are they not disclosing?- the matter to INTRODUCE an ordinance (first reading) establishing certain fees for the proposed Master Fee Schedule - continued to the last city council meeting? I believe we deserve to know the planned new fee structure and changes now and way

earlier before for the need of the year. This timing is not allowing for any debate. We can not even comment on this item with the way this new system is being made.

Guest User

Location:
Submitted At: 3:03pm 06-20-20

Include the city budget in the city council meeting, please.

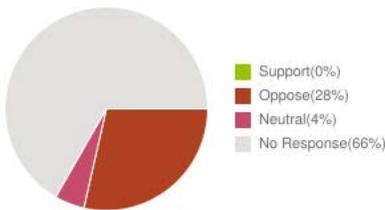
Guest User

Location:
Submitted At: 2:23pm 06-20-20

Please include the city budget in the next council meeting

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

Overall Sentiment



Tarik Ourchane

Location:
Submitted At: 2:58pm 06-23-20

I'm a resident in Marina Bay, I want to add my voice to the group of people saying we need to defund the police and invest in ulterior forms of public safety, as well as reinvest in communities services. Spending 40% of the city's general fund on police is absolutely appalling and needs to stop now. I'm asking that you:

1. Reduce the police budget
2. Place a moratorium on all future police spending.
3. Invest in and fund community leaders to develop a new plan for community safety.

Guest User

Location:
Submitted At: 2:52pm 06-23-20

I am a Richmond resident in support of defunding the police. I oppose cuts to the Richmond Library system.

Guest User

Location:
Submitted At: 2:51pm 06-23-20

Please do not make cuts to our essential community services like the library.

Guest User

Location:
Submitted At: 2:46pm 06-23-20

We urge you to oppose the cuts to the Richmond Library system. Please make these cuts to the Richmond Police Department, which has been taking up too much of the budget.

John Kaiser

Richmond Resident

Laura Bowles

Location:

Submitted At: 2:25pm 06-23-20

As a resident of Richmond, I want to add my voice to the growing chorus of concerned residents emphatically saying we must radically shift our racist budget priorities. I ardently oppose the closure of library branches, cuts to staffing, and cuts to other community supports such as pools, youth programs, and community-based programs that empower Black residents. Removing the budget from tonight's agenda is cowardly and tone-deaf when the community is calling for leadership and action.

Sara Cantor

Location:

Submitted At: 2:03pm 06-23-20

I am a resident of Richmond District 3 and I continue to ask city council to listen to residents as we demand DEFUNDING of the police department and reallocation of those funds to essential services such as libraries, community centers, restorative justice services, and health support services. We support Melvin Willis and Eduardo Martinez in their efforts around this issue. Jael Myrick, Demnlus Johnson III, and Ben Choi: follow your own promises and ensure that this conversation continues.

Emily Carroll

Location:

Submitted At: 1:54pm 06-23-20

Please put the budget on the agenda. Support the workers that serve the public by putting the budget on the agenda today. Workers deserve to hear and be a part of this discussion that impacts our lives. Balance the budget without cutting pay and benefits to City workers, and without cutting services to the community.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 1:53pm 06-23-20

I am a resident of the Richmond Annex, and I want to voice my support for keeping all Richmond libraries open and their budgets intact. Libraries are an incredibly important resource for kids, students, knowledge-seekers, job-hunters, and many more. I understand that there is a limit to the city's spending, but I ask you to take a closer look at the city budget and honestly weigh the cost of cutting valuable resources against the benefit of keeping the police budget where it is. Thank you.

Brendan Boland

Location:

Submitted At: 1:43pm 06-23-20

My name is Brendan Boland, Richmond, and I am emailing to publicly commit to no cuts to libraries and library services, and no front-line layoffs. These cuts and layoffs will only continue to place financial and educational struggles within our community. Further, in this time of additional needs considering the loss of earnings and opportunity with closures, our community needs this resource. As a community with such diversity, we should not defund services that low resource families depend on.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 1:29pm 06-23-20

What happened my public comment that I left yesterday ? There were two other comments at the time and they are also missing. This system is broken and we are being censored. I am also disturbed that we can not comment on any Specific agenda item. Kevin Mathieu Richmond resident. I do note that comments now allow for 500 characters vs 250 yesterday. No files or attachments can no longer can be added either.

Lyndsay Hughes

Location:

Submitted At: 1:27pm 06-23-20

I am a resident of Richmond and parent to a young child who will grow up in this community. I urge council members to take immediate action to reallocate public funds away from police and toward education and social programs that benefit the community.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 1:16pm 06-23-20

As a Richmond resident I believe we need to defund the police and reallocate the money towards services that help residents like mental health access, substance abuse counseling, affordable housing, youth programs, health care, etc.

Ryan Manka-White

Location:

Submitted At: 1:04pm 06-23-20

I am a resident of Richmond and I urge the council to take real steps to shift our budget away from the Richmond Police Department and towards education, healthcare, housing, mental health services, and community led and focused general welfare. We need our local government's priorities to reflect those of the community, and for our city council to listen to the community.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 1:04pm 06-23-20

I am in support of defunding the police and redistributing funds to services that will help our community. Our taxpayer dollars should go towards education, health (including mental health), housing, and community-led safety, just to name a few. We need transparency with the budget at all times, and we need to make sure our city council is funding the services that we the people are asking for. Thank you.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 12:53pm 06-23-20

I am a Richmond resident and a librarian with the city of San Pablo. I have seen first hand the value of public libraries in our city and the need for funding to support these services for our community. It is vital now more than ever that we commit to public services which lift people up from poverty rather than ones that perpetuate racial injustice and hinder social mobility. I call on you to publicly commit to no cuts to libraries and library services, and no front-line layoffs.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 12:40pm 06-23-20

I am a resident of Richmond and a parent of 2 young children. I am oppose to the amount of funding our police department receives vs. the amount of money or youth receive. I am dreading their future because their city is more interested in keeping them "in line" instead of educating them, having opportunities for them, or making their city a home full w/ resources. Our kids need multiple resources to stay out of trouble. PD presence will not be needed as much if we make the right choices.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 12:37pm 06-23-20

I oppose the amendment that will allow the sale of pesticides in Richmond. Pesticides are extremely harmful to our environment, not only to the pests they harm, but to our own health as well. Systemic pesticides also harm pollinators that ingest poisoned pollen and nectar, thus effectively poisoning their offspring, as well as birds and other animals that eat poisoned seeds and other parts of plants treated with pesticides.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 12:13pm 06-23-20

I'm a resident of Richmond and have grown to love this city and community. Finding out that the Richmond police department receives 40% of the general fund is appalling. We need to invest in our community not police it. Please decrease this amount and put more money towards community services, housing, education, and other sectors that make cities safer and healthier. Thank you.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 11:16am 06-23-20

I've been a Richmond resident for 18+ years and have witnessed how the police abuse and target Black and Brown members in my community. Today I learned that RPD accounts for 40% of the general fund expenditures and that's infuriating because my community needs resources that aren't even funded! All this money could be going toward services that are actually NEEDED. Growing up in this community, I experienced firsthand the lack of resources we receive. City council needs to listen to my community

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:28pm 06-22-20

I am a resident of Coronado and urge the city council to continue to move towards defunding RPD and reinvesting directly in our communities health and well-being. We should prioritize investing in our black youth and communities. Programs like our ONS have shown to be extremely effective in reducing violent crime and Eugene's CAHOOTS services have been extremely successful too. It is past time to invest in care, not cops.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 12:47pm 06-22-20

I am a resident of the Richmond Annex and I would like to see our city council take concrete steps toward defunding the police and reinvesting that money into the services that make our communities safer. Police do not make our communities safer. Healthcare, housing, mental health services, economic prosperity are what will make our communities safer. Our budget does not reflect the values that we should be prioritizing in our city. It's time to defund the police.

Sabrina Lundy

From: carmen tirado <carmentirado123@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:04 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Open Forum for Public Comments - not on the agenda

Hi, my name is Carmen and I am a Richmond resident. Today, I am emailing you to take bold action to reimagine public safety for our community. 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 50%
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 Richmond Library 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 police do not protect us. They never have.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Dena Nelson <dena.g.nelson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:24 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comments – Agenda Item F (General Public Comment)

Councilmembers, now is the time! We are at a pivotal moment in our nation's history and you have unique power right now to transform Richmond for the better. We can meet the challenges of our budget deficit and work toward racial justice at the same time by reducing the Richmond Police Department budget and making smarter investments in the community's safety. Please, follow the lead of forward-thinking cities across the country by placing an immediate moratorium on additional spending for the Richmond Police Department and cap future spending on equipment, capital improvements, and overtime.

Instead of policing our city's problems, we can shift toward restorative justice and comprehensive community safety. To start, please create a committee that includes Black youth and adults affected by over-policing, that engages the broader community for input, and that will publicly share a plan of proposed changes for the council's adoption.

Thank you.
Dena Nelson
San Jose Ave, Richmond, California
240-401-3535

Sabrina Lundy

From: Don Gosney <dongosney@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 4:11 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Cc: Don Gosney; Tom Butt - external; Jael Myrick; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Nat Bates; Melvin Willis; Ben Choi; Laura Snideman
Subject: Open Forum for Public Comments – not on the agenda

I hate to use anything that Richard Nixon said that might illustrate a point here in Richmond but he frequently spoke of the SILENT MAJORITY—the American people that didn't march, didn't burn their neighborhoods, didn't threaten, didn't try to intimidate, didn't loot as a form of protest and may not organize as well as the loud and angry people willing to get their message across by any means necessary.

When it comes to Richmond's budget and any consideration of defunding the police department or redirecting their funds, please listen to this member of Richmond's silent majority when I say to you all that while I support a healthy discussion of how we handle our police efforts, taking officers off of the streets is not an acceptable option.

I don't have enough friends to send you blast prewritten emails nor do I think that I can call you day and night to tell you what I think.

What I can say, though, is that the relatively small number of people that are screaming at the top of their lungs of the need to defund our police department MAY not be speaking for the 113,000 people living here in Richmond. Even before the shelter-in-place restrictions, I'm not so confident that any of you have really gone out in the community to discuss this option. I can speak with some authority that I'm not sure that anyone from the Council even knows how to get to the part of Richmond where I live so I'm equally confident that you haven't come to my part of the community to hear what my neighbors have to say.

Don Gosney

929 Lassen Street

Richmond, CA 94805-1030

Ph: (510) 233-2060

Cell: (510) 685-2403

dongosney@comcast.net

Sabrina Lundy

From: cubanelsa@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:04 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: public coment

Elsa Stevens Richmond resident 707 330-9434

I am calling on you to publicly commit to no cuts to libraries and library services, and no front-line layoffs. 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

From: Jessica Peregrina <jp.westcountyconciolatio@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:18 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Open Forum for Public Comments - not on the agenda

My name is Jessica Peregrina, I am a resident of Richmond, I support the wise and rational change in funding, take money from police and put it into resources for black and brown communities who have been systematically oppressed for many years. Support education, mental health and work creation.

Do not get rid of libraries and enrichment activities for our community! They are highly needed.

Listen to our youth who clearly see the social and racial injustice to our black brothers and sisters. Take them into consideration, they are creative, innovative, have the drive, energy and motivation to change and improve systemic injustice.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Laurel Bellon <laurel.bellon@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:10 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Open forum for public comments – not on the agenda

I am categorically against any cuts to the public library. The library is a critical tool for children's education, especially now during the COVID virus and resulting closures of schools and camps. It is also critical for adults to access computers they might otherwise not have access to, for education and to apply for jobs. You can cut the salaries of several of your elected/appointed officials, which are substantially higher than comparable salaries in neighboring cities and counties instead.

Most Sincerely.

Laurel Bellon
East Richmond Heights

Sabrina Lundy

From: Oravanh Thammassen <oravanh@cocofamilyjustice.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:59 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Open Forum for Public Comments - not on the agenda
Attachments: City Council Pub Comment.pdf

Hi,

Attached is a public comment from my Executive Director on IPV in Contra Costa County and in Richmond.

Thank you,
Oravanh

--

Oravanh Thammassen
West Center Director
Contra Costa Family Justice Alliance
256 24th Street
Richmond, CA 94804
510-974-7200



Public Comment

6/23/20

Good evening. I am Susun Kim, executive director of the Family Justice Center. I want to first thank the City Council for its consistent support for the Family Justice Center since we opened in 2011 at the RPD Substation at Hilltop.

In 2019, the West Family Justice Center assisted over 1,500 clients experiencing interpersonal violence – that is domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, and human trafficking. 845 of those clients were Richmond residents.

As you know, the Family Justice Center is a one-stop center where clients can get comprehensive services, including police support, mental health counseling, and legal assistance. It is a public-community partnership that brings 53 partner agencies to work together under one roof.

The impact of COVID-19 on our clients has been devastating. Many of our clients lost their low wage jobs during week 1 of Shelter-in-Place. This is not just a health crisis, but also an economic crisis. One client had to return to her abuser because she lost her housekeeping job. Another client was strangled by her partner; but decided to stay with her partner because she lost her job in a cafeteria. We have assisted clients who tested positive for COVID-19. In the last month, we have seen a significant increase in the number of domestic violence victims coming to us for services.

While domestic violence reports are increasing, I must note that child abuse reports are still down as mandated reporters, teachers and childcare providers, are not in contact with children. Elder abuse reports are down as more elders are living in isolation. We are concerned about this and doing a lot of work to raise awareness about child abuse and elder abuse.

In response to COVID-19, our three Centers have stayed open physically and virtually throughout the Shelter-In-Place period. While most services and programs have been provided virtually, we kept the Centers open for emergencies; for clients with no phone access; and to distribute grocery cards, food boxes and emergency financial assistance. Our virtual group programs have been going well. We have distributed Chrome books to children enrolled in our tutoring programs and parents in business development classes.

Finally, we are committed to learning about systemic racism and how to promote racial justice and equity in our work.

My call to action is this: Please stay informed and connected. We must work together and strengthen our relationships in these difficult times. Please visit our website (cocofamilyjustice.org) for more information.

Sabrina Lundy

From: David Sharples <dsharples@calorganize.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:28 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: OpenForum for Public Comments - not on the agenda

Good evening councilmembers. My name is Asuncion Carmona, I have lived in Richmond for 15 years and I am a member of ACCE. I don't want to see cuts made to the budget for community services. We need more money for parks so that I have a place to play soccer with my kids. We need more money for the library so my kids have a place to study. And we need more money for stop lights, speed bumps, and stop signs. We do not need more money for the police. We need to decrease the police budget and put that money into things the community needs. The police already has more than enough money when compared to other community services. Thank you.

My name is Veronica Medina. I live in Richmond and I am a member of the community group ACCE. For my family it is very important to have parks that are open and available for my kids so that they have a safe place where they can go and play and get fresh air. The library is also really important to my family. It is a place where my kids can go and do their homework after school. I think that our city needs to cut the budget for the police, because right now, we need other services like youth programs and housing. The police do not need to buy anything. They already have new police cars. Thank you.

My name is Ezequiel Chum. I live in Richmond and I am a member of ACCE. I am writing to you because I want to see you cut the police budget. You should not increase salaries for Richmond Police. Rather than funding the police the city should fund parks, libraries, housing for low income people, after school programs and traffic safety improvements. Thank you

My name is Emelia Bermudez. I am a Richmond resident and a member of ACCE. I urge you to defund the police. Right now is not the time to increase salaries for the police. It is more important to keep the library open and maintain the city's parks than to fund the police. We also need more traffic safety improvements like speed bumps.

My name is Cornelio Perez and I live in Richmond CA. I request that the City Council cut the Police Budget by 20% or more. The police doesn't need more money. We are currently in a pandemic and a housing crisis and we need to use those funds to house homeless people not for more police.

My name is Raul Vasquez. I am a Richmond resident and a ACCE Member. I have three sons who are students. They regularly use the Richmond Public Library to do research and study. In my forty years of living here in Richmond, I have never seen anything like this pandemic. With the spread of COVID we do not need the Mayor to cut the budget for community services. We need the parks so that we have places to exercise. We need the city to invest in traffic safety measures to prevent more accidents from occurring. If there are any budget cuts to be made, the cuts should be made to the

police department. The police have received more than enough money. It is now time to provide our communities with more assistance and services to make sure Richmond residents are healthy now and into the future.

My name is Irene Gonzalez, I am an ACCE member. I have lived in Richmond for over eighteen years and have five kids. I do not want the mayor to cut the budget for community services. We need more money for schools to provide better education for our children, better libraries and parks so that our children have a place to go to get physically active. We also need more speed bumps, stop signs, cameras to catch illegal dumpers and low income housing.

My name is Elsa Stevens, I am a Richmond resident and a member of ACCE. I am calling on you to not cut libraries and library services, and no front-line layoffs. 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?

My name is Laura Godinez. I am a Richmond resident and a member of ACCE. Living in Richmond it breaks my heart every day to see so many people living outside in encampments especially during this pandemic. Over the last five years we have seen a huge increase in Richmond's homeless population. We should be investing in housing and services for the homeless not in more funds for the Police. I urge you to cut the Police budget and redirect those funds into housing and homeless services. Thank you

Sabrina Lundy

From: Andrea Mullarkey <andrea.mullarkey@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:29 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public comment - Open forum

Good evening Mayor and Councilmembers,

I am Andrea Mullarkey, a Richmond resident, an SEIU 1021 member, and a public librarian.

This comment comes under the open forum tonight because you did not put the city budget on the agenda. I am surprised and disappointed by this. The budget reflects our priorities as a city and budget decisions should be made with lots of community input. These are difficult financial times and hard decisions will have to be made and I believe deeply in making those decisions transparently and with full community engagement.

I want to urge you, as you make budget decisions to please consider the value of the dollars spent on community services vs. policing. The Richmond City budget is already very lopsided with libraries receiving less than 1/10th the funding that the police department does. And considering that the average salary for a FTE in police is twice that of library workers, trying to balance this budget with cuts to library staffing is a mistake, both because of the limited cost savings you would realize and because of the important services that would be cut. Every week I come and remind you what the library does. I don't need to do that again - you know and you hear from the community how valuable it is to have a community-based space that is open to all members of the community to support whatever personal or collective development they are pursuing. We know that what we need is to invest in our services and spaces that lift up black and brown communities in anti-racist, people-first work.

So my question for you: where do you stand? Show us that you stand with the community by pledging not to cut libraries, neither the buildings, nor the services, nor the dedicated workers who deliver them.

Thank you.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Beryl Golden <berylgolden@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:28 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Open Forum for Public Comments - Not On The Agenda.

I urge the Councilmembers and the Mayor to support the concepts and plans drafted in the June 16th, 2020 letter to Richmond City Council and Mayor Butt to:

"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."

Beryl Golden,
Richmond Resident

Sabrina Lundy

From: Claire Battis <Claire.Battis@cchealth.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:28 PM
Cc: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Open Forum for Public Comments - Not on the Agenda

I was appalled at last week's city council meeting which opened with a heart wrenching story about a woman's son getting murdered by Richmond PD in HIS OWN HOME. Shortly after, Vice Mayor Bates stated that Richmond had a "model" police department, with no one acknowledging this woman's, unfortunately, all too common trauma.

The voices of your constituents asking you to preserve vital community programs like the libraries while defunding the police are roaring. Yet, instead of listening to us, you chose to remove budget discussions entirely from your agenda this evening. This just demonstrates how little you care about the public's concern about what services they'd like to see their city invest in. It shows how little you care about public's opinion. We will not be silenced.

Do NOT make furloughs or layoffs for library staff. They run on part time workers. Even cutting salaries by a couple thousand dollars/year is DEVASTATING to individuals living in the Bay Area who are already underpaid. There is an easy solution to balance the budget and it all can be done by focusing on police department cuts. Maybe you can pull some of the money you EACH are receiving from the police association or PORAC?

We demand each city council member pledge to protect library workers tonight.

Thanks,

Claire Battis

Claire Battis, MSW
Planner/Evaluator
Contra Costa Behavioral Health Services
1340 Arnold Drive, Suite 200
Martinez, CA 94553
Direct: 925-957-7545
CBattis@cchealth.org

Sabrina Lundy

From: Dorothy Gilbert <mariesnicewerewolf@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:26 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Open Forum for Public Comments--not on the Agenda

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

I'm Dorothy Gilbert, 22-year resident of Richmond. Thank you for hearing me.

Richmond overpolices our citizens; at the same time an undue burden is placed on our police. A letter addressed to you by 12 local civic organizations and 44 individual citizens listed 10 situations that cause calls to the police: among these are matters like mental illness, homelessness, drug overdoses and truancy, all of which could be better expedited if responsibility--and money--were allocated differently. Let us by all means work with the police, but use 20% of funds that now support them to shore up agencies that, working with police, can better confront and solve our city's problems. Thank you very much.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Eddy Chacon <exchacon@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:32 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Open Forum for Public Comments - Not On The Agenda

This is Eddy Chacon, Richmond community member, I am urging the council to reallocate funding from the police budget to prevent the city from reducing or closing services. It is 2020, there are nationwide movements and policies being implemented, including reallocation of police budgets. Have you heard of that one quote that says "When you are neutral in times of injustice you have chosen the side of the oppressor"? That was reflected last week in those city council members who abstained from the motion to defund RPD by 20%. I want you to know that the community is watching the moves you make. I want you to think of the legacy you will be leaving to our community once your terms are over. I want to urge you to consider calling for a task force to be created with black youth and people impacted by policing to develop a plan to re-imagine public safety in the community. Please think about the real needs of the community and consider reallocating funds.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Jane Courant <janecourant@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:28 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Open Forum for Public Comment

I'm Richmond resident Jane Courant, and once again urge the council to act boldly in facing our 2020-2021 budget challenge. Please listen to your residents who elected you and enact the changes that communities throughout the country are now considering in view of recent tragic events.

Richmond, too, must reimagine its approach to criminal justice and bring city residents into planning a new approach to public safety. I ask you to create an ad hoc committee to explore alternatives, with strong representation by youth and those most affected by punitive policing practices.

Cutting anything from library and recreational programs will only add to the deprivation in our neighborhoods most devastated by the Covid19 crisis. Rather, put a cap on Richmond's inflated, policing costs and reallocate those funds to creative solutions and positive public benefit.

Sabrina Lundy

From: David Sharples <dsharples@calorganize.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:35 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: OpenForum for Public Comments - not on the agenda

My name is Jose Alfredo Palma. I am a Richmond resident and an ACCE Member. I have lived in Richmond for the last two years. I have a daughter. We like to go to the library and to the parks to do different activities like exercise and play soccer to be in good health. We need to preserve community services. If we are going to cut anything we should cut the police department's big salaries. Don't cut the community services we depend on. Thank you.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Laura Mangels <laura.mangels@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:33 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: public comment - open forum

Dear council members,

I am a Richmond sociologist with a PhD from UC Berkeley who has studied crime and policing for decades.

For structural reasons, official violent crime rates have been declining not only in Richmond, but across the United States. And yet we find it difficult to imagine cutting our police budget. What is the police for, if not to respond to crime? So if crime is going down--why is the police budget always rising?

To justify the bloated budget, we inappropriately rely on the police for situations where a different kind of response would be better.

We need to cut the police budget not only so that that we can balance the budget. More importantly, we need to cut the police budget so that we can reallocate funds to crucial services. We could hire social workers, community mediators, mental health professionals, and others who can help make our community safer.

Experts on public safety have been making the case for decades. Our youth are making the case in the streets. We are all demanding the same thing, we are all demanding that you defund the police and reallocate money in the community.

Sincerely,
Dr. Laura Mangels

Sabrina Lundy

From: Luis Chacon <lfchacon7@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:51 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Open Forum for Public Comments - not on the agenda

My name is Luis and I am a local public school teacher.

I urge the council to reallocate funding from the police budget to prevent the city from reducing or closing other public services that serve families and youth in a more supportive and dignified manner.

The reallocation of funding does not mean abolishing the police. Rather, it means reappropriating funds into other public mental, social, physical, and emotional health services. This would potentially allow those officers who seek to protect and serve as they say, to continue doing so in a more productive and intentional way.

I also call for a task force to be created, with Black youth and people impacted by policing, to develop a plan to re-imagine public safety in the community.

Thank you for your time.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Marina Zubareva <marinavzubareva@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:25 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Open Forum for Public Comments - not on the agenda - Defund the Police

Mayor Butt and council people,

I am a Richmond home owner, resident and teacher. As a music teacher at Ford Elementary, Lake Elementary, Valley View and Mira Vista, I have seen, first hand, the detrimental effect over-policing, police brutality and the prison industry have on our community, our children. I REFUSE to pay in taxes for systemic incarceration and murder of my students, my husband, my daughter. We MUST invest in mental health support, youth programming, libraries, education. We MUST invest in life and hope not in fear and death. Time to defund the police and invest in our future.

Marina Zubareva

Sabrina Lundy

From: Michael Gliksohn <mglksohn@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:31 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Open Forum for Public Comments - not on the agenda

Dear Mayor Butt and Council Members,

My name is Michael Gliksohn 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:

Approve a motion to reduce the Richmond Police Department budget by 20%

Place a moratorium on future 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.

This is vital if we are to transform Richmond and our country.

Thank you.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Michelle Chan <michellechansf@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:27 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Open Forum for Public Comments - not on the agenda (please read)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

- Dear Councilmembers, my name is Michelle Chan and I and my family are residents of North and East.
-
- As the Council debates how to close the budget gap, I urge you to consider reducing compensation for the wealthiest city workers in order to protect the hours and pay of lower-paid employees. I also urge you to reallocate at least 20 percent of funding from the police budget, including limiting overtime, as a way to prevent the city from reducing or closing important city services.
-
- Finally, I strongly believe that we need to reimagine what public safety could look like for Richmond. I support the creation of a task force, comprised mainly of Black youth and people impacted by policing, to drive this process.
-
- Other models of public safety already exist. In Eugene OR, for example, the publicly-funded CAHOOTS program sends a medic and a mental health worker to cover certain calls instead of police. In 2017, these teams answered 17 percent of the Eugene Police Department's overall call volume, saving the city around \$8 million each year. Defunding the police is not a hair-brained idea -- as Mayor Butt called it -- it's one whose time has come.
-
- Sincerely,
- Michelle Chan

Sabrina Lundy

From: Randy Joseph <rfjoseph23@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:26 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Open Forum for Public Comments-not on the agenda

Here are my public comments:

Good evening. To say that I am upset that the city continues to invest in its Police Department, but defund programs for the community would be an understatement. I hear the city council say they value the city, but never put value in to the city. Instead of investing in our youth, or investing in affordable housing, or investing in mental health programs, you invest in in a police building. This needs to stop. Police does not equal safe communities. You know what does? Affordable Housing, Clean parks and libraries, youth programs, employment training, employment opportunities, cleaner streets, cleaner air. That makes our city safe. Defund the police department and put much needed funds back in the areas that actually make cites safe.

Thank You,

Randy Joseph
Richmond Resident

Sabrina Lundy

From: Sadie Egan <sadierubye@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:27 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Open Forum for Public Comments - not on the agenda

My name is Sadie Egan and I grew up in Richmond and am now raising my family here as well. I am extremely disappointed that Council member Willis's motion to reduce RPDs budget by 20% and establish alternative community safety programs did not pass last week. This was a huge missed opportunity.

I would like to urge the council, but specifically councilmembers Myrick, Johnson and Choi, to create and fund an ad hoc committee composed of black youth and adults to form a plan to transition current RPD functions to restorative and community based safety programs for our city. This would ensure that the "process" that all three of you cited as your reasoning for a "no" or "abstain" vote on Willis's motion begins and we continue to move towards transforming our community safety and wellbeing.

We must put our money where our morals are. Continuing to fund a militarized police force with limited training or competence in mental health, drug abuse, homelessness, disability, or combatting systemic racism is NOT in our community's best interest. Defund the Police and fund the people.

I would also like to address the many RPD employees that called in last week and ask that they read what the defund movement is really asking for. Ask yourselves what made you want to become a police officer. I hope it was ensuring community safety and helping people. If that is the case, then you should be right here with us demanding that money be invested in programs to manage, decrease and respond to the societal issues that lead to violent crime.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Taylor Kennedy <taylorknnd2@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:27 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Open Forum for Public Comments-not on the agenda

Dear City Council,

As a resident of Richmond I urge you to defund the RPD who have proven time and time again they do not deserve our money nor our trust and instead invest that money in community resources like our public libraries, pools, youth programs and local Richmond business. Furthermore I would like to ask that the funds that would have gone to the RPD be invested in a task force with Black youth and people impacted by policing, to develop a plan to re-imagine public safety in our community. Lastly I would like to say to Mayor Butt that your actions over the previous city council meetings have been a disgrace and I'm looking forward to voting you out.

Thank you

Taylor Kennedy

Sabrina Lundy

From: Valerie Jameson <valjam92@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:49 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment to be read aloud for - Open Forum

My name is Valerie Jameson and I am a Richmond resident. My comments are an extension of last weeks defunding of the Richmond police department discussion. I would like to start off by acknowledging council members Willis and Martinez for taking a brave step of voting on a motion that was put forward by community members to reduce RPD's budget by 20% which would have alleviated the immediate pressures of balancing next year's city budget and provided an immediate timeline for next steps and accountability.

I also want to thank councilmember Myrick for his recent comments, and for taking proactive steps forward in reallocating funds when the conversation seemed to be closed. This type of reallocation of funds in the case of the lieutenant position toward alternative models of community prevention and crime reduction are exactly what we are calling for when we talk about reimagining public safety.

There is a spectrum of opinions among those that are calling to defund the police. From the ask of reducing RPD's budget to close the immediate deficit to complete police abolition. However, what was put forward last week was mainly about defunding and eliminating the OVER FUNDING of the police department in relation to our overall budget. Our city is deprived of various social services and resources related to health, safety, recreation, and housing. We nickel and dime critical programs and propose eliminating services (in the case of the attempt to repeal rent control) and undercut efforts to prioritize preventative family and children services (in the case of the attacks on Richmond Kids First)

YET we cannot address the elephant in the room in terms of where the majority of our city dollars are being spent? I urge the council not to take this moment in vain and propose action steps to transition our budget allocations. This means:

1. Placing a moratorium on future spending for the Richmond Police Department which includes capping spending for equipment, capital improvements, and overtime spending. While 2. Directing staff to create a six-month ad hoc committee to develop a plan to transition critical services and functions outside of the scope of the police department toward an overall restorative and comprehensive community safety program. This committee should prioritize those most impacted by policing, and Black, Indigenous, People of Color who have been central to advocacy on this topic for years.

Our city has gone through a reorganization of departments, and I am hopeful a similar process can be done regarding the roles and responsibilities of the police department to alleviate overspending. Defunding is not about reducing staffing capacity to respond to community needs. It is about reallocating and outsourcing those responsibilities based on what is truly needed for

the health and well-being of individuals and the community as a whole. This moment is not over, and this conversation must continue with committed action on behalf of all members of the council to move toward creating a new and sustainable model for how we allocate city funds and how we view public safety.

Thank you