

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, June 9, 2020

The Richmond City Council Evening Open Session was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Thomas K. Butt via teleconference.

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

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

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

Written public comments were received via email and eComment. Comments received by 3:00 p.m. on April 21, 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, Melvin Willis, Vice Mayor Bates and Mayor Thomas K. Butt. **Absent:** Councilmember Jael Myrick 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 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

Tarnel Abbott urged the City Council to make appropriate cuts starting with the highest paid staff.

The Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 6:04 p.m.
Closed Session adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

The Special Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Mayor Butt via teleconference.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Choi, Johnson III, Willis, Vice Mayor Bates, and Mayor Butt. **Absent:** Councilmember Martinez arrived after roll call.

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

AGENDA REVIEW

Mayor Butt stated that the union group would also present information regarding the budget during Item F-2.

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 the following updates related to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19): businesses and gatherings that were not allowed to be open yet are bars and nightclubs, group gatherings over 12 people, gyms, salons and spas.

BUDGET SESSION

F-1. The matter to receive information on the financial impact of compensating employees that are unable to work due to COVID-19; approve staff's recommendation to implement Option A, which allows for full compensation of all city staff with the use of accruals for time they are not working due to COVID-19; and authorize the City Manager to clarify the selected policy option administratively, as needed was presented by Interim Deputy City Manager LaShonda White. This item was continued from the June 2, 2020, meeting. The PowerPoint presentation highlighted the following: Background; Financial impact; Policy options; recommended actions. Discussion ensued. Tanell Abbott gave comments via phone. A motion was made by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember Martinez to continue with Option B. A substitute motion was made by Mayor Butt, seconded by Councilmember Myrick to support staff's recommendation to

implement Option A, which allows full compensation of all City staff with the use of accruals for the time they are not working due to COVID-19, and authorize the city manager to clarify the selected policy option administratively, as needed, was approved by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Choi, Johnson III, Myrick, Vice Mayor Bates, and Mayor Butt. **Noes:** Councilmembers Martinez and Willis. **Abstentions:** None. **Absent:** None.

F-2. The matter to receive a report on the status of the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Annual Operating Budget was presented by Finance Director, Belinda Brown, Fire Chief Adrian Sheppard, and Interim Police Chief, Bisa French, who presented a PowerPoint and highlighted the following: Budget updates; vacancy and overtime review; budget balancing proposals; budget goals; City Council budget calendar; General Fund overtime budget to actual; police and fire sworn overtime; Police and Fire Department overtime, police non-sworn; City Manager's Office, Finance Department, Library & Community Services, and Public Works. Sean Staulbaum presented the Richmond Union Coalition Budget Balancing Proposals, which highlighted the following: additional departmental savings in the amount of \$4,091,509; additional vacancy savings: \$3,522,776; spend down \$2,185,715 in the reserves; total savings of \$9.8 M.; recommended no travel and training expenses for one year. Discussion ensued. The City Council requested analysis and cost report of keeping the jail open or not. The following individuals provided comments via email, eComments, or telephone: Tarnel Abbott, Mary Vradelis, Bruno Teixeira, Victoria Song, Sara Cantor, Leisa Johnson, Ian Birnam, Andres Soto, Claudia Jimenez, Laura Mangels, Jane Courant, Mike Parker, Brittney Ross, Lisa Park, Deborah Bonet, Michael Gliksohn, Brenda Illescas, Elizabeth Watts, John Brown, Laura Thomas, Kathleen Carney, Andrea Mularkey, and Valerie Jameson. Further discussion ensued. The City Council took action on the vacant positions as follows: A motion by Councilmember Myrick, seconded by Council Member Willis to approve filling the Environmental Manager position, which was fully funded by ECIA; and to freeze the following positions: Budget Analyst I, Payroll Supervisor, Crime Scene Technician, Dispatcher II, and Parking Enforcement Representative was approved by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Choi, Johnson III, Martinez, Myrick, and Willis. **Noes:** Mayor Butt. **Abstentions:** Vice Mayor Bates. **Absent:** None. A motion by Councilmember Myrick, seconded by Councilmember Johnson III to freeze six and to fill two of the Police Officer positions, and freeze three and fill one of the Police Sergeant positions was approved by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Choi, Johnson III, Martinez, Myrick, and Willis. **Noes:** Vice Mayor Bates and Mayor Butt. **Abstentions:** None. **Absent:** None. *(11:00 p.m. on motion of Councilmember Myrick, seconded by Councilmember Willis extended the meeting 30 minutes by the unanimous vote of the City Council).* A motion by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember Johnson, to freeze the Equipment Operator and Park Construction and Maintenance Worker position was approved by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Choi, Johnson III, Martinez, Myrick, Willis, and Vice Mayor Bates. **Noes:** Mayor Butt. **Abstentions:** None. **Absent:** None. A motion was made by Mayor Butt, seconded by Councilmember Willis to cut all overtime in half. A substitute motion by Councilmember Myrick, seconded by Councilmember Johnson to reduce overtime by one million dollars was approved by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Choi, Johnson III, Myrick, and Willis. **Noes:**

Councilmember Martinez and Mayor Butt. **Abstentions:** Vice Mayor Bates. **Absent:** None. The Council requested a review in three or six months.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:16 p.m., in memory of William Casey, to meet again on Tuesday, June 16, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor

Sabrina Lundy

From: jessica angulo <angulojessica09@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 1:43 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: public comments- agenda item #F-1

As a member of SEIU Local 1021, I would live to voice my concern to the pay inequity that seems to run rampant throughout the different levels of employment groups in the City of Richmond-whether it's executive management to management in general ways. Please consider holding accountability of every department and looking deeper into their hiring and promotion practices before voting on recommendations of the city budget.

I have lived in Richmond most of my life. I went to school in Richmond and attended a four year university in Los Angeles before returning to Richmond to serve my community. I am afraid that as a young Latina woman, my position in serving my community will be impacted by the budget crisis and I will ultimately not be able to afford living here. It is disheartening that the City of Richmond can possibly cut services from our community that are in dire need, now more than ever, and I won't be able to serve my community because of the injustices in pay.

I ask that the Finance Department be more transparent in their processes and gathering of statistics when providing recommendations to the city council. I agree with the council, the presentation last week felt rushed, not organized, and ultimately not clear to the audience being affected. More than ever our council needs to make informed and educated decisions that will affect our communities most in need. Let's do the right thing and not take any shortcuts.

Respectfully,
Jessica Barragan

Sabrina Lundy

From: Alecia Martin <aleciafm@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 11:57 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: public comments – agenda item F-2

My name is Alecia Martin and I am a member of IBX Fitness, a group fitness program operating out of the Booker T Anderson community center in Richmond.

I am writing again to urge you to reconsider closing Richmond community centers, including Booker T Anderson, through Dec. 2020.

Contra Costa County announced its continued plan for reopening this week. At a time when the county has taken special care to open golf courses and tennis courts, it feels especially egregious that up for discussion is the long term closure of spaces that serve as physical activity hubs for a larger, more diverse intersection of community members than a golf course does.

Richmond community centers bolster community health with opportunities for connection, exercise, children and youth programming, and provide jobs to local residents. We must execute this reopen phase with broad community health as a priority. If we don't, we are just pushing the public health crises down the line and will see chronic disease, mental illness, isolation, and loneliness grow.

Please reconsider the long term closure of Richmond community centers. Richmond residents who frequent these accessible, affordable community resources should be given the same care, consideration, and opportunity as those who frequent golf courses, tennis courts, and expensive gyms. They should not be on the chopping block!

Thank you for your time.
Alecia Martin, MPH

Sabrina Lundy

From: Allan L. JENSEN <grams@berkeley.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 11:21 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: 6/9/20 Council meeting Budget Session item F-2

Financial Crisis for city departments: regarding proposed cuts to the Community Services Department – Aquatics Programs

Aquatics Programs are much more than public “free recreational swimming”. Citizens of all ages also can participate in swim lessons, lap swimming, group water exercising, water walking, among others. Most of these if not all can be tied to Physical Therapy required by Doctors and hospital/clinic therapy staff for recovery from surgeries, accidents (broken limbs), joint replacements, or muscle and tissue tears and separations. I know. I have used the Plunge and the Richmond Swim Center for many years for many of these needed issues.

As President of Richmond Friends of Recreation (RFoR) I can testify to you that loss of these aquatics programs and staff will fly in the face

Of the efforts of RFoR and Richmond citizens when we all joined together years ago to “Save the Plunge”. RFoR continues to support and

Fund efforts to keep programs and even equipment fiscally sound. You, Council members now hold the purse strings to do your part to

“Save the Aquatics Programs”. RFoR stands ready to continue our part but we and the citizens of Richmond need your help. Please

Don't miss this boat>

Sincerely,

Allan Jensen, President
Richmond Friends of Recreation

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Sabrina Lundy

From: Alyss Dorese <alyss.dorese@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 12:52 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public comment agenda item F-2

SAVE OUR SWIMMING POOLS

As a senior with sciatic problems, the Richmond swimming pools are a blessing and great treatment for medical problems by providing an exercise program for seniors. If you care about your senior population, you should support keeping our swimming pools open.

Sincerely,
Alyss Dorese
495 Key Blvd, Richmond, CA 94805

Sabrina Lundy

From: Alyssa Newman <alyssaspeak@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 11:36 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F-2

Alyssa Newman
Richmond Annex resident

The Plunge is an incredible resource in Richmond, for my physical and mental wellbeing. I also love the diversity of community members that use the pool. I hope the City is able to reopen the pools safely.

Thank you so much for your consideration, and for leading us through these difficult times.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Amiee Flynn-Curran <a.flynncurran@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 12:51 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENTS BUDGET SESSION

Hi - my name is Amiee Flynn-Curran, I live in District 2. I am writing to implore our council members to carefully consider the needs of the people of Richmond while looking at making necessary budget cuts, and remember that during times of economic uncertainty our community will fare much better if services such as recreation and our libraries are prioritized.

It is absurd to even contemplate library closures. Libraries are essential - especially for our elders and our youth, these facilities ensure access to books, internet, and other resources that are vital. To take away libraries is to seriously sentence Richmond to a bleak future. I can hardly begin to articulate the many reasons this would be so detrimental - but just know that every single council member who has any part in shutting the libraries will have to live with that legacy. I plan to continue this fight until our libraries are supported to the full extent.

The pools and rec departments are also being threatened with closures or staff cut-backs. The Plunge, in particular, has been a place of peace and community-building for me - and Richmond Swim Center is also a lovely place. The staff are not at all eating up a huge portion of the city budget (in fact, they should be asking for more...) and the facilities are some of the great gems Richmond has to offer. All I can say is, once again, closures and cut-backs in pools and recreation will simply take from Richmond residents the community and health benefits, which are so desperately needed to face into the uncertain future.

Remember, you are elected to serve the people - the people of Richmond are speaking and they are asking for you to invest in our health and literacy. We may be facing a deficit, but we are a big city and we do have resources - don't cut the programs that are foundational to a thriving community.

Amiee Flynn-Curran

Sabrina Lundy

From: Ann Worth <ann.worth@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 4:24 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for City Council Item F-2

Dear Richmond City Council,

I hope you will find a way to continue to maintain the swimming pool.

It is well used by the community. I see young people in training, the elderly, and the Disabled, All able to safely distance and practice in the water.

I have had both knees replaced and they swell up when I exercise on land. I can Safely do more in the water. My partner is diabetic with a leg injury. Walking on land becomes very painful.

We deteriorate when we can't move around. Please help us live full lives.

Thank you,

Ann Worth

ann.worth@gmail.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Anne Ruffino <aruffino@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 2:37 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: City Council Meeting June 9, 2020, Agenda Item F-2

Agenda Item F-2 Save the pools

I am very concerned about proposals to reduce funds for the Richmond Plunge and the Richmond Swim Center. The draft budget even suggests closing the pools.

Please vote to reopen the pools when it is safe and keep them operating by any means possible. Please encourage your colleagues to do the same.

I love the City of Richmond and its pools and have a 35-year relationship with the Plunge. Hundreds of others feel the same.

The two beautiful indoor pools are Richmond's crown jewels! They offer programs for every resident of any age, ability, and experience, beginning with age 6 months. They teach the useful and lifesaving skill of swimming and offer physical fitness for everyone. As youngsters come to love the water, some of them will become lifeguards. Some will become lifeguards and water safety instructors at our pools. It is a great first job for young people, teaching them reliability, safety consciousness, and effective communication with Richmond's great variety of patrons.

Most Richmond residents, covering many generations, learned to swim at the Plunge. Many remember that they learned from June Albonico. This benefit is intangible and invaluable. Many cities struggle to create institutions where this sense of community is generated.

We want to create happy memories that span generations. Also intangible are the joyful looks on toddlers' faces as they are exposed to the water by their parents using Red Cross-approved safety methods, and the faces of adults who just mastered side-breathing and fear, and the comfort experienced by water fitness participants, both in classes and in their independent workouts, which are vital for those who are overweight or have failing joints.

No other Richmond institution provides a better value to your constituents.

Please keep the pools open.

Anne Ruffino

Sufficient unto the day are the pleasures thereof.

I said that.

H 510 234-2152

C 510 619-6611

Sabrina Lundy

From: Ashley Scarborough <ashley.p.scarborough@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 7:56 AM
To: Tom Butt - external
Cc: Ben Choi; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Melvin Willis
Subject: Public comment- agenda item #f-2

Mayor and City Councilpeople,

My name is Ashley Scarborough and I am a Richmond resident. I am writing to support Richmond Revolution's demands. **I have personalized comments in red.**

- We demand the abolition of the Richmond Police Department. In the interim,

+ We demand body camera footage be stored externally, so district attorneys and civilian oversight groups can access the video.

+ We demand transparency and a quick release of videos as public information whenever there is use of force by officers.

Why are our youth still asking for this 5 years after Mike Brown's murder led to a national discussion on police body cameras? It's clear to me, even as a newer (2years) resident, that the Richmond police would like us to believe they are reform and community policing oriented, but they cannot even deliver this simple transparency to help us feel just a little safer?! Secondly, they're so poorly trained in conflict de-escalation that less than a year ago a 27 year RPD veteran killed a man while off duty during an argument?! Where has our very large investment in reform and community policing gotten us? This request is the very least the police department can do and outrageous it's not already done!

- We demand investment in addressing education, health and housing inequity to address the root causes of crime in our community.

I did a quick comparative analysis of city budget spending among departments. The Police spend 16x as much as the housing department. If you ask police, they will openly admit they are overwhelmed with calls regarding community social needs (like lack of housing, lack of addiction medicine, etc.) Why have we underfunded social and economic supports but expect the police to over engage/criminalize people who clearly need alternative interventions?! Listen to the youth on this demand and put our money where it can create the most good/least harm!

- We demand investment in the Black community, and resources to ensure Black people can not only survive, but thrive.

I'm not Black but in no way do I want to be more comfortable or enjoy more resources than Black members of my community. We need real equity and prioritization of Black lives in Richmond. In the budget I read several nods to departments that tout equity as a part of their goals. Please get community input and measure the impact of these goals! Equity is not a buzzword it needs concrete and immediate action.

- We demand investment in the health and prosperity of our community, with an emphasis on youth programs.

I'm a public health professional so the notion that we can't cut a budget is laughable to me. We've been cutting public health funds for decades. The city of Richmond no longer has a public safety net hospital. We aren't prioritizing the safety of our community when it comes to meeting basic health and wellness standards, but the argument for the police is public safety?!? Whose safety are we talking about here?

The Police spend 43x as much as the office of neighborhood safety.

The Police spend 10x as much as the office of employment and training.

We need a swift refocus from overspending on police to investing in our communities wellness and prosperity. Listen to the youth on this one!

I'll be phoning in to make a statement. This is not the time for business as usual regarding the FY 20-21 budget.

Regards,

Ashley Scarborough

Sent on the go please excuse typos

Sabrina Lundy

From: Ayden Winter <aydenswinter@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 12:25 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F-2

Hello,

My name is Ayden Winter, and I am a Resident of the city of Richmond. I purchased my home, on 37th and Cutting, just over two years ago, and my top reason for moving to this neighborhood was to live in walking distance to a public pool. I have a chronic, long-term back instability that does not hurt AT ALL when I swim at minimum every other day. When I am unable to swim, I am in excruciating pain whenever I sit.

I am one of the top NeuroMuscular Reprogramming Practitioners in the country. Every week (when not under quarantine), I help 25 clients out of extreme pain situations (at a rate of \$250/hr). I have taught my modality to over 1,000 students, and have helped tens of thousands of people out of pain.

Even though I have seen the best chiropractors, CMTs, acupuncturists, NMR Practitioner, doctors, and more - no individual has helped me more than swimming has. I tell many clients EVERYDAY that if they can't afford to pay me, they can get in the pool and do this themselves for \$6/visit. When I go to Richmond Swim Center in the morning, I am greeted EVERYDAY by Sue, Lauri, and over 10 women who are there daily, who are all managing their chronic pain.

If you really believe that black lives matter - that black women matter - take a moment to think about the disabled black women who use this pool daily to manage their pain. Every morning, at RSC, we say hello, and they tell me they are blessed. Think about all of the women of color, who can't afford the rates of Practitioners like me, but who show up and do the work for themselves in the water - for whom it is the only way to get out of pain.

Do not take this resource away from us. There is no other way to manage my pain. I have been in severe pain since early April, and so have Lauri and Sue. This pool is a lifeline. Charge us more, find the money - find a way, but please, please, do not take this resource from our community.

Thank you,
Ayden Winter

Sabrina Lundy

From: Barbara <ptabahbah@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 10:30 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public comment for item F2

Hello:

My name is Barbara Hauser. I have been teaching classes called Barbara's Aquatic Fitness in the Richmond Swim Center since last August. I've been in the field of physical therapy, personal training and massage for many years. Many of my clients have written you a note to support the continuation of this swim center and their specific classes. They have all gained significant strength and stamina through taking these classes and specific healing for various physical problems. Aquatic fitness is an all encompassing way to heal the body. In this program we use specialized equipment to address problems and strengthening for the whole body! Since classes are small it would be easy to do social distancing within my rented area in the pool.

All of us in this class are hoping that the programs at this pool can be continued. I've been working in various pools in the bay area for 20 years. This pool is the cleanest and most appropriate for this work. The access and design of the pool is excellent and the lifeguards are very helpful and efficient. I also want to commend the manager who loves this place and supports programs like mine and others to help the community. I live in Richmond and sincerely hope we can continue our healing processes in this pool.

Thank you,

Barbara Hauser

Sabrina Lundy

From: Bertha Pearl <berthapearl@ymail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 12:01 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: public comment – agenda item F-2

Defund the police and put that money into housing the houseless, mental health services, and social services that help Black communities and Black youth instead of the police

- **Hard hiring freeze.** In order to preserve existing jobs, the unions have united around a position on “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.
- **Police reform and funding.** The [youth organizers](#) who organized Saturday’s vibrant, beautiful rally and march also have put forward ambitious demands around the police reform and funding:

We demand the abolition of the Richmond Police Department. In the interim,

+ We demand body camera footage be stored externally, so district attorneys and civilian oversight groups can access the video.

+ We demand transparency and a quick release of videos as public information whenever there is use of force by officers.

We demand investment in addressing education, health and housing inequity to address the root causes of crime in our community.

We demand investment in the Black community, and resources to ensure Black people can not only survive, but thrive.

We demand investment in the health and prosperity of our community, with an emphasis on youth programs.

this is what a progressive city looks like. Lets lead the Bay Area in change and progress

*Bertha Pearl
Richmond, CA*

Sabrina Lundy

From: Betty Lindgren-Young <robetty@pacbell.net>
Sent: Sunday, June 07, 2020 6:35 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment: F-2 Item: Budget for 20-21

To the Honorable Richmond City Council Members:

I write as you consider the Richmond city budget for the coming year, facing the difficult decisions on how to fund important programs in light of diminishing resources. I want to make sure that you consider the Aquatics Program to be one of those important programs.

I have been going to both the Richmond Swim Center and the Richmond Plunge since I retired 13 years ago. I started specifically to get appropriate exercise for arthritic joints, and I found that the 9 a.m. class held in both pools on alternate days worked very well for that purpose. The classes have been staffed by three different teachers over the years, all providing thoughtful and supportive routines for joint exercise, but also providing strengthening and aerobic activities as well. I have met many people at the pool, some through the class, some preferring to water-walk or exercise on their own, and all of us strongly feel that the pools contribute to our physical, mental, and social capabilities. My friend Lupe, age 97, stopped going only because the pool closed, not because she was slowing down.

While in my classes, I have also observed lanes filled with others who are swimming laps and other areas of the pool filled with people water-walking or exercising on their own. A number of these people use walkers and canes to trek the hallways to the pool, and some arrive with caregivers to help them access the pool via the handicapped chair. These are all adults, but after my class, at 10 a.m., there has been an infant-toddler class, and the little kids with one or both of their parents are learning the importance of being unafraid and safe in the water.

I realize that the pools have other classes and programs for basic swimming lessons, water safety, competition swimming, life-guard training, recreational swimming and such, but I'll leave it to others to speak to those. My concern is for those who are aging and in need of appropriate physical exercise, especially those who don't have access to private pools or other means of getting this exercise. Continued funding for the Aquatics Program is important.

Thank you for your consideration,

Betty Lindgren-Young

Sabrina Lundy

From: Blair Craig <sblaircraig@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 5:00 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: "Public Comment Agenda Item F-2"

Dear Council Members,

My name is Blair Craig and I live in the Pine neighborhood of San Pablo, which is so close to Richmond it shares a zip code. I swim at Richmond Swim Center and the Plunge. I urge you to please keep the Richmond swimming pools open and operating as usual, as soon as it is safe to do so. The recreational programs under the Community Services Department are so vital to this community. I have lived in Richmond for nine years and it was not until I began regularly coming to the Swim Center that I began meeting people who became friends in my community. Even now, during the shelter-in-place, I see friends and lifeguards from the pools as I walk around my neighborhood, and we all talk about how much we miss the pool and the community there.

The pools and programs are welcoming and enthusiastically used by a broad spectrum of our community, and they create a crucial place for people to socialize and partake in activities to promote physical and mental health. In our pools, I see the youngest to the oldest members of our communities mingling together because these are a places for affordable, friendly, health-building activities, and where people with disabilities, people of all creeds, colors, and backgrounds, and people of all socioeconomic standing can gather, move their bodies, and have fun.

Find other places to trim your budget - look at the top rather than the bottom. Cutting funding from the Community Services Department will devastate programs of utmost meaning to Richmond residents, leave our programs staff without work, and effectively cut away key places in which we build our community, promote our health, and bring vitality to our city.

Thank you,
Blair Craig

Sabrina Lundy

From: Brianna Costello <bpcostello@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 1:07 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comments - Agenda item F-2

Hello and thank you for taking the time to read my email. My name is Brianna Costello and I am the co-owner of IBX Fitness which is a group fitness program that operates out of the Booker T Anderson community center in Richmond.

I'm emailing regarding one of the Potential Strategies for the current and next fiscal years: reducing staff and hours of community centers. I would like to express my concern that if this strategy is implemented and the hours and/or services of community center programs are reduced, IBX Fitness would have to reduce its program offerings, which would lead to cancelling the program. This could also affect the youth programs run through BTA and other Richmond Community Centers.

IBX Fitness is a key component to my mental and physical health. Not only am I a co-owner but I also participate in the classes. We have created a small yet strong community through our program which I would be very sad to lose. It would also be unfortunate to lose any youth programs that provide healthy and safe outlets for the local kids.

I understand there are financial concerns however, I think it's very important to prioritize keeping the Community Centers and other centers alike open since they provide positive growth and avenues for the city's community. The programs offered through these centers also help provide a great sense of comradery for all participants, a much needed morale boost in such uncertain times, a healthy and safe outlet for the kids involved and also jobs for all the coaches and staff who are key in keeping these programs functioning.

I ask that you please consider keeping these community centers and their staff funded!

Thank you,
Brianna

Sabrina Lundy

From: claw <carol@artsplural.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 07, 2020 8:09 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F

From Carol Law (I use the Point Richmond Natatorium and average of 3 times a week with my husband, Charles Amirkhanian). We are in our 70's and this is for exercise and rehabilitation. Essential to survival. You may read from any portion of our letter.

Our question for public commit is: Has anyone on staff at city hall or any elected official thought about or tried to raise the money to keep the pools open? I mean to request the public who cares about the swim centers to DONATE via "CROWD SOURCING"? Exactly how much money is necessary to keep the staff working and the pools opened when possible? How can you just quit without trying to raise the funds? "YOU CANNOT RAISE A PENNY UNLESS YOU ASK SOMEONE." It seems the city is out of money and the idea is to first see what to cut out of public services. We know you have a lot of people upset about the pools. Instead, can the staff organize a fundraising campaign online, using all our emails and the media? Flow the funds through a non-profit or form a Pool Foundation. The Federal government gave Richmond over a million dollars to save this historical treasure. They trusted you would care for it and it would enrich the community which it does. I believe it was through the NEH "Save America's Treasures Program? Right? Has someone called Washington D.C. yet, to that historical program and asked for a grant to, again, save this treasure. Aren't you embarrassed to be so oblivious of how awful this makes the Richmond city management look? Why not try before making this cut on the pool(s), especially the wonderful, historical Natatorium?

To whomever is involved in making any decisions regarding the Natatorium in Point Richmond and the Richmond Swim Center:

Dear Friends and Elected Officials,

We are all distressed about so many things right now, and we know the city has many financials issues to manage. However, It is more important than ever to maintain the few services that make us human, help us stay healthy and support us psychologically. The Swimming Pools are essential and enable us to live a more satisfying and healthy life. We have lost so much, so please do not take this important resource away too. There must be a way to maintain the pools and open them for limited use to help us manage our health.

It is not only (or even primarily) about recreation for us. My husband and I both use these two pools about three times a week for rehabilitation and exercise. My (Carol's) back is in constant pain without water walking in the deep end and Charles would face a hip replacement without his swimming and exercises. Such an operation for him could be fatal as he has a condition that makes him very susceptible to bacterial infections.

There is no way to duplicate this type of weightless exercise in a gym or at home. And we are not alone in this need but have met countless others who depend on the pools for daily and weekly work-outs. Most of us are

older, with multiple health issues and our time in the water is always a positive, uplifting experience and relieves pain. I urge you to find some way to fund and reopen the pools, maybe with a reduced schedule.

How would this work? We understand the water is not a carrier of COVID19 but the contact with the other people and the locker room use is an issue. We wear flotation belts and would most likely never be a problem for a life guard. We could even skip the locker rooms, shower at home, wear a suit and robe, come swim and go straight home to shower. Whatever it takes...we would co-operate. Access to the toilets would be the only contact. Also you could increase the fees by “donation” for those that could afford a bit more. Please move carefully on this. The Point Richmond Pool is especially such a gem and so large and full of fresh air. It would probably be the safest of the indoor heated pools. As for the children and lap swimmers, they would probably be safest in one of the outdoor pools over the summer. However, for the disabled, the older customers and those in rehab from operations, we really are desperate to get back in that heated indoor pool. Hopefully, we will see some better options by the fall, as things can change.

Carol Law (and Charles Amirkhanian)

Sabrina Lundy

From: Catherine Butler <catherinelynnbutler@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 7:55 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F

Dear Richmond City Council Members,

I am writing to express my support to continue keeping Richmond City pools, including The Plunge, funded and open.

They are valuable hubs contributing to the thriving of community, health and well-being in our town, and are important to myself, my family, and all of the and all families living here.

We love our pools! They provide an essential service to all of us - a happy meeting place of young and old, a truly accessible for all to meet, share good health, happy encounters with neighbors, and important news of what's happening locally.

They are essential for our year-round community well-being on so many levels.

Please keep them funded and open!

Sincerely,

Catherine Butler

1516 Palm Ave, Richmond, CA 94805

(510) 295-5458

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Catherine Lynn Butler

Writer/Producer, Butlerfilms LLC

cell: [510.295.5468](tel:510.295.5468)

www.butlerfilms.tv/

<https://www.americanhereticsthefilm.com/>

catherinelynnbutler@gmail.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Chris Gilmore <chrisgilmo@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 11:45 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: "Public Comment Agenda Item F-2"

Hello,

I am writing with regards to the Kennedy pool in Richmond. I have been participating in a self directed water aerobics class for a few years now. There are anywhere between 15-20 seniors who meet three times a week to exercise. There is much camaraderie amongst the group members and new members are welcomed all the time.

I have really missed being able to go to the pool these past few months I miss the work outs and the friends I have made in our group I exercise at home, but I can tell that my body is beginning to suffer from lack of specific workouts we do in the pool.

I totally understand the financial issues that the city is facing and I understand the need for cutbacks. I just hope that you are able to see some way to keep the pool open, even if just part time, so that those of us who go there can continue

e

Thanks

Chris Gilmore
839 Bates AV
El Cerrito, CA 94530
chrisgilmo@gmail.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Connie A. Hibbard <conniehibbard@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 06, 2020 4:43 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F

To whom it may concern:

I'm writing concerning the closure of the plunge in Point Richmond, having swam there for the past 7 yrs. It is the main reason I haven't had knee surgery. The majority swimmers are over 65 and or working on recovery from surgery or trying to avoid it. I consider it a physical therapy tool and so should you!!!

The permanent closure of the pools is outrageous besides being physical therapy it is also good mental therapy as well.

All of this should be considered as a part of our well being especially at this time do to the stress that everyone is going through, it's not always about the money!!

Please find a solution to this problem the money is always there!!

Thank You,
Connie Hibbard

Sabrina Lundy

From: Cordell Hindler <cordellhindler@ymail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 05, 2020 9:11 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Budget Session F-2

hello Sabrina, i have reviewed the Status Report and before i made my recommendations, i do agree with what Belinda said in regarding the job classifications being outdated.

with that said here is my recommendations.

1. i think that the City Manager's office should have an Environmental Manager on board Because it is important to have someone who has the expertise in the field of Recycling
2. also i would like to see having an Assistant City Attorney on Board because the incumbent would have the Experience in representing the city in court hearings as well for Boards and commissions
3. also to have an Assistant Public Works Director on Board because the incumbent would use good judgement in Departmental Matters and would act as the Director in the Absence of the Public Works Director
4. i would also like to see an Administrative Assistant in the Transportation Division because the incumbent would have Experience in following orders from a Department Head.

i hope that my Recommendations would go into the Record

Sincerely
Cordell

Sabrina Lundy

From: Dawn Haney <dawn.m.haney@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 2:46 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: public comment – agenda item F-2

Councilmembers need to make tough choices on how to fill a \$30 million budget gap. Richmond City Council can be progressive leaders, like Minneapolis, and choose to defund police. This is what it means to [create a budget that shows Black Lives Matter.](#)

Dawn Haney
Richmond, California
dawn.m.haney@gmail.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Deborah Dodge <deborahmdodge@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 11:36 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Save the Plunge: Public Comment Agenda Item F

Dear City Clerk,

Why would the City of Richmond put the Richmond Natatorium in mothballs? After Richmond invested a significant amount to restore this beautiful Richmond historical landmark, shutting it down does nothing to protect the investment. Once facilities like this are shuttered it is difficult to reopen them. And, if it is shuttered it still will require maintenance if it will ever be reopened. So these are the real architectural and historical reasons for keeping the Natatorium open. Let's talk about the recreational, health and human reasons for keeping the Plunge open. First, people work at the Plunge so closing it would destroy those jobs. Second, a significant percentage of the community of swimmers who swim and exercise at the plunge are seniors and the disabled. They count on the Plunge and patronize it daily. It could be designated as a Senior Center if that would make any fiscal difference.

I swim at the Plunge and, I am speaking only for myself, I am willing to pay more for the privilege. What exactly is the financial shortfall annually for the Plunge and what would it take to make it solvent and keep it open? There has *got* to be a viable alternative to closing this Richmond gem.

Warm regards,
Deborah Dodge
1645 Butte Street
Richmond CA 94804

Sabrina Lundy

From: Denny Riley <dennyriley7@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 2:57 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Council Meeting Agenda item F-2

To Richmond City Council

Agenda item F-2.

With regard to funding the Richmond Plunge.

I am a 75-year old, 100% disabled Air Force veteran. Until the Plunge closed, I swam laps 3 or 4 mornings a week. A group of dedicated lap swimmers would be there every morning when the lifeguard opened the door. Many of the swimmer had disabilities for which lap swimming is the best therapy.

I began with the ability to swim only eight laps but built my capacity to sixty laps. This gave me tremendous physical and emotional reward.

75-year old 100% disabled veterans are not a static demographic. Many will come along behind me in need of this public facility.

Thank you.

Dennis Riley

5519 Plumas Avenue

Richmond CA

Sabrina Lundy

From: Diana Wear <diana4richmond@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 2:41 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Cc: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Demnlus Johnson; Ben Choi; Eduardo Martinez; Melvin Willis; Jael Myrick
Subject: Public Comment—Agenda item F-2

Diana Wear
Richmond resident

Mayor and City Council Members,

Budgets are moral documents. As you make some hard decisions tonight and in the coming days I implore you to think about the future of our citizens and the state of our economy.

I've looked intently at the budget. If you're going to have a **hiring freeze** then make sure it's a firm freeze—no special hires for flexibility with “some” jobs. Yes, there are unfilled police positions. Deal with it.

Some of our Richmond City staff receive salaries that are simply way off scale. Whatever happened to “service” for the City? More to the point, these **high-paid workers can afford cuts** to their salaries or furloughs, whereas the lower paid staff, those making less than \$70k/year should not be cut.

Libraries must be funded. If we've learned anything from the national politics of late, we see communities torn asunder by neglect on many levels. Libraries are basic services.

Recreation is also vital to any community. While you might have thought closing pools during Covid-19 as prudent, now that the State and County have allowed them to open we must do everything we can to let our people exercise and use our vital recreational facilities, including pools. For many, swimming is medical and therapeutic, sometimes the only way to relieve pain and to function. In addition to swimming, some of the recreation funds go to youth programs—a must for the future generations. A 34% cut to this department should be out of the question.

Police reform and funding. A no-brainer. Of course we want the reform demanded by many across our land. But equally importantly we need investment in our Black, Brown, immigrant, and poor communities of Richmond. Funding needs to be diverted to schools, housing, healthcare, all of which address the root causes of crime.

I know the City needs to make some serious new decisions about our fiscal future. But the current cuts really miss the mark in some key ways. Please, plan for our future wisely and with justice.

Sincerely,

Diana Wear

Commissioner, EDC

Sabrina Lundy

From: David Matsumoto <drmatsumoto3@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 07, 2020 4:02 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comments - Agenda Item H-1 (ITEM F-2)
Attachments: Public Comments - Agenda Item H-1 - June 9 special meeting.docx

Office of the Clerk
City of Richmond
450 Civic Center Plaza, Third Floor
Richmond, CA 94804
cityclerkdept@ci.richmond.ca.us

Re: Public comments – Agenda Item H-1

Dear Sir or Madam:

We are writing to you in regard to agenda item H-1, which will be considered by the Richmond City Council at a Special meeting on June 9, 2020.

We strongly urge the Richmond City Council and City Manager not to reduce the staffing for the adult day program at the Developing Personal Resources Center (DPRC).

We are the parents of a young man, David, who has been a participant in that program for a number of years. Ms. Sharolyn Babb and her small staff do indispensable work in providing an important program for an otherwise under-served population. Due to the hard-working DPRC staff, our son has been able to make great improvements in areas of job skills development, self-help, communication, and socialization. We cannot imagine what his life would be like without the DPRC program and its wonderful staff.

DPRC is a success story in the city of Richmond, and we respectfully urge the Richmond City Council not to cut its budget or staffing. Thank you very much for your kind consideration of our comments.

Yours,

Diane and David Matsumoto
535 Pierce St. #3202
Albany, CA 94706
DKMatsumoto3@gmail.com
DRMatsumoto3@gmail.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Donna Stoneham <donna@positiveimpactllc.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 3:01 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F-2

To the City of Richmond,

I ask that the city find some funding to keep the Plunge and Kennedy pools open. These are vital resources for the community. Older residents need access to a pool to maintain their health, their strength (heart and muscles) and mental health. The same can be said for young people, kids, having a community pool can be the difference for a young person to have somewhere to go and meet their friends in a healthy way, versus hanging out on the streets. The alternatives for kids who have no access to healthy recreation is to sit around playing on their personal devices or watching tv. Either way, they become more lethargic, sitting for hours a day is unhealthy. If they aren't sitting around, they are aimlessly roaming around, putting them at a greater likelihood of getting into trouble. We need our pools for so many reasons, but overall, because we need a healthy community.

The pools have been a lifeline for Richmond for decades, just as we saw the community rally some 20 years ago to keep the Plunge open. Those were some of the most touching testimonies I have heard at the City Council meeting back then, about how the plunge saved their lives-literally. Today, we can't gather in numbers to show how much we need the pool. Trust me, the Richmond community and beyond need our pools.

I use our pool at least twice a week to address an on-going medical condition and it has been very difficult not to have it open.

Thank you for working with the city to try to come up with a creative way to fund the continued service of the pools for the people of Richmond.

Sincerely,

Donna Stoneham
Point Richmond resident for 25 years

Sabrina Lundy

From: Ed Sandow <edasandow@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 06, 2020 4:39 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda item F

I would urge you to keep at least one of our Richmond pools open. Both would be great. While not ideal, even briefer hours would be acceptable.

Many of need the pool not only for recreation but also to manage our health. Many people have conditions such as; Diabetes, arthritis, hypertension, that require physical exercise. For all of us it is change for physical conditioning. For many us senior citizens it is an opportunity to build friendships and a sense a community. For many young people it is a healthy recreation and passtime.

Sincerely,

Edward Sandow
540 29th St.
Richmond, Ca.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Elise Marie Heikkinen <emheikkinen@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 9:13 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F-2, Elise Marie Heikkinen, Richmond resident

Dear City Council members,

I urge you to continue maintaining public pool swimming hours open to the public, despite budget and covid-19 concerns.

Swimming is if not the best, at least one of best activities for low impact physical exercise, health maintenance and injury recover. After years of running, competitive sports and 5 knee surgeries later as well as pre and postpartum recovery, I fell in love with swimming as a complete form of physical and mental activity, especially once I moved to Richmond and began regular activity at the Richmond Swim Center.

Access to pools is not possible for most people unless a public option is available. The affordable cost, convenience and support of the Richmond Swim Staff has helped me and so many others stay connected to community and prioritize our health.

Please keep the pools open!
Elise Marie Heikkinen

Sabrina Lundy

From: Elizabeth Travis <ektravis@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 07, 2020 3:02 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F

To whom it may concern,

I was disappointed to hear that the Richmond swimming pools may not get the funding they need in order to remain open. I swim laps at both RSC and the Plunge and can't tell you how much those pools mean to me. I have chronic back pain and swimming is one of the few activities I can handle. Sure there are other pools in the area, but none are as beautiful or pleasant to swim in. I would also like to point out that the staff members and the folks who tend to swim at these pools are especially wonderful and special. Closing would be a terrible loss to the community (and me!) so I am calling on the people who make the decisions to help. Please do everything you can to keep these wonderful resources open to the public.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Travis

Sabrina Lundy

From: Erin Addiego <crazymaizy@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 1:33 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F

Hello City Council Member,

It's come to my attention through communications from the Sailfish Swim Team that the city of Richmond is considering under-funding or complete closure of the Richmond Plunge and the Richmond Swim Center. I am so disappointed to hear this. The low-income swim teams that operate there are an absolute lifeline to the children of the community. By being on a swim team, they are learning sportsmanship, team-building, fitness awareness, responsibility and good health practices, not to mention LIFE SAVING swimming skills. We have been fortunate to be a part of the team for over two years, and during that time I have seen children overcome challenges and fears to become better swimmers. I have seen them meet and exceed goals for personal health. I have seen exceptional coaches give more of their time and energy than they have ever been paid to give. I have seen these same coaches become role models and confidants to children that are lacking these types of relationships. I have seen older swimmers become lifeguards and swim instructors, giving their time freely to help low-income students have access to lessons that they would otherwise have not. This program creates excellent jobs for youth in the community, giving them skills they can use no matter where they go in the world. The city of Richmond is a community that needs more programs that the pools offer, not less.

My three youth swimmers live in El Sobrante and, before shutdown, made the commute 4 days per week to be a part of this amazing program. We are low-income, though not as low-income as many of the swimmers on the team. If the pool programs are closed, we will have other options near our home, though none will be as affordable. But for so many on the Sailfish Team, there will not be other options. You will be pulling a lifeline that has been extended to those swimmers. Please do not turn your back on this type of community outreach.

In the fight for equality that has surfaced in the wake of George Floyd's death, it has become crystal clear that black children, and other minority children, are overwhelmingly **UNDERSERVED** in our community. Maybe instead of funding programs to police these children, you can fund programs to enrich their lives. The pool is a great example of this. Libraries are another. Black lives matter.

Thanks for your time. If there is more I can do to get my voice heard, please let me know how.

Erin Addiego

Mother to Sailfish swimmers: Luciana (12), Hudson (10) and Tucker, (7)

Sabrina Lundy

From: Fiona Dunbar <fionagardens@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 11:26 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F-2

Dear Council Members,

My name is Fiona Dunbar and I live in the North & East neighborhood, and swim at Richmond Swim Center and the Plunge. I urge you to please keep the Richmond swimming pools open and operating as usual, as soon as it is safe to do so. The recreational programs under the Community Services Department are so vital to this community. I have lived in Richmond for nine years and it was not until I began regularly coming to the Swim Center that I began meeting people who became friends in my community. Even now, during the shelter-in-place, I see friends and lifeguards from the pools as I walk around my neighborhood, and we all talk about how much we miss the pool and the community there.

The pools and programs are welcoming and enthusiastically used by a broad spectrum of our community, and they create a crucial place for people to socialize and partake in activities to promote physical and mental health. In our pools, I see the youngest to the oldest members of our communities mingling together because these are a places for affordable, friendly, health-building activities, and where people with disabilities, people of all creeds, colors, and backgrounds, and people of all socioeconomic standing can gather, move their bodies, and have fun.

Find other places to trim your budget - look at the top rather than the bottom. Cutting funding from the Community Services Department will devastate programs of utmost meaning to Richmond residents, leave our programs staff without work, and effectively cut away key places in which we build our community, promote our health, and bring vitality to our city.

Thank you,
Fiona Dunbar

35th Street, Richmond resident

Sabrina Lundy

From: Paula Cooper-Tipton
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 9:43 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public comment for item F2

Begin forwarded message:

From: Florence M Castanchoa <goflojoe@icloud.com>
Date: June 5, 2020 at 5:55:37 PM PDT
To: Paula Cooper-Tipton <paula_cooper-tipton@ci.richmond.ca.us>
Subject: Kennedy Pool

It has been understandable but disappointing to not have access to the Kennedy Pool. I am a 79 year old woman with COPD issues, two knee replacements and arthritis in my shoulder and finger joints. I am morbidly obese but lost a significant amount of weight following heart valve surgery. I have been able to be my healthiest because I have done pool walking exercise every day for the last three years. I live in El Cerrito and was using the Albany Pool but transferred over to the Kennedy Pool where the pool staff are more dependable and the water is warmer. It was worth the extra distance and the small extra cost because the service is so outstanding. My son who is a nurse came with me and swam while I water walked. We have missed it very much. It has left an empty hole in our day, especially during these trying times. I use my recumbent bike but still have gained weight. My problem being there are few exercises I am capable of doing without injury. Please ask the Council to consider those of us who need the Kennedy Pool for our health, not enjoyment (even though water walking for me is very enjoyable).

(Paula I would appreciate if you can see my note is received for the next Council meeting where the pool's opening will be considered.)

Thank you

Florence Castanchoa
15 San Carlos Avenue
El Cerrito, CA. 94530
510-526-5151

Sabrina Lundy

From: Gavin Lee <leeguoping@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 4:15 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Cc: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; richcityservant@gmail.com; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F-2

Dear City Council members,

My name is Gavin Lee. I would like to take this time to stress the importance of the Richmond pools. As you may already know, swimming is by far the best form of exercise with the least potential for injuries.

My wife and I have been swimming every day for the last 20 years, about half of that time has been at the Richmond pools. The most outstanding and attractive quality of these pools is the community that has been built up around them. This also includes the pool staff. At no other pool have we been a part of a diverse community that gets along so well with each other and with the staff.

It's been very difficult for everyone during this unusual time to not have the pools open. Swimming is more than just physically exercise, it's mental exercise as well, opening our minds which helps us prepare for the day ahead or to unwind at the days end. This aspect of swimming is something that is need even more during these days of sheltering in place.

Our sense of community at the Richmond pools is also something that helps us all have a better perspective on our own inner lives as well as those around us and our community.

The Richmond pools are also the nicest pools in our area (especially after the renovations) and for the most part have been kept up very well.

As the shelter in place is slowly lifted, I hope that we can all find a way to keep the Richmond pools open.

Thank you for your consideration!

... Gavin Lee

Sabrina Lundy

From: George Ferrick <gferrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 4:15 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public comment for item F2 - Richmond Swim Center

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in behalf of the Richmond Swim Center, and specifically it's important use for aqua therapy / physical therapy classes.

I've attended several classes under the leadership of Barbara Hauser at the Richmond Swim Center, a wonderful facility.

I and others who participate in these do so because we have been prescribed usually by an orthopedic doctor. Whether it's severe back pain or joint pain or related issues, water therapy under the guidance of a trainer keeps me going, able to get out and about. I will soon be 78, and I cannot speak highly enough of the value of this use of the pool.

Richmond Swim Center is a wonderful pool and setting for this, with plenty of room and space for any physical distancing required.

Living only a little more than 5 minutes away I would be able to attend such classes without necessarily using any of the facilities,

coming with my swim suit on underneath my clothing, and going home to shower afterwards. I would be diligent in only attending if I am in good health, not sneezing or coughing, and with no temperature.

Thank you for your consideration of what an important resource the Richmond Swim Center is, and can be for the entire community, with aquatherapy classes by Barbara Hauser being one important example.

Sincerely,
George Ferrick
510-816-8771
gferrick@gmail.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Iliana Oliveros <ilianaoliveros21@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 2:50 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public comments-agenda item F-2

Good evening, my name is Iliana Oliveros and I am member of IBX Fitness that operates out of Booker T. Anderson Community Center. I'm emailing to voice my concern about reducing staff and hours at numerous community centers. As a previous Youth Program Coordinator for the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, I can attest to the importance of recreation programs in vulnerable communities such as Richmond. They are a safe haven for families, young children and community members and should be treated as an essential program. I'm currently a preschool teacher in the north Richmond area and many of my students attend programs at the Booker T. Anderson Community Center and thrive mentally, socially and physically because of their involvement from city recreational programs. I ask that the Richmond city council does not dismiss the needs of our young children and take into account that the city of Richmond is not a place that can afford to lose community programs and centers. I believe we can afford to take the time to create alternative and progressive ways to restructure our budget that prioritizes community health. Thank you.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Isabel Berkelhammer <izberk@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 6:38 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F

I am a Richmond resident.

I urge the City Council to keep the Richmond Plunge fully funded.

The Plunge is a vital recreational and therapeutic resource for the elderly, disabled and others for whom there are no other options.

Let's not make the cuts at the expense of our residents.

Rather, cutting high salaries of city employees would be a more fair and equitable way to balance the budget.

Let's expand services for our community rather than cutting them.

Isabel Berkelhammer

Sabrina Lundy

From: James Madden <james_madden88@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 2:06 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment - agenda item F-2

Hello,

I write to comment on agenda item F-2. I am in favor of the following measures to reduce the City's deficit:

- Hard hiring freezes, especially for the vacant positions in the police department.
- Salary reductions that are proportional to earnings and position, not a uniform percent cut from all city employee paychecks. The top earners should have a higher percentage of their pay cut; they are likely able to afford it more. Show true leadership, step up, and take one for the city. You are likely in a very comfortable, stable economic situation. I have read that every 1% reduction in the pay of the top 200 highest paid city employees would result in \$400,000 savings. Be heroes to the folks lower than you on the pay scale. Never punch down!

I am against the following:

- Cuts to libraries and other social services
- Increases to police budgets and overtime pay

Finally, I want the record to show that I in favor of defunding and ultimately abolishing the police force. We can start fresh with nonlethal, well-trained mediators and conflict resolution specialists. To be clear, I do not say this as a punishment to be leveled against the department. There are many ways this can be accomplished; that is important context to have a legitimate conversation and not treat it like an unrealistic, ridiculous idea. For example, simply do not hire any more officers and allow the current arrangement of the RPD to eventually sunset, slowly replacing them with community servants like counselors, conflict mediators, communications experts, etc. There are many communities around the world that function just fine without police forces. Please do not act like this is an outrageous demand to be dismissed out-of-hand.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
James Madden

2761 MLK Jr. Avenue
94804

Sabrina Lundy

From: Jamie Inman <brilliantmelon@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 8:56 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment: Agenda Item F-2

Dear Civic Leaders of Richmond:

First off, thank you for providing such an oasis of health and healing in the City of Richmond. I'm speaking of the Pt. Richmond and Richmond Swim Center pools. They are the ONLY pools in the surrounding counties and municipalities that readily accommodate therapeutic swimming and deep-water walking.

I, like many of my fellow deep-water walkers, suffer from chronic degenerative illness. Water exercise is the only aerobic option for us to maintain our health. I drive to the Richmond pools five to six times a week from Solano County. And, many of my fellow water walkers also flock to the Richmond pools from various cities in Alameda County and Marin. We not only swim in Richmond, we bring our tax dollars and spend them in Richmond. We buy gas in Richmond. We go to the mall, buy groceries, eat at restaurants, coffee shops, and see the latest movie. And why are we in Richmond? Because WE LOVE THESE POOLS. They make Richmond a destination.

So please, keep these city jewels well cared for so we may all swim again. It's not an overstatement to say -- our lives are depending on it, and you.

Thank you and be well,
Jamie Inman

Sabrina Lundy

From: jan diamond <jandiam@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 9:27 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Budget Hearings

PLEASE MAINTAIN adequate reserves, Richmond cannot afford to have their credit rating lowered like it was in the past -- this would just hurt us over time.

We need to make staff reductions, and staff cuts - even if it requires union negotiations.

Do not let the city of Richmond be completely run by the unions -- Do the right thing and make some necessary lay-offs and some wage cuts for some high paid workers. Management NEEDS some flexibility in hiring - DO NOT insist on a HARD hiring freeze.

We need to maintain adequate police protection, we are a high crime city with high theft and burglary rates - complete hiring freezes just increase over-time and can be counter productive.

Thank you

Jan Diamond

Sabrina Lundy

From: Jan Zaitlin <jan.zaitlin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 8:50 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda item F-2

I am writing to let you know how important the Plunge and the Richmond Swim Center have been in my life and in the lives of countless others in the area. I have been swimming laps at these pools since I had to rehab for a knee injury 5 years ago. It was the only way I could get exercise for years. Until Covid closed the pools down, I went religiously 3x /week.

I can't tell you how many times I heard people in the locker room say that the pool was their form of anti-depressant. So many of them were elderly and had such frail or injured bodies that swimming [or water walking or zumba classes] was the only way they could get to move without pain. I am saddened to think what their lives have been like these last 3 months. And concerned that many of them can't navigate the internet enough to even write to you to protest the possibility of closing the pools.

Young people need pools too. I learned to swim in a public pool. Swimming is an essential life skill and is best learned early.

It is essential that you find the funds to keep the pools open for both the health and safety of the community.

Thank you for your efforts,
Jan Zaitlin

Sabrina Lundy

From: Janet Lipkin <janetivalipkin@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 06, 2020 4:52 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda F

Public Comment Agenda F

I am a Swimmer. I have been swimming at the Kennedy Pool and the Plunge for about 15 years. My name is Janet Lipkin, I live at 625 Sonoma Street, Richmond, 94805. The pool is crucial to my physical and mental health. I realize with COVID 19 there is no way of knowing when it will be safe to open the pool. It is important that it does reopen, for physical and mental health. There is a strong community of retired individuals that rely on social contact With others. This is a way of communication that happens in the Locker Room. Access to the pool is not a luxury.

Please keep funds available for when it is safe to open up.

Thank you

Janet

Sabrina Lundy

From: Janet Thompson Petroni <indiapetroni@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 7:45 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public comment for Item F2

I am a handicapped senior who depends on swimming exercise. There are so many people who want and need the 2 public swim centers in Richmond to be funded. Please do allocate money for this very important longterm resource of the city!

Thank you,
Janet Petroni
510-527-3669

Sent from my iPhone

Sabrina Lundy

From: Javier Arbona <arbona@alum.mit.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 9:48 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: public comments – agenda item B: PUBLIC COMMENT BEFORE CLOSED SESSION

I am writing to express my dismay at proposed budget cuts for libraries, pools, and recreation. I'm a resident of the city. I am opposed to budget cuts for essential services like pool programs. Our libraries and recreation facilities are what get us through health catastrophes like the pandemic and through difficult economic times, when people most need the resources like the internet at the library.

I see that Richmond spends an embarrassing and absurd amount of money on police, dwarfing everything else. I support calls to defund the police. No more looting our public money; instead, I implore you to fund our health, intelligence, and peacefulness through libraries, pools, and parks.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Shoji . <jeffshoji@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 12:57 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public comment on Item F-2

Greetings:

Regarding Item F-2, I would like to make the following comment:

Recognizing the large budget shortfall, I urge the council to balance the budget by freezing hiring and urging the top 200 highest earning employees to accept cuts. I also urge the council to protect the library and other quality of life services. Finally, the police budget takes up too much of the budget and many duties of police officers are better carried out by our non-armed staff. I urge the council to re-prioritize the City budget towards services that build up the quality of life way better than policing.

Thank you,

Jeff Shoji
Richmond Resident

Sabrina Lundy

From: Jennifer Gonzalez <jag@ucsc.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 11:17 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: "Public Comment Agenda Item F"

City pools are a critical aspect of social life and health. While the current COVID-19 virus requires sheltering in place, it is a terrible idea to make permanent cuts to vital city infrastructure. When we are collectively well again, we will swim again, play again, and we will need our city pools.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Jennifer

--

Jennifer A. González
Professor
History of Art and Visual Culture
University of California, Santa Cruz
1156 High Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95064
jag@ucsc.edu

pronouns: she/her/hers

I SUPPORT THE COLA CAMPAIGN

We have more possibilities available in each moment than we realize.
-Thich Nhat Hanh

Sabrina Lundy

From: jkaradi@archive.org
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 11:29 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment on Agenda #F-2. Budget - Jessica Karadi - staff for Internet Archive in Richmond

Public Comment on Agenda Item F-2 Budget

Defund the Police Department. Currently the police budget is about 75% of the city budget. You are considering cuts to various essential public services such as the library. Libraries and schools need larger budgets to address public needs and adjust their safety protocols in the time of Covid.

Cut the police budget. Police are expensive and non-essential. Start the process of re-funding non-police services that obviate the police.

Address poverty directly and "crime" will decrease as a result rendering the police less needed.

Police drive dangerously and idle their cars in parking lots all over this city costing us a lot of money and burning a lot of gas. What are truly essential police services here?

Many civil complaints do not require the services of the police.

Again, 75% of the current city budget is for the police. That is outrageous. The police budget should be scrutinized and cut FIRST prior to any other budget cuts. And again we need to increase the budget for many non-police departments.

Defund the police.

Jessica Karadi 5107250557. 2514 Florida Ave Richmond CA 94804

Please forward me a link to make my public comment in real-time during the open comment period at 6:00pm today. Thank you.

Sabrina Lundy

From: John Droutsas <jacedroutsas@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 8:52 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Cc: Lauri Sing; Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates
Subject: Agenda Item F-2

Please re-open Richmond's pools. For many of us swimming or other aquatic activity is our primary form of exercise. Closing the pools for the rest of the year takes this away. Numerous studies show that regular exercise is one of the best ways to prevent health problems. The health of many Richmond citizens will be adversely impacted. This can hit senior citizens especially hard since many use the pools to exercise in ways that would not be available without them to take advantage of the low impact on arthritis and other senior health issues. The city invested a great deal of money years ago to restore The Plunge and upgrade the Swim Center at Kennedy High. To now close those facilities is a real blow to much of the community. I urge the city council to explore ways to safely re-open the pools by consulting other cities that are doing it, and to consider raising the fees to use the pools if that is necessary. I for one would pay a modest increase because it is that important to me. Swimming has reduced my high blood pressure for years and made my life much more rewarding by being in good physical shape. It is truly difficult to find an alternative form of exercise that provides so many benefits with so few drawbacks as swimming, especially for older adults. Please do not add to the health risks surrounding all of us by taking away swimming in Richmond.

John Droutsas, Richmond, CA.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Judith Thomas <plumjum37@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 6:05 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Cc: Barbara Hauser
Subject: Public Comment: Item F2..June 9 2020

I have been participating in a therapeutic swim class at the Richmond Swim Center for the past year with Barbara Hauser. It has benefitted my physical and mental health greatly. I am 83 years old and have found that working in the pool in this way, with the equipment Barbara provides, has created such strength and flexibility for me. I feel it has reversed the aging process and that is really a wonderful thing! Please do not close the pool! So many of us have benefited from our time there. The pool at the Richmond Swim Center is a beautiful space, clean and light-filled. The changing rooms, too, are clean and well kept. I do ask you: keep this therapeutic activity available to all of us. Being in the water is really one of our greatest pleasures as well. Thank you for considering this request.

Judith Thomas

Sabrina Lundy

From: Julia Rogers <jlundyr@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 7:55 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F-2

Thank you for all you have been doing to keep Richmond going through the pandemic and the much-needed spotlight on anti-black racism in our nation, on top of all the other challenges that the City faces on an ongoing basis.

I understand that the Richmond Plunge and the Richmond Swim Center might be closed for the rest of 2020. Please do what you can to open them up again, when it is safe to do so. They are a vital resource.

I have swum twice a week for 20 years as part of my mental health and physical health maintenance. After I moved to Marina Bay, where I've now lived for ten years, I started swimming with the Masters Team at the Plunge and, in recent years, have swum at both the Plunge and the Swim Center. Before I started swimming at the Plunge, I swam at outdoor pools and thought I would not enjoy an indoor pool. Richmond has the most beautiful indoor swimming pools that I have ever swum in. I have counted myself lucky many times to be able to swim in them.

In my work as a clinical psychologist, and personally, I know how important exercise is for both mental and physical health. At Kaiser, we often recommend water exercise to people with injuries or chronic pain and mental health issues. Many of the people I meet at the pools are there to treat their injuries or pain. I have been worried about the effects of not being able to swim on everyone, but especially people who cannot exercise in other ways. If the pools remain closed, people's health will decline further.

I'm sure you have seen the various guides for reopening pools, but here are some, just in case:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/aquatic-venues.html>
<https://www.usms.org/club-resources/covid-19-restart-guide>
https://www.usaswimming.org/docs/default-source/coaching-resourcesdocuments/covid-19-team-resources/facility-reopening-plan-guidelines.pdf?sfvrsn=8a533a32_2. Safety is paramount in reopening.

Again, thank you for your service and for leading Richmond through especially challenging times.

Take care and stay safe,
Julia Rogers
2105 Jetty Dr
Richmond, CA 94804

Sabrina Lundy

From: Julie Nestingen <jnestingen@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 12:28 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F-2

To the City of Richmond,

I ask that the city find some funding to keep the Plunge and Kennedy pools open. These are vital resources for the community. Older residents need access to a pool to maintain their health, their strength (heart and muscles) and mental health. The same can be said for young people, kids, having a community pool can be the difference for a young person to have somewhere to go and meet their friends in a healthy way, versus hanging out on the streets. The alternatives for kids who have no access to healthy recreation is to sit around playing on their personal devices or watching tv. Either way, they become more lethargic, sitting for hours a day is unhealthy. If they aren't sitting around, they are aimlessly roaming around, putting them at a greater likelihood of getting into trouble. We need our pools for so many reasons, but overall, because we need a healthy community.

The pools have been a lifeline for Richmond for decades, just as we saw the community rally some 20 years ago to keep the Plunge open. Those were some of the most touching testimonies I have heard at the City Council meeting back then, about how the plunge saved their lives-literally. Today, we can't gather in numbers to show how much we need the pool. Trust me, Richmond community and beyond need their pools.

Thank you for working with the city to try to come up with a creative way to fund the continued service of the pools for the people of Richmond.

Sincerely,

Julie Nestingen
Point Richmond resident for 25 years

Sabrina Lundy

From: Kate Jennings <goldingbird@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 2:06 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comments Agenda Item F-2 Budget

Hello,

My name is Katharine Jennings and I am a Richmond homeowner. Please do not close branch libraries or the 2 pools.

thank you

Sabrina Lundy

From: Katherine Kunz <kunzkm@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 05, 2020 5:44 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: public comments – agenda item F-2

Dear City Council,

I am writing in support of maintaining budget items for City of Richmond Recreation, especially the pools. I moved to Richmond from Albany seven years ago and feel that Richmond has offered me a richer experience and more diverse opportunities. I want to fight to maintain those for all current and future Richmond residents. As a member of the Richmond Swims Masters Team, a former board member of Richmond Swims, and a former lifeguard and swim instructor, I cannot emphasize enough the value of swimming pools and aquatic programs to a community, especially a community that sits on a large body of water. Water safety is only one of the many rolls a pool plays in giving residents the opportunity to learn to swim, exercise, and have fun. Richmond Swims and other local programs have been critical in providing equipment and swim gear to local youth and adults who would otherwise not have the opportunity to learn to swim for their safety, health, and enjoyment. As I regular swimmer at the Richmond Plunge, I am also struck by the number of people who are elderly and/or disabled who use the pool, many every day, for their health, fitness, and pain management. Many have no other affordable or accessible options to meet these needs. I remember my father telling me when I became a swimmer as a youth, that it is one of the only sports you can do your whole life and with nearly any physical limitations. Indeed, even those who are paraplegics are able to swim in pools. The quality of life in the City of Richmond would unequivocally decrease without our pools. I want to build a better, stronger, and more attractive Richmond. Despite many competing needs, this is not the direction that will get us there.

Sincerely,
Katherine Kunz

--

Katherine Kunz
Phone and WhatsApp contact: 1-510-725-8141

Sabrina Lundy

From: Trina Jackson
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 9:05 AM
To: Katrinka Ruk
Cc: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Re: Tuesday 6/9 Council Meeting Public Comment - Item F-2 Budget

Good morning Katrinka,

I'm forwarding your comment for Item -F to the correct email. Please refer to the instructions at the beginning of the agenda for future comments.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 7, 2020, at 5:31 PM, Katrinka Ruk <kpruk@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

To: Mayor Butt, Vice Mayor Bates, Councilmembers Choi, Johnson, Martinez, Myrick, Willis

To: City Manager Snideman

CC: Ms. Christian, Ms. Jackson

RE: 07/09 City Council Meeting / Item F-2 Budget

I am asking that the following be read:

I am writing as a resident of Richmond regarding my concern should the Council decide to cut part-time recreation staff for FY20-21. My neighbor's son works part-time for the City's recreation department in the after school care and summer program. After a recent conversation with him I became aware of the need to maintain the part-time recreation staff who staff these programs for our city's youth. The staff picks up the children at their school and ensure that they walk to the center safely. Once at the center, the staff provides tutoring as well as after school activities. This is needed by our working parents and is also the most reasonably priced after school care program for parents who - especially now - have budgets that are stretched. I understand that most of the parents who participate are not bilingual and therefore uncomfortable about speaking on the phone to express their concerns.

On these parents behalf, I would ask the council look into this and ensure that these much needed after school and summer programs not be cut and that the part-time recreation staff be maintained to provide this assistance to our working families.

Thank you for your consideration.

Katrinka Ruk
4963 Wagonwheel Way
Richmond CA 94803
510)260-4820

Sabrina Lundy

From: Kelsey Magnuson <krmagnuson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 2:40 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: public comments – agenda item F-2

Good evening.

I'm here to voice my concern over the potential budget cuts which may affect the recreation and community centers in Richmond. I am a member of IBX Fitness which operates out of the Booker T. Anderson (BTA) community center. This community center plays a vital role in providing space for children and adults to gather and recreate in a productive and meaningful way. Recreation and community centers are important places that foster athletics, creativity, community and provide a safe space for kids to gather and grow. Cutting budgets to recreation and community centers not only does little in the way of budgets as they don't have high operating costs, compared to that of the police department.

If you defund your police department you will be able to save these community spaces that will add more value to the community. BTA brings people into your city from neighboring cities as well through recreation. It brings kids together and provides them a space to be themselves and get their energy out. If we invest in community in a productive way such as recreation centers, we won't need to keep increasing the police budget. So in addition to not cutting the budget for recreation centers, I urge you to defund the Richmond Police Department in an effort to rebuild and reform as a more productive and protective force in the community and instead use that money towards the investment in Richmond's youth and community. I once again ask that you allow the BTA community center, and all community centers, to continue operating with their full staff so that programs such as IBX Fitness can survive and provide a much needed morale boost. Please keep this thriving community alive in Richmond. Black lives matter. Your community matters. Prove it with not cutting the budget to recreation centers and show that you are willing to invest in the community you serve. Thank you.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Kirsten Sedestrom <ksedestrom@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 12:19 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F-2

Hello,

I am writing to show my support for the Richmond Pools. I was swimming up to 5 times a week after a hip replacement and continued after my recovery. I know for many of the seniors who are unable to run or hike, the pool is essential for physical as well as mental health and community. Please let me know if there is something else I can do to save our local swimming pools.

Thank you,

Kirsten Sedestrom
6102 Park Ave
Richmond, Ca

Sabrina Lundy

From: Lauri Sing <lauri.sing@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 4:30 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F-2

Hello,

I've been swimming every day, almost all of my life. In these long weeks since the pandemic began, we are all forced to find other ways of exercising but there is nothing that can replace swimming. A large percentage of patrons have no other exercise options, due to health ailments. It's crucial for them to have access to the very special facilities at the Richmond pools. I urge you to please find other ways to trim the budget that will be less harmful for the community. And what a shocking and terrible waste it would be to have invested so much money and effort remodeling both pools only to have it come to closure. Yes, there are other pools in the area, but none that have the inclusive community that Richmond has. This is so important, especially with the current issues we all face.

Swimming is not just about exercise, it's also contributes dramatically to emotional and mental well-being. Our pools are a place where we gather and share lives as well as the water. It is a very special community, full of opportunities for connecting with others, which is always important, but perhaps even more now when the whole world is struggling during these dark times.

I implore you to keep our pools open.

Respectfully yours,
Lauri Sing

Sabrina Lundy

From: Leisa Johnson <leisa_johnson@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 2:57 PM
To: City Clerk Dept; Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Melvin Willis; Ben Choi; Laura Snideman
Cc: Leisa Johnson
Subject: Public Comments - Agenda Item #F-2 (Report on budget status)

Dear City Clerk — I am providing these comments directly to the City Council and Staff for their advance review and to be included in the formal record. **However, I will also be calling in to publicly speak on this item.**

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, Councilmen and City Manager:

Every 1-2 years, we continue to have the same discussion and the same glaring issue. But last week revealed a whole new level of Richmond's, "The Tail that Wags the Dog".

- 1. Why are union members, whose salaries & benefits are paid for by the taxpayers, allowed to give their own highly skewed presentation regarding their own proposed cuts and taxpayer increases, yet the public hasn't been afforded the same opportunity?**
- 2. Will the Taxpayers & Voters, who are your bosses and shareholders of this City, also be shown the same respect and be allowed to give their own presentation and list of concerns and cuts?**
- 3. Will this Council follow the City Manager's and financial consultants' recommendations on maintaining our reserves?**

Why do you pay for a city manager, staff and financial consultants if you don't want to listen to the cautionary words they continue to share with you?

The unions and city councilmembers they support are asking to cut the City's reserves down to dangerous levels.

I do very much appreciate the City Manager's efforts to protect them, especially after the City has worked over the past few years to increase them to **recommended** levels and to help **restore** our bond ratings after some recently went to junk status. **Ms. Snideman** - I know that you are in a difficult & highly political situation. But as our City's CEO, I hope you will stick to your convictions and not allow our reserves to be jeopardized any further. You have repeatedly stated & made your case and provided due warning. That it falls on politically deaf ears is this Council's own doing and will ultimately be their downfall. Please don't make it yours.

We are already tinkering on the brink of a state audit, and if our reserves are misspent and the fiduciary responsibilities of your office and that of our elected city councilmembers are not upheld, then the state will likely intervene on behalf of taxpayers and creditors, as they rightfully should.

4. The majority of people are facing serious economic pressures and **no one** wants to see people potentially lose their job, experience furloughs, or incur salary &/or benefit reductions. It is happening broadly across the private and public sectors, and it is our economic reality.

Yet with each passing year, the elephant in Richmond's City Hall only grows larger and will eventually burst because **our city council does not have the political will to do what they were elected to do.**

The Taxpayers have been repeatedly asked to unfairly shoulder this burden at the expense of their own savings plans while simultaneously experiencing layoffs, furloughs and benefit reductions. Our economic crisis is real and the recovery from Covid-19 will take a long time. **Do you really think that now is the time to ask taxpayers for yet more, especially when those who are lucky enough to still have a job and business are making far less than the majority of City employees?**

5. Richmond already has a reputation for being the most difficult city in which to do business, yet they sorely need the revenues that businesses provide.

Do you really think that proposing ballot measures that increase business taxes or vacant lot taxes (which failed miserably in 2018) are the answer?

If you want to kill business and development in Richmond, and importantly much needed **revenue**, then vote for the unions' recommendations as well as those from members of this council.

Why would any business want to stay in Richmond let alone come here with the unwelcoming, unsupportive, high risk culture that this City Council continuously adopts, and which only grows worse with each passing year?

You appear to be completely tone deaf to the significant economic losses that your residents, housing providers and small & large businesses have incurred due to Covid-19. I guess you feel it is appropriate to punish them even further. We need leaders that will ***first review the root cause*** and ***then pass legislation to effectively address it***, rather than just increase taxes & fees (which are taxes by the way!) that will ultimately destroy what businesses still remain here.

If people are leaving parcels vacant, there is a reason - a primary one is that Richmond is the most difficult city in the Bay Area and California at large, exposing housing providers and businesses to unwarranted risk.

You are elected officials and voters expect you to uphold your fiduciary responsibility and represent all of this City's residents, not just your primary donors. Please respect that and us.

Respectfully,
Leisa Johnson
20-year Richmond Resident

Sabrina Lundy

From: Lillian Sing <lianlsing@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 11:54 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Cpmment Agenda F-2

To our Honorable City Council Members:

Pertaining to Richmonds' Swim Pools -- Budgeting:

We ALL need the swim pools for our health and to stay healthy citizens to be able to contribute to our city, to the Bay Area, and to ALL of society. But especially to us Seniors, the swim pool is the **ONLY** means of exercising and staying fit and healthy! ! That is ever more true as we get older and older each year.

Please bear this in mind as you do your most difficult task of budgeting (especially during this year of the awful Covid-19 Pandemic) and decide which programs to **KEEP** and which to delete.

Respectfully submitted.
Lillian Sing

Sabrina Lundy

From: Lisa Bloom <lebloom@berkeley.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 2:40 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Cc: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates
Subject: Public Comment Agenda F

To the Richmond City Council,

I am writing in support of the Richmond Plunge and the Richmond Swim Center. I have been swimming there twice a week for the last five years. **Both are crucial to my health and well-being and the closing of the pools during the COVID 19 crisis has been detrimental to both. The pools are unique in our region and can not be replaced.** They serve all age groups and a variety of physical and health needs. They are a strong contribution to the livability of Richmond and the surrounding area. **Closing them down would be a tremendous loss to me personally, as well as my family and to the community.**

I strongly urge you to give the pools your support since it is seen by many as an **essential public resource for our health and well-being of our community. I want you to realize the importance of these pools goes way beyond the way it is framed as merely “recreational swimming.” Please save our swimming pools.**

I would like the clerk to read my comments during the meeting on June 9th.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Lisa Bloom

Lisa E. Bloom, Ph.D.
Scholar in Residence
Beatrice Bain Center
Gender & Women's Studies
University of California, Berkeley
608 Barrows Hall
Berkeley CA 94720-1070

[Email: lebloom@berkeley.edu](mailto:lebloom@berkeley.edu)

Ph: (510) 642-2767

Fax: (510) 642-0246

<http://bbrg.berkeley.edu/scholar/lisa-bloom-0>

Websites:

www.lisabloom.net

www.lisaebloom.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Lorena Gomez-Barris <lologb@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 2:54 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F"

Dear Council Members,

Please do not close the pools! It is imperative for our community health that we have safe places to go to swim. Swimming is the only exercise some of us can do because it is easy on our joints. I really hope you take what a loss this would be to the elderly community in Richmond.

If you need to defund, are there other ways of doing this? The pools schedules are already quite reduced.

THANKS!
Lorena

Sabrina Lundy

From: Lorraine Davis <pldavis1029@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 4:24 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F-2

Please Save Our Swimming Pools. My name is Lorraine Davis born and raised in City of Richmond and a very long time regular pool user. The use of our pools is not purely recreational but for health reasons. Children use the pools but so do seniors and disabled persons. Thank you for doing whats right for your citizens.

Lorraine

Sabrina Lundy

From: Madalyn Law <mmlaw10@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 2:01 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda item F-2

Mayor Tom Butt and City Council,

I am writing in support of re-opening our swimming pools. Water aerobics is one of the most important kinds of therapy available to our senior population. Not only does the pool provide exercise but it allows a social component too. Many of our classmates rely on their visit to the pool to fulfill their social needs. It is hard to believe the cost to manage our pools is so overwhelming that the bit of money saved closing them will save the budget. Historically, cities always look at the soft services, such as libraries and recreation which are just as essential as other services to cut before considering reorganizing other departments to support these services. Children and seniors always come out on the short end. Remember, children can't vote, but seniors do.

So, in your decision making don't forget you are elected officials.

Stay healthy and safe

Madalyn Law, Richmond resident

Sabrina Lundy

From: Margaret Rienzi <merienzi@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 9:35 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F-2

Dear Sir/Madam:

The pools at the Plunge and Kennedy Swim Center has been so helpful in maintaining my health. I have arthritis in my knee and to be able to do water exercise and swim has made huge difference in my ability to get around.

So I hope you will look at other options in keeping the pools open.

Margaret Rienzi

Sabrina Lundy

From: Margie Cohea <mcohea@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, June 07, 2020 5:58 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Cc: Paula Cooper-Tipton
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F

Hello City of Richmond,

I am writing to you out of concern for the possible Richmond Swim Center & Plunge pool closures. Until Covid-19 brought shelter in place restrictions to the Richmond pools, I was a daily swimmer at the Richmond Swim Center. I swim for exercise & for the community the pool offers including patrons, lifeguards, & pool manager, Paula. Daily pool exercise has helped keep me healthy & able to move.

I realize Covid-19 has impacted all levels of businesses financially. I do hope there is a way to have limited pool hours & help keep staff employed & provide a healthy option for exercise to the patrons of the swim centers. I also realize that strict guidelines will be in place when the pool is able to reopen. I am hoping an appointment schedule could be created to help decrease person-to-person contact & the risk for transmission of Covid-19, & perhaps exit showers would not be taken to again decrease person-to-person contact (that would save on your water bill).

Many patrons who use the pool for exercise on a regular basis are disabled, & the Richmond pools are the only pools where they can come to do so. Many do not have the option to walk, jog, ride bikes or get exercise any other way. Often governments overlooks the needs of disabled persons. Please give strong consideration to finding funding to keep the pools open for them especially.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Margie Cohea
El Cerrito

Sabrina Lundy

From: Marjie Harris <marjeharris@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 1:11 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public comment agenda item F

To the Richmond city council members,

Keeping our swimming pools (plunge and the Richmond Swim Center pool) it is so very important for this community. Families and adults of all ages use these two pools and it is so important for exercise. It is a healthy activity and after Sheltering in place for so long it is truly important to have these pools available 4 all of us.

If there is any way I can support, volunteer or otherwise assist in keeping these pools open please let me know.

Sincerely,
Marjie Harris
1500 Aqua Vista Road
Richmond, California
510-989-5392

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Sabrina Lundy

From: Mary Dermody <maryderm@pacbell.net>
Sent: Sunday, June 07, 2020 9:49 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F Mary Dermody

My name is Mary Dermody and I am a 70-year-old resident of Oakland, CA. I have been swimming at the Richmond Plunge for about 8 years. I travel from Oakland and pay a non-resident fee to use the beautiful Richmond Plunge pool. It is worth it to me to travel to Richmond three times a week to swim in this pool. There are several reasons that I travel to the Plunge; one is that I am partially allergic to high amounts of chlorine and your pool is partially saltwater so I can comfortably swim without the risk of sinus problems. Two, as we get older, our body changes and becomes stiffer and needs movement. I have some arthritis and swimming helps my body and my joints move easier. There are many of us who swim at the Plunge who are there not just for recreational swimming but for physical therapy, movement and overall body maintenance. Finally, swimming at the Plunge has been a warm and inviting place to go; it is clean, the staff is great and the ambiance is wonderful. I would gladly pay a little more to help to keep it open. I am asking you to reconsider your decision to close the Richmond pools. They are very essential and helpful to so many of us as we get older and need a place to exercise and to try to stay healthy and active.

Thank you so much for reading this email.

Mary Dermody

Sabrina Lundy

From: Mary Dybdahl <maryldybdahl@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 12:54 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F

The Richmond Plunge is a city treasure. Don't be short-sighted – keep it open. Maybe you have to charge more or get a committee together to fund raise – we've done that before. But keep this resource open for kids to learn to swim, for teens for whom it might be their first job and for seniors who need a place to keep their bodies and souls healthy.
Mary Dybdahl, Richmond Resident

Mary Dybdahl
1645 Butte Street
Richmond, CA 94804
510 528 2933 home
510 323 3176 cell
maryldybdahl@comcast.net
mdybdahl@berkeley.edu

Sabrina Lundy

From: Mary Vradelis <mvradelis@sequoiaconsulting.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 10:15 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item F-2 Fiscal Year 20-21 Operating Budget

Dear Mayor Butt, Vice Mayor Bates and City Council Members,

I am writing in support of the Richmond Aquatic Program. I can honestly say that The Plunge changed my life. At 50, I injured my knee. The surgeon didn't recommend surgery, and the physical therapy wasn't working. The exercises strained my knee too much, and I wasn't getting better. I was totally disheartened until someone suggested I tried the pool. The first months, I just walked in the water for 20 minutes. But I was enticed to join the Water Fitness class -- where I learned some important stretching and strengthening exercises...and I just had fun! I went regularly, several times a week. After that I was inspired to take swimming lessons. I took several classes and kept practicing. With a lot of encouragement from the wonderful lifeguard staff -- I worked up from 1 lap at a time, to 10, to eventually a 1/2 mile at a time. And up until the day the pool closed, I was going 3 times a week!

When I first started, I tried out many different pools. Several of them were closer. But I fell in love with the Plunge --and drove from Berkeley to go there. It is not only the beautiful building and the sense of history that it is so wonderful there....it is the diverse community that goes there religiously. So many people told me how they used to go decades ago, when they were children. The swimmers I meet there are of all ages and abilities...but they all leave with a big smile on their face. And I appreciate the deeper connection that I have with Richmond, and the people who live and work there. The Plunge has a history of being a community builder!

I know these are stressful times with a lot of competing needs. I saw seniors, parents with babies, and all ages in-between who discovered an exercise that is healthy, fun, and inspires you to come back again and again. I hope you recognize how essential this service is to the health, connection, and joy for Richmond residents and your neighbors.

With best regards,

Mary Vradelis

Mary Vradelis

Pronouns: she/her/hers

[Sequoia Consulting Associates, LLC](#)

Office: 510.559-3228

Cell: 510.368-0587

Fax: 510.900-1027

mvradelis@sequoiaconsulting.com

“With every true friendship we build more firmly the foundations upon which the peace of the whole world

rests”
– *Mahatma Gandhi*
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Sabrina Lundy

From: Maryna Levchenko <levchenkomaryna77@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 12:33 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F-2.

Dear Members of the Richmond City Council

My name is Maryna Levchenko.

I am writing to express a plea to save our Richmond swimming pool (Richmond Swim Center). I understand it is difficult time now, but the fear that we can lose it is so painful and upsetting.

My daughter Alice is 3.5 now. We started swimming in the Richmond Swim Center when she was 8 months old. This place as well as swimming itself became her favorite. Sometimes we visited pool 3-4 times a week, and it was always not enough for her. My daughter is slightly overweight, so swimming for us is not only about fun, it is necessary and important to keep her moving and healthy. And what can be healthier than water and swimming?

Since we started swimming I was always so happy and grateful to the City for this fantastic place, and for possibility to swim for my kid.

Please save our pool! This is about our kids, about our families, about health. It is so important for us. Especially in this difficult time.

With hope to come back to our pool soon.

Thank you and kind regards,

Maryna, Andrew, Alice

Sabrina Lundy

From: melinda.vahedi@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 9:25 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public comment for item F2- June 9, 2020 council meeting

Dear Richmond City Council,

As you consider the fate of your city pools, you should know there are many of us who rely on aquatic programs not just for recreation but for pain relief. Pool physical therapy is the only thing that brings me pain relief from a tear in my hip joint. The therapy has allowed me to avoid surgery and cope with the pain.

Please find a way to keep the pools open for everyone!

Sincerely,

Melinda Gibbons Vahedi

5970 McAndrew Dr

Oakland

Sent from my iPhone

Sabrina Lundy

From: Carol Katz <cmdkatz@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, June 06, 2020 7:39 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: comment F

Please save the plunge I have been using it for 10 years. I am disabled and I deep water walk 4-5 times per week I have numerous disabilities that the plunge makes a lot better. I use the plunge 20 times per month and greatly miss it. I Would be willing to give you \$300 per month for the privelege to still use it 5 times per week for 1 hour at a time. Sincerely Michael Katz

Sabrina Lundy

From: MINDY PINES <mindy@messageframer.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 8:30 PM
To: City Clerk Dept; Laura Snideman; Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Demnlus Johnson; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F-2, Mindy Pines, Richmond

Closing Richmond's public pools would gravely impact the health of our city. Swimming is a matter of life and death. Our pools offer affordable lessons to young and older residents who could not otherwise learn to swim.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), "every day, about ten people die from unintentional drowning. Of these, two are children aged 14 or younger. Drowning ranks fifth among the leading causes of unintentional injury death in the United States."

Drowning is a leading cause of accidental death for all children, but children of color are particularly at risk. According to the YMCA, "the fatal-drowning rate of African-American children is three times higher than white children."

Swimming is one of the few low-impact exercises available to seniors like me and others who can't partake in high-impact activities. Since I've been unable to swim during shelter-in-place, I've had lower back issues that swimming used to alleviate.

I understand the city must cut costs to survive this colossal budget crisis. But closing the pools would severely affect the health of residents, young and old alike, and particularly the economically challenged who can't afford to join a private club.

Mindy Pines
Richmond

Sabrina Lundy

From: olivia coombs <ocoombs7800@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 1:15 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F-2

Hello,

I am A Richmond resident and I have been using the Richmond Swim Center pool at least 2x a week since I moved her 18 months ago. Its beautiful, clean, and I love it. I see many people there all the time and there is a community that joins to exercise at the pool. I am 42, but I see young people, older people, seniors, new moms, all kinds of people who use the pool for exercise and health. Please do not take away this valuable community resource.

Thank you,
Olivia Coombs

Sabrina Lundy

From: trish sampson <trishsampson@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 7:48 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F

Please keep The Plunge and Richmond Swim Center open! These pools are a valuable resource for the community.

Patricia Sampson, Richmond, CA

Sabrina Lundy

From: Paula Zurowski <paulaz@sonic.net>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 11:13 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F - 2

Please keep the Richmond pools open.

Working out in the pool is necessary for my health and an important part of my exercise regime.

I have neuropathy in my feet and legs and the only way for me to get pain-free cardio exercise is in the pool.

I have been going to the Richmond Swim Center for the water fitness classes three times a week for well over a year.

The water exercises have helped to ease my neuropathy and improved my ability to walk on dry land immensely.

I miss my pool exercise very much.

I want the pools to stay open—safely and soon.

Paula Zurowski, 621 30th St., Richmond, CA

Sabrina Lundy

From: Peggy Wilcox <pwilcox00@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 5:29 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Cc: Laura Snideman; Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; richcityservant@gmail.com; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Subject: Agenda Item F-2

Hi, please put this public comment into the June 9th agenda packet.

I would like my comments added to the public record and considered when voting on closing the swimming pools.

My name is Peggy Wilcox and I have been using the Richmond Pool on Cutting Blvd. for years and years. It was a pleasure to see what a beautiful pool came out of the taxpayer dollars (7.6 million from West Contra Costa School District school bonds) after waiting for the renovation for 1.5 years. I would like you to consider this fact when thinking of closing this pool. We are probably still paying for this on our property taxes. For me the pool is crucial for my physical well being. I'm getting older and water therapy is often my only form of relief. The fact that many elders meet every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for exercise and community bonding is also very significant. I hope everyone on the board know how important it is for every child to learn to swim. Where will all these children go to learn? I am always impressed by the lifeguards and know that teaching these young kids life saving skills and responsibility will stay with them a lifetime. I can't fathom a city without even one public pool - how can we just keep going backward in our city's quality of life?

Thanks for your consideration in this regard.

Peggy Wilcox

Sabrina Lundy

From: Peter Klatt <jpklatt@lmi.net>
Sent: Saturday, June 06, 2020 11:12 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comments - Agenda Item #F2

Dear Mayor Butts and Council Members,

I have been a patron of the Richmond Plunge and Richmond Swim Center for over 15 years. I swim one mile each day, four days week and since I am mobility impaired, that is the only physical exercise I can manage in a water temperature that my 85 year old body can tolerate. As a non-resident I am happy to pay the NR surcharge and contribute to the incremental revenues to the City budget, not just by the surcharge but by my patronage.

When deliberating budget matters, please realize that the warm water pools are not "just" a playground for kiddies, they serve the adult community by providing the opportunity for low impact cardio vascular exercise such as water-exercise classes, water-walking and lap-swimming.

Many of my pool mates, many of them seniors, (also referred to as swimming buddies) swim in the early part of the day before going to their jobs. On the occasion when a pool gets crowded we share laps and everyone is good with that.

The Richmond Aquatics program has been a true life saver for us older folks and an important health and exercise resource for community members of all ages. I have investigated alternative public pools in the East Bay; they are either outdoor pools, or located in neighborhoods without parking, or private, membership based athletic clubs at unaffordable cost. Please keep the Richmond pools open - raise the price if you must - but keep them open.

Thank you for your consideration,

Peter Klatt

1025 Mariposa Ave. Berkeley CA 4707 tel. 510-524-2726

Sabrina Lundy

From: Pierre Thompson <pierre.thompson@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 10:39 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F-2

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEM F-2

I swam regularly at the Richmond Swim Center for a year and a half – until the pandemic forced its temporary closure in March. Like many fellow swimmers, I was disheartened by the news, but accepted it with the understanding that this decision was made in the interest of the common good and public health. Now, I urge the Richmond City Council to use these same criteria – common good and public health – to prioritize funding for CSD programs, including but not limited to the city’s aquatic facilities.

I am consistently impressed by the professionalism and friendliness of the CSD Recreation staff who operate the city’s aquatic facilities. They have succeeded at building a strong sense of community around health and wellness activities, and the City of Richmond’s public pools are the envy of the East Bay. Moreover, the overall health benefits (including stronger immune systems) from routine exercise and sense of community contribute to substantially higher quality of life for Richmond residents. What are children, parents, families and the community supposed to do without quality and affordable programs and services?

Management’s current proposal would disproportionately impact “frontline” workers at the bottom of the pay scale. The current moment has made clear that spending on community services should be considered an equal priority to spending on law enforcement. As nearby cities such as El Cerrito move quickly to reopen their pools, Richmond residents cannot help but feel that we must leave our city to do the healthy activities that we enjoy doing.

Please listen to the voices from the community. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Pierre Thompson
Resident of Richmond
Richmond CERT, Volunteer
Richmond Rotary Club, Program Coordinator

Sabrina Lundy

From: Rich Kekule <richdiego@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 12:49 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F--2

My name is Richard Kekule I've swam at Kennedy pool since 2009 and it has been the best thing I've done for myself. I have a neck and back problem and my doctor told me swimming is the BEST thing you can do for your problem. Also I've met so many great people and being 70 years old it's a great place to get a good work out and meet good people. It would be a shame to deprive so many older people of this service which need it the most. A good clean, safe and healthy environment. Please keep the pools open.

Thank you
Richard Kekule
6/9/2020

Sabrina Lundy

From: Richard Lucas <richlu49@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 1:21 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F-2

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a seventy-three year old disabled veteran and I find the only exercise I can get is at the pool. I tend to fall a lot and that is not a problem in the pool. I really think it would be a waste of wonderful facilities that are so beneficial to so many people in meeting physical, social and emotional needs for senior citizens. I would appreciate it if you could keep these great facilities open as they are such a treasure to the City of Richmond. I learned how to swim in this pool when I was a child.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Richard McCoy Lucas

Sabrina Lundy

From: Roddey Reid <roddeyreid@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 9:28 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Comment Agenda Item F-2

To the City Council,

I am writing in support of continuing public funding of the Richmond Plunge and the Richmond Swim Center.

I am a regular user of the Richmond Plunge for therapeutic deep water walking.

The Richmond Plunge together and the Richmond Swim Center at Kennedy High School are the ONLY UNIQUE PUBLIC VENUES in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties with dedicated deep swimming lanes that readily accommodate the needs of residents like me with chronic health conditions.

FOR US, IT IS A QUESTION OF HEALTH, NOT RECREATION.

As a sufferer of inflammation due to chronic osteoarthritis and of muscular-skeletal pain due to degenerative disc disease, deep water walking in lanes that are at least 6 feet deep is a form of therapeutic swimming that allows me to remain mobile enough to do daily stretching and health maintenance routines, and perform daily tasks and errands. Without it, I and many like me risk losing what little mobility and physical strength we have.

Thanks to the buoyancy of water that supports the body, it is possible to do stretching, aerobic, and strengthening exercises without harming oneself that is impossible working on a regular hard surface.

Many other patrons who use the lanes for water therapy have conditions far more debilitating than mine (diabetes, stroke and coronary survivors, multiple sclerosis, etc.) and depend on access to the Richmond Plunge for helping prevent a fatal deterioration of their health conditions.

The last 3 months have been difficult for me and other patrons whose health depends on the public services of the Community Services Department.

We need the Council's support more than ever.

Thank you.

Roddey Reid

Sabrina Lundy

From: Ron Taylor <rntylr@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 9:03 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F-2

My name is Ron Taylor and I live in Richmond, just a few blocks from the Plunge. Before the shut-down, I was swimming 4-5 times a week with the Richmond Plunge Masters swim team for my long-term physical and mental health. It is the best form of exercise I know, and it is a fantastic way to relieve stress. Please consider keeping funding for one or both pools, even if the hours need to be reduced. They are incredibly valuable assets to our community.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ron

Sabrina Lundy

From: Sally Mill <salfromm@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 2:10 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: F 2 pool closures

Please don't close the pools they are a vital part of the community. If you had any idea of what a special community these pools provide you wouldn't consider closing them. Not only is this a remarkable community, but also, a wonderful place to exercise for all. It includes everyone, all races, all ages, no discrimination, whatsoever. I have been swimming there since early 2000 and it is an invaluable part of my wellbeing. I know many others that agree with me. Please keep the Richmond Swim Center open. Sally Mill, Richmond Ca. If this was sent to the wrong email address could you please make sure it reaches the right one. It's been very difficult to find the correct information about where to send this. Thank you.

Sent from my iPad

Sabrina Lundy

From: Sally Tobin <otwsally@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 2:30 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Cc: Tom Butt - external; Ben Choi; Nat Bates; richcityservant@gmail.com; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Melvin Willis; Lina Velasco
Subject: Public Comments - Agenda Item F-2

Sara L. Tobin
742 Lobos Avenue
Richmond CA 94801

June 9, 2020

RE: Proposed Cuts to Richmond City Budget

Mayor and City Council Members, c/o City Clerk
City of Richmond
450 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA 94804

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

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

First Priority: Balance public health and safety with innovative, community-based approaches. Pay attention during this transition.

Second Priority: Services to Richmond Youth - Libraries are core services for youth, and swimming saves lives. Full funding of Library and Swimming Programs is suggested. Youth is our most important investment. Emphasis on parks and activities. Do not balance the City budget on the backs of our young people, who need to grow up feeling as if the community cares about them.

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

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

Fifth Priority: Furloughs of City employees above a set salary level. In addition, on a sliding scale, those at higher salary levels should be furloughed at an increasing proportion relative to salary.

Sixth Priority: Withdraw from the costly and ineffective legal battle and adopt the Community Plan for Point Molate. An expensive residential development in a fire-prone area with no existing infrastructure is a luxury that Richmond cannot afford. The Community Plan will generate income for the City, whereas the proposed development would be a drain on the City budget into the foreseeable future. Such a smart move will save Richmond legal expenses and will prevent the ill-advised development, designed for affluent individuals, from being a burden on low-income Richmond taxpayers. Serve the community with a focus on realistic housing plans where infrastructure and transit already exist.

Sincerely,

Sally Tobin, Richmond Resident

Sabrina Lundy

From: Sam Kepler <kepler.samantha@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 8:46 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F

Hello,

Emailing to plead to not defund the pools. I have a toddler and we cannot wait to get to the Plunge to swim with her. Pools are great for communities - for children, seniors, those learning to swim and active swimmers. I went to my community pool as a small child and ended up swimming in college. If I hadn't had access to a nearby pool, my future may have been forever changed. Please do not defund the pools.

Thank you,
Samantha Kepler
East Richmond Heights

--

Samantha Kepler
314.303.1279

Sabrina Lundy

From: Sandi Peters <hsmetana2@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 2:07 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F2

Dear City Council members,

I know in this time of crises on so many levels that the continuance of Richmond pools might seem very insignificant. Food, clothing, shelter, medical care definitely need to be prioritized, however, too often the soul/spirit gets left out when we are looking at needs. As testified by many who have the basic requisites and still commit suicide, or otherwise demonstrate deep discontent, these four are not sufficient conditions for well-being.

I am a johnny come lately to swimming, having only learned in my late 40ies. I am now in my early 70ies. The benefits to my body and my mind have been remarkable, so much so that I now volunteer at the Plunge to teach others how to swim.

Besides helping this aging body to stay mobile and flexible without a strain to my bones, the pool offers a community.....a community of staff who recognize me when I sign in, and a community of other swimmers or aerobics folk who I have come to know through locker room conversations.

Too often these kinds of benefits get overlooked in budgets, yet these are the benefits that keep us from sliding into depression, despair, anxiety, loneliness, hopelessness. When I worked in nursing homes, we knew that what clients needed was what we called 'simple pleasures'. Sitting in the sun, having a good conversation, drinking a cup of tea, etc. All the big parties, and even entertainment which cost a lot more, paled in comparison to the daily provision of 'simple pleasures'. This is one of the things that pools give its patrons and its one of the key ingredients to positive mental health – something we all need when we are facing and living through crises.

For these reasons I therefore ask you to consider some compromise to closing the pools. Keeping them open with a reduced schedule would allow users to continue to benefit and would assure that this vital psychic and physical life-line is not another casualty of Covid 19. I am currently not in the country. If I were, I would be at your meeting to personally advocate for our community pools. Too often, we fail to give the needs of the soul/spirit any weight and it is to society's detriment. Please consider this as you weigh what you will prioritize.

Thank you for this opportunity to express what I believe is so vital for our community.

--

*Sandi Peters, MA
1176 Shattuck Ave
Berkeley, CA 94707
510-526-4758*

*Out of a great need
We are all holding hands and climbing.
Not loving is a letting go.
Listen,
The terrain around here is far too dangerous for that.
Hafiz*

Sabrina Lundy

From: slrslrnow@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 11:24 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for item F2

Dear council members,

As a former physical education teacher I know the importance of water as a therapeutic tool. At 75 I have found that the time I have spent in the Richmond Swim Center pool has helped keep me active and safe. My balance and strength have continued to improve with my twice a week visits to the pool. Barbara Hauser has years of experience in aqua fitness and a vast store of knowledge on how to maximize the benefits of exercising in the water. She is able to include a wide spectrum of seniors in her pool programs and provide the most helpful exercise program for each person.

This swim center is the most beautiful and versatile of it's kind in the Bay Area.. It is obvious that much thought and money went into creating this unique facility. Despite the looming budget cuts, it would serve the City of Richmond and it's residents much better to adjust how the center is run rather than to close it entirely. Richmond is often criticized for it's lack of services to the community. With care and planning this center could become a jewel in the revitalization of the City of Richmond. Please think beyond the immediate crisis and look to a better future for Richmond. Thank you for your consideration

Richmond Resident
Sandra Ramsey
2406 Carlson Blvd.
Richmond, CA 94804.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Sandy Gess <sjgess@earthlink.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 10:44 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item F2

Honorable members, Richmond City Council
Ben Choi, Demnlus Johnson III, Eduardo Martinez, Jael Myrick, Melvin Willis

I am contacting you to express a comment for Item F2 on tonight's agenda item "Fiscal Year 2020-21 Annual Operating Budget."

I want to strongly ask that the City maintains its support for our PUBLIC POOLS (Richmond Swim Center & Richmond Plunge).

If you cut funding for the pools, you will be cutting an important place of healing and wholeness.

- I am an elder who benefits greatly from the water therapy program twice weekly at the Richmond Swim Center. It is led by Barbara Hauser, who is licensed and a longtime resident of Richmond.
- Contrary to popular opinion, this is not water aerobics, it is water therapy, working with a licensed therapist in structured exercise to help us regain movement, strength and balance.
- People attend who are recovering from surgery, or injury.
- People attend who have debilitating conditions.
- People attend who want to strengthen our bodies in order not to have surgery.
- All these categories represent me at some time or another in my life. Of all the healing help that I've received, it is water therapy that has worked the best. Seriously.
- Our pool is wonderful community environment and source of networking.
- In addition to the structured water therapy classes, I have personally witnessed many individuals who use pool lanes to do personal exercise. It is amazing. On land, they may be bent over, have difficulty walking, need walkers or wheelchairs or canes. Some need to be strapped into a descending chair in order to get in the pool. Once they are in the water, they can freely float, swim, walk and move. There is one very elderly man, in particular, who jogs back and forth the length of the pool. Jogs! It is amazing. Lifts my spirits! The experience helps all of us with our mental health, as you can imagine.

So, thank you for the important resource of our pools, the Richmond Swim Center in particular. Helps us to be better participating citizens.

I know that you will be making some important decisions for the city in this challenging time. During this time of sequestration, it has been difficult not to be able to go to the pool, much less get out. I feel that when the pool opens again, you should have a ribbon-cutting to celebrate its re-opening!

Be safe. Be well. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Respectfully,

Rev Sandy Gess
United Methodist pastor, retired
sjgess@earthlink.net

Sabrina Lundy

From: Scott Houston <cityofrichmond@overjoyous.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 11:56 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment re: council Agenda Item F-2

Please add this email to public comments to the City Council re: Item F-2.

The following positions reflect my stance as a resident of Richmond regarding the city budget:

- **Hard hiring freeze.** In order to preserve existing jobs, the unions have united around a position on “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.
- **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.
- **Police reform as proposed by the Richmond Revolution:** Body camera footage must be stored externally, so district attorneys and civilian oversight groups can access the video; Transparency and a quick release of videos as public information whenever there is use of force by officers; Investment in addressing education, health and housing inequity to address the root causes of crime in our community; Investment in the Black community, and resources to ensure Black people can not only survive, but thrive; Investment in the health and prosperity of our community, with an emphasis on youth programs.

Scott Houston
209 Piedmont Pl
Richmond, CA 94801

Sabrina Lundy

From: Serge Morel <fryermorel@earthlink.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 12:37 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Agenda Item F-2
Attachments: PastedGraphic-6.pdf

Mayor Butt, City Clerk and Council Members,

My name is Serge Morel, a tax paying Richmond home owner and resident since 1998. I am writing to implore you to continue funding the Plunge and the Richmond Swim Center and to open them as soon as it is safe to do so rather than, as I have recently learnt, to possibly keep them closed for up-to a year as a cost saving measure.

I cannot express what an essential service the pools in Richmond are to myself and the community at large. I am a daily swimmer managing a chronic back condition following an incident in my early twenties. By becoming a serious lap swimmer, swimming a mile and half 5 times a week I have stabilized my back through this discipline allowing me to function normally. The one thing that has been giving me hope through this prolonged shelter in place is the thought of returning to the pool for my physical health and renewing the many friendships that I have formed with both patrons and staff. The news that the pools may remain closed for a prolonged period has almost broken my spirit. I cannot afford to travel out of the area to swim or to join a Private Club.

In addition my concerns stretch to the senior community and the aquarobics classes attended daily with dedication and determination by a large cadre of seniors. Many have become very close friends including the late Mr Douglas Corbyn and I have witnessed their stories. Their very ability to remain healthy, independent and vital depends on their continued access to the pools. The cost to the city will be far greater if they lose their ability to remain physically and psychologically independent.

Another factor that concerns me is that a closed pool incurs continuing costs as it still has to be maintained while not generating revenue. Also there is the risk that both of our pools that have been upgraded and retrofitted at great cost to the Richmond tax payer could fall into disrepair costing even more in the long run to reopen not to mention the time and cost to re-certify Life -Guards. Closure would be a false economy.

There must be many possible avenues for raising additional funds from a Gofundme campaign to donations from HMOS such as Kaiser Permanente that benefit from encouraging the use of our facilities in their Wellness Programs. I encourage the City Council to examine these possibilities

It was only in February last year that the Plunge was reopened by Mayor Tom Butt after 6 months of repair. The pools were recognized then as an essential service and they need to continue to be seen as an essential service today. I have never encountered a council member using the pools and perhaps this may explain the lack of understanding of the invaluable service these facilities offer. I would encourage the council members and the Mayor to start using the pools in Richmond to gain a better appreciation of what they mean to the citizens of Richmond and the surrounding area.

My request is that you will fund the reopening of the pools as soon as it is safe to do so while looking into the possibilities of raising additional funds to keep them open.

With kindest regards.

Serge Morel

600 30th St Richmond
CA 94804 USA
510 367 1517

Serge Morel
Conseiller consulaire

Consulat Général de France à San Francisco
8eme Circonscription

Sabrina Lundy

From: Shannon McLelland <scfitz@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 9:18 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Cc: Brad McLelland
Subject: Public Comments Agenda Item F-2 Budget
Attachments: IMG_9591.jpeg; IMG_8214.JPG; IMG_4961.JPG

Dear City Council Members,

My family moved to Point Richmond 3 years ago and the library was a key part of us getting to know our neighborhood and being a part of the community. When we moved, our daughter was 1.5 years old. We pretty much haven't missed the weekly story times with Deborah and Sheila because they have been so amazing. Our daughter has always loved books, but that weekly cultivation has been so important to her continued growth. Libraries are so much more than books. And the librarians and staff are such an important part of our lives and community. Please do not cut funding for the library. Attached are a couple of the many, many pictures I have from over the last 3 years.

Sincerely,

Shannon, Brad and Cora McLelland
140 Eddy St
Richmond, CA 94801





Sabrina Lundy

From: Sherri Patterson <sherripatt@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 8:36 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F-2

From Sherri Patterson

To the city of Richmond:

I am writing to urgently support keeping the Richmond pools open.

I am disabled and I depend on these services. In the few weeks that the pools have been closed my health has rapidly and seriously deteriorated. I know there are many of us in this situation.

The Pools are so important to me I would be willing to give a significant donation to try to help them out.

Thank you for serving the children, families, disabled, and all you do.

The pools help keep Richmond healthy community in body and spirit. Can we consider a public private partnership with Chevron or another source?
Please, please consider opening the pools!

Thank you.

Sherri Patterson

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

Sabrina Lundy

From: Simonetta <sfosci@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 7:41 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F-2

To whom it may concern,

Over the years Richmond has taken enormous steps to improve and provide community resources. The Plunge has been a staple to that commitment, providing a healthy outlet to its residents, from newborns to seniors. Please, consider the fact that this is not just any swimming pool. The Plunge might be the reason why some at risk youths are able to stay off the street and stay healthy.
Thank you for your consideration and your time,

Simonetta Fosci

Sabrina Lundy

From: Stacey Walker <staceywalker12292017@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 10:23 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Cc: Tom Butt - external; Eduardo Martinez; Jael Myrick; Demnlus Johnson; Ben Choi; Nathaniel Bates; Melvin Willis
Subject: Public Comment - City Council Agenda Item F-2

Mayor and City Council Members,

I am a Richmond resident and an employee of 30 years with the Richmond Public Library. I am writing to you today, asking you to strongly consider what I have to say, as you narrow down your budget balancing discussion at this evening's City Council meeting.

With regard to the cost savings that you hope to realize through bargaining with labor unions, I have the following questions and statements:

1) For Proposals B, C & D, are Local 21 and Executive Management included in the cost savings you're proposing through the furloughs?

I already struggle to make ends meet on my annual salary of \$63,000.00 per year. 2 or 3 furlough days per month, as specified in Proposal B, C & D, will be a tremendous hardship on me and my family. Either proposal is a significant loss of income and will only make it more of a struggle to meet the ever growing costs of living in the bay area.

2) With regard to OPEB and retiree medical costs, employees are treated significantly different within each labor union. This makes it difficult to achieve equity in any scenario involving employee contributions to OPEB/Medical costs.

a) **SEIU Local 1021** members receive a retiree medical reimbursement of a flat dollar amount, **\$435 for single coverage and \$567 for family coverage based on the current Kaiser rate.** This equates to approximately 40% or less of an SEIU 1021 members retiree medical costs **despite years of service.**

b) **RPOA** receives a percentage of their retiree medical reimbursement based on years of service and the current Kaiser rate: **10-14 years of service = 50% of retiree medical costs; 15-24 years of service = 90% of retiree medical costs; 25+ years = 100% of retiree medical costs.** I was unable to determine if members of RPOA are contributing to their OPEB/Medical costs.

c) **RPMA** receives a percentage of their retiree medical reimbursement based on years of service and the current Kaiser rate: **0-20 years = 65% of retiree medical costs; 20-25 years of service = 75% of retiree medical costs; 25+ years of service =**

100% of retiree medical costs. I was unable to determine if members of RPMA are contributing to their OPEB/Medical costs.

d) **Local 188** receives a percentage of their retiree medical reimbursement based on years of service and the current Kaiser rate: **15-26 years 90% of retiree medical costs; 27+ years of service = 100% of retiree medical costs.** As far as I can tell in reviewing their M.O.U., they are contributing \$300 per month towards their OPEB/Medical costs.

e) **RFMA** receives a percentage of their retiree medical reimbursement based on years of service and the current Kaiser rate: **10-14 years of service = 80% of retiree medical costs; 15-24 years of service = 90% of retiree medical costs; 25+ years of service = 100% of retiree medical costs.** I was unable to determine if members of RFMA are contributing to their OPEB/Medical costs.

Employees who receive a percentage, up to 100%, of their retiree medical costs covered by the City fare much better than those of us who receive a flat dollar amount. As medical costs continue to rise, so will the City's unfunded liability to meet those costs as it continues to pay out the rise in percentages versus flat dollar amounts. It seems clear that those who are receiving up to 100% of their retiree medical costs should have to contribute a substantial amount before the lowest paid staff are asked to pay anything.

3) Does the elimination of professional development for 1 year apply to all labor unions? Per the M.O.U.s, all labor unions receive this benefit, yet the amount specified as a savings of \$280,000.00 does not accurately reflect the savings for every City employee.

When looking online for each of the labor unions M.O.U.s, I could not find any contracts for executive management. The only document I found was the agreement between the City of Richmond and executive management acknowledging their union representation through Local 21. Regardless of an employees' representation, their contract should be available to view online for transparency. Richmond tax payers have the right to know exactly what they are paying in salary and benefits for every City employee. In the absence of transparency, how can I or anyone else see what their salary, benefits, other incentives, retiree medical costs and reimbursements are? I've been told that it's equivalent to the maximum benefit afforded to public safety, 90-100%. I urge you to do the cost analysis of retiree medical costs for Executive Managers before you ask the lowest paid employees to contribute towards their retiree medical costs.

With regard to car allowances, I strongly agree that they should be eliminated. It's unfathomable to ask the lowest paid employees in the city to forgo cost of living increases, accept furloughs and contribute to retiree medical costs while executive managers continue to

enjoy a car allowance up to \$400.00 or more per month in addition to their salaries and benefits!

We are already working far below the staffing levels we were and have been working without any cost of living increases. Cuts to your lowest paid staff will result in a loss of income which will make it difficult to meet the high cost of living in the bay area. Please do not make those of us who are the lowest paid employees in the City bear the brunt of the savings you seek.

Thank you,

Stacey Walker

Sabrina Lundy

From: SUE MOORE <moore.sue@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 4:46 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: F

I use the pool for Therepy I have had 4 back surgeries and this is the only place I feel minimal pain.
So please consider the people who will be impacted in a negative way. Before I found water I was depressed
constantly and this helps reduce stress depression and weight gain.
So please it is a befitting me and countless others.

Thanks
Sue Moore

Sabrina Lundy

From: Susan Wehrle <mudmudrabbit@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 06, 2020 5:04 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public comments Agenda Item F

Mayor Butt, City Council Members and City Manager Sniderman:

In the past, I have mentioned how important swimming pools are to everyone: learn to swim, save your life, enjoy recreation. NOW, I want you to know about ME, my health. I have painful severe arthritis, Spondylosis and Spinal Stenosis. The latter two are painful back conditions. The back surgeon told me I am not a candidate for surgery. I also have had knee surgery, and shoulder surgeries. Since I can not have back surgery, and I do not want to live in pain, I use a swimming pool. It helps me to be mobile, even somewhat active. My life is not over, if I have access to a pool. Outside pools are a problem, since I have had skin cancers. I am not alone with these problems. There are a LARGE number of other folks, many, like me, are seniors, who live with pain. Pool friends have sent me emails commenting on the pain they are living with now because there is no pool open. One friend, who is 90, and is usually very active, told me she has had long periods of forced painful immobility while the pools have been unavailable. We are still active and involved members of this community, we are not ready to roll over and die! Please FUND THE POOLS so they can open up when safe, so we can continue to be contributing members of the community,

Thank-you,

Susan Wehrle
Richmond, California 94805
mudmudrabbit@gmail.com
(510) 234-0645

Sabrina Lundy

From: Tally Craig <tallycraig4aca@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 11:14 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment: Budget, Pools

Although I fully appreciate the competing priorities for Richmond's resources, I ask that you give serious consideration to allotting funds for the pools. Acqua therapy and aerobics are important for a wide range of medical conditions. Without work in the pool, rehabilitation for my two total knee replacements would have been far more difficult. Swimming and working in the water also provide remarkable emotional benefit, which all of us sorely need these days.

Thank you,

Tally Craig

5614 Huntington Ave., 94804

Sabrina Lundy

From: Victoria McAdams <vickybees@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 2:09 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: public comments - agenda item # F-2

Dear Council members,

My pain issues began a few years ago after falling from a warehouse loft onto a concrete floor. With time the pain became a constant thing my body endured. I went to doctor appointments and followed their advice. Physical therapy and pain medications were added. I was most comfortable lying down on my back. I had to leave work permanently in 2014.

Then I began a swimming exercise group at the Richmond Plunge. I have been regularly swimming there and at the Richmond Swim Center since 2018. My pain has lessened to the extent that I was able to reduce my pain meds. It has been an incredible release of the pain that I was not even truly aware was so severe. In addition, I met others with their own physical limitations and pain problems. I watched their progress and rehabilitation mirror my own and feel Empowered, no longer helpless.

The staff in both locations are dedicated and responsive; a credit to the Aquatics program. I am a proud Richmond property owner and resident of 28 years.

This is an excellent resource for people of all ages and yes, abilities.
Please do not defund this valuable community resource.

- Vicky McAdams

Sabrina Lundy

From: Vivian Pisano <vpisano@lmi.net>
Sent: Saturday, June 06, 2020 10:22 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comments - Agenda Item #F-2

Dear Members of Richmond City Council,

I urge you to prevent the Richmond Pools from further budget cuts and to work toward the timely re-opening of two of the City's treasured resources: The Richmond Swim Center and The Plunge. The Richmond pools are essential. They are not just a source for recreation; they are a lifeline. For so many, swimming is the only exercise activity available to them. Not only does swimming improve physical health but mental health as well (and we all know how much we need healthy states of mind today). City pools are an affordable activity for families. Kids, and adults as well, need to know how to swim.

Please continue to work toward providing adequate funding for the City pools.

Thank you,
Vivian Pisano



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.

www.avast.com

Sabrina Lundy

From: Vivianne Swerdlow <vivianne.swerdlow@ableto.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 12:10 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Cc: Laura Snideman; Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; richcityservant@gmail.com; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F - Reopening of Richmond City Pools

Dear City Council Members,

My name is Vivianne Swerdlow, and I live at 650 37th St. in Richmond. I am writing to you in regards to the reopening of our community pools. As someone who is disabled, the pools have been a life saver for me. When I first started doing PT for my condition, they recommended doing my exercises in a pool, as I could not use my hands and arms well enough to do most other PT. Over the last two years, I went to the pool every other day, and was able to transition from simple exercises to swimming laps. As I did so, my arms strengthened to the point where I was able to get off disability and go back to working full time. Being able to swim and having that time for myself also improved my mental health, as I have had depression for years due to my condition.

Having the pools closed has been very difficult for me - I have had a symptom flare and am worried I will need to take time off work again. This would of course be a difficult time to do so given the current job environment. In addition, I am a mental health coach supporting others during this time, so I would like to be able to continue doing so.

For these reasons, I urge you to reopen the pools. Compared to gyms, they are a much safer form of exercise and as the county is now allowing it they seem to have come to the same conclusion. I understand that there are financial considerations, but the pools mean so much to me that I urge you to find a way to reopen at least one on a limited basis that includes swim times for all groups each day. I have also greatly enjoyed watching families enjoy their swim time, so I hope you are considering them as well as you make your decision.

Thank you for your consideration,

Vivianne Swerdlow

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Sabrina Lundy

From: wisteriastock <wisteriastock@sonic.net>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2020 6:56 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: publiccomments_agendaitem#F1 and F2

Dear City Council and Mayor,

Please keep the 2 Pools in the community. THE Plunge and the Community swim Center have helped in many ways namely

1. physical exercise and water therapy resolved frozen shoulder
2. community enrichment
3. continual pain management after compression fracture of vertebrae
4. learning how to swim is important to all
5. keep our pt clerks and life guards employed
6. keep full time pool managers employed
7. keep all pool related employees

Please keep the pools. !!!

Wisteria

Council Meeting - 6/9/2020

Meeting Time: 06-09-20 18:30

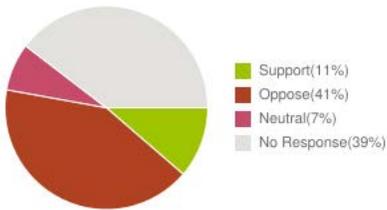
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Council Meeting - 6/9/2020	06-09-20 18:30	18	53	6	22	4

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 - 6/9/2020

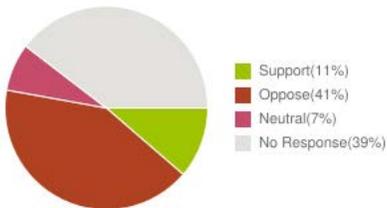
06-09-20 18:30

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Deleted Agenda Item	26	3	6	1
Deleted Agenda Item	1	0	1	0
Deleted Agenda Item	11	1	8	1
Open Session To Hear Public Comment Before Closed Session	3	2	0	0
F. BUDGET SESSION	2	0	1	0
F-2. RECEIVE a report on the status of the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Annual Operating Budget– Finance Department (Belinda Brown 620-6740/Markisha Guillory 620-5434).	10	0	6	2

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

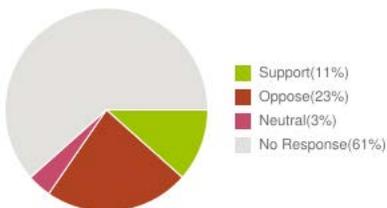
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for Deleted Agenda Item

Overall Sentiment



Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 8:02pm 06-09-20

I'm a Richmond resident concerned about our city's priorities & commitment to our Black and POC community and overall police violence. I am for abolition of the Richmond Police Department. In the interim, implement all 8 suggested reforms suggested by Campaign Zero, noting that these are only the bare minimum and a full transformation (i.e. abolition of policing as it now exists) must occur with reallocation of funds into the health,

support and prosperity of our community.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 6:49pm 06-09-20

As you struggle to balance the many competing priorities, please consider ways to protect the PLUNGE. In protecting and opening the PLUNGE, priority must be given to ensuring that children from ACROSS THE CITY of Richmond receive priority in using the facility. Resources are and will always be hard to find, but the PLUNGE is a community treasure that should be available daily and regularly to ALL of Richmond's and their families.

Thanks for all you are doing in this difficult time.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 6:07pm 06-09-20

As a resident of Richmond, I believe our city budget must prioritize investment schools, youth programs, health care, and mental health care. I oppose cuts to libraries and pools, essential community spaces. I support divesting from the police in order to invest in our community.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 5:54pm 06-09-20

As a 20 year resident of Richmond, I am in full support of restricting the RPD budget. Violent and life-annihilating systems are not a solution to crime and violence. Instead, I support directing funds to invest in life-affirming programs: libraries, schools, youth programs, health care - especially mental health and substance abuse, housing, recreation centers, adult education. I expect RPD to allocate their current funds for immediate mandatory trauma informed anti-racist education for police.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 5:22pm 06-09-20

The COMMUNITY BUILDING that happens at the Plunge is essential. Conversations with women of diverse ages, abilities, races, cultures, SES, & neighborhoods deepen my sense of Richmond connection and community. These conversations are rich, respectful, caring, informative. If the Plunge was open today we would be talking about George Floyd, over policing, why some people don't get what BLM means. These conversations are needed now more than ever. Fund the Plunge, fund us, fund our COMMUNITY.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 3:33pm 06-09-20

SAVE THE PLUNGE! I understand the dire financial situation the city faces due to the pandemic and union pensions, but the aquatic programs are a crucial service for seniors and the disabled. Swimming laps at the Plunge helped me recover from cancer treatments, knee replacement and a broken back. I know I'm not the only Richmond voter/ tax payer who benefits from using the pools. If you cannot find a way to fully reopen them now, I hope you will find money to maintain them until things improve.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 3:13pm 06-09-20

As a resident of Richmond, I am in full support of restricting the RPD budget. Violent and life-annihilating systems are not a solution to crime and violence. Instead, I support directing funds to invest in life-affirming programs: libraries, schools, youth programs, health care - especially mental health and substance abuse, housing, recreation centers, adult education. I expect RPD to allocate their current funds for immediate mandatory trauma informed anti-racist education for police.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 1:53pm 06-09-20

Please do not defund the police.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 7:45am 06-09-20

I am writing you in support of the Richmond Police Department and please reject this ridiculous fad to defund. While it's fashionable right now to hate police, it's does not mean that you should follow suit and stoop to this level. Support the people that place themselves in harms way that protect us each day.

I would like to see the Plunge remain open. We've invested quite a bit years ago in renovations and fought then to reopen it. It would be a waste to let it go.

Greg Goshay, Richmond

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 5:16am 06-09-20

In solidarity with my black neighbors and friends, I fully support an immediate reduction of the Richmond Police Department budget; and ultimately the total abolition of the RPD. These funds are better served as investments in our community in the form of education, housing for all, health care (particularly mental health and substance abuse), as well as youth programs, libraries, and recreation centers.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 5:02am 06-09-20

I oppose the city's proposal to close the Richmond Plunge and aquatic center. These are important community resources. The Plunge is an incredible asset. I support defunding the RPD and investing in community resources like schools, libraries and recreation.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 4:55am 06-09-20

The Minneapolis City Council members have announced they will be disbanding the Police Department and investing in community-led public safety. I am in support of this in our community as well. We need to fund education and community-led public safety. I urge you to redirect funding into health, housing, and social services that support vulnerable residents. The American police are not capable of reform because the entire system was built on slavery and the oppression of minorities. Thank you!

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 4:24am 06-09-20

"Today, I am urging every mayor in this country to review your use of force policies with members of your community and commit to report on planned reforms."

Barrack Obama 6.8.2020

44th President of the United States

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 4:19am 06-09-20

RPD has been a waste of our resources. Last year, the RPD budget was \$74,990,406, the majority coming 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. Restrict the RPD budget and instead use those resources towards social programs and education, which generally have been shown to be much more effective at promoting safety and social equity than policing.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 4:17am 06-09-20

The safest communities don't have the most cops, they have the most resources. Value and fund social services over RPD. Cameron Egan, Richmond resident

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 4:17am 06-09-20

I OPPOSE the decision to close the Richmond Plunge and Richmond Swim Center and OPPOSE any funding cuts to Richmond Libraries. Youth and community members must have safe spaces to recreate, exercise, and have free access to information, media and technology (such as computers with internet access).

The City's budget must prioritize investment in community resources to improve education, housing security, mental health, food security, and the overall well being of our communities.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 3:33am 06-09-20

Please keep Richmond Aquatic Programs open. The Plunge changed my life as well as many others. At 50, I rehabilitated an injured knee by walking at the pool, taking swimming lessons, and eventually swimming a 1/2 mile, 3 times a week. The Plunge is gorgeous, historical, and attracts a diverse community who go there religiously. I saw seniors, parents with babies, and all ages in-between who discovered an exercise that is healthy, fun, and inspires you to come back again and again.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 3:09am 06-09-20

I hope the City Council will not succumb to the ridiculous proposals to 'defund the police department' that appears to be the latest cultural meme following the tragic death of George Floyd. While empathy with the Black Lives Matter movement is very important, we are facing an economic recession. What Richmond is going to need in the long run is an increase in revenue along with judicious adjustments/cuts in the entire city budget. Use common sense and caution. Be analytical not political.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 1:37am 06-09-20

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. We need community enrichment during these turbulent times.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 11:51pm 06-08-20

RPD budget increase.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 11:48pm 06-08-20

I implore the council to meaningfully restrict the RPD budget and re-allocate funds towards community resources that have been proven to improve education, housing security, mental health, food security, and the overall well being of our communities. Policing does not solve the social circumstances that force people to resort to crime to get their basic needs met and has proven time and time again to be deadly for our BIPOC, people with mental health needs and people with disabilities.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 10:47pm 06-08-20

I am opposing the decision to close both the Plunge and the Richmond swim center devastating news. I have diabetes and swimming was helped my health. The is also a social place to individuals who uses it for their health purposes.

As a psychologist I attest to the impact of swimming both physically and emotionally on all population, especially at this time, it is also a healthy outlet to the youth. Closing the pools may increase ER and hospitalization's visits and will cost more.

Laura Bowles

Location:

Submitted At: 10:10pm 06-08-20

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.

Andrea Phillips

Location:

Submitted At: 5:50pm 06-08-20

As a resident of Richmond I oppose budget cuts to the Richmond Public Libraries. They are an essential resource for everyone in our community. I implore you to look for other ways to reallocate funds to the libraries which are an essential part of our community. In these uncertain times please don't rob the people of Richmond of one more resource they can use to better themselves and their communities.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 6:44am 06-08-20

I hope we can keep our pools open. I am looking forward to returning once they reopen. My back and knees have suffered since shelter in place.

Karen Snelson

Retired science teacher. El Sobrante.

Guest User

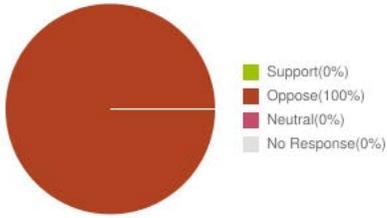
Location:

Submitted At: 1:12am 06-07-20

As a resident of Richmond I oppose budget cuts to public libraries. They are an essential resource for our community.

Agenda Item: eComments for Deleted Agenda Item

Overall Sentiment



Jessica Cortes

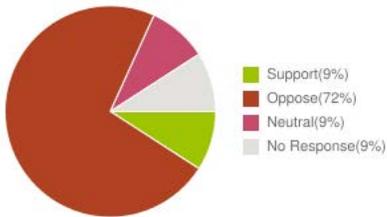
Location:

Submitted At: 5:00am 06-09-20

I would like to see the budget for the police department decreased in favor of programs that support the growth of the community. I only see one option of a \$200,000. cut for the police department for every proposal. Can we talk about the options for decreasing police funding and diverting funds to libraries and community services?

Agenda Item: eComments for Deleted Agenda Item

Overall Sentiment



Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 5:21am 06-09-20

In solidarity with my black neighbors and friends, I fully support an immediate reduction of the Richmond Police Department budget; and ultimately the total abolition of the RPD. These funds are better served as investments in our community in the form of education, housing for all, health care (particularly mental health and substance abuse), as well as youth programs, libraries, and recreation centers.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 4:39am 06-09-20

While I support cuts to the police budget, I oppose cuts to the library budget, recreation services and festivals. Services prevent crime.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 4:31am 06-09-20

We are facing a pandemic and a recession. It is clear policing is systemically ineffective at keeping communities and particularly BIPOC safe. Policing does not prevent crime, social services do. We need our public services and resources now more than ever. Save and increase the social supports our communities rely on. Cut from

RPD and other areas. Sadie Egan, Richmond Resident

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 4:04am 06-09-20

This budget cut for libraries is wrong. Libraries are a vital service for our community and our society as a whole. Keep the libraries open!

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 3:31am 06-09-20

I oppose any library cuts. If the Point Richmond and Bayview branches are closed, Richmond will be without a public library, forcing residents to travel outside city limits to San Pablo or El Cerrito in order to visit a public library. Not all residents own cars, nor should they be required to travel in order to access a valuable community resource. With the glaring focus on decreasing police funding, Richmond should not decrease funding on a community support that our members benefit from.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 3:26am 06-09-20

What a tough set of budget choices you have to face! I hope you can sell Option "D" to the unions because that seems the best choice over the long run. Let's see if the local unions really care about the city and its citizens they are pledged to serve. It offers furloughs as temporary reductions instead of (permanent) reductions in city staff that will be very hard to fill even after the economy recovers. You'll have to convince the unions that we will recover and saving jobs is the goal.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 2:18am 06-09-20

Hello, My name is Faryal Saiidnia & I live in Richmond. I oppose any measure that reduces Police Department services in the City, with a crime rate so high, police are needed more than ever to respond to calls and protect the public. I do support training and reviewing defense and subdue tactics that police use, but not to reduce funding. I do also support investing in the community and more youth programs and mediation programs to reduce crime, but not at the cost of reduced police force. Thank u

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 1:09am 06-09-20

Hi, my name is Cornelio Perez I live in Richmond, our community has been affected from the pandemic, and now more than ever we need to give support to our schools and education so our educational services and programs for kids is very important, we need to be careful the way we manage all the funds that we have for youth and kids to give all the support that they need for their development and their future.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 12:17am 06-09-20

Hi, my name is Ezequiel Chum I live in Richmond CA, our kids need all the help that they can get, so any reduction in funds for school or libraries will affect our community that already has been affected by covid19, I oppose the vote should be NO

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:48pm 06-07-20

I oppose any proposal that seeks to reduce funding for public libraries in Richmond. Our libraries provide critical services to everyone in this community. Libraries advance our residents' literacy, education, and cultural awareness, and closing them would be catastrophic to residents who need them most: our low-income neighbors.

I implore the city council to put our money where our mouth is and keeping funding our libraries. We simply can't live without them. Thank you. Krystal Fortner

Guest User

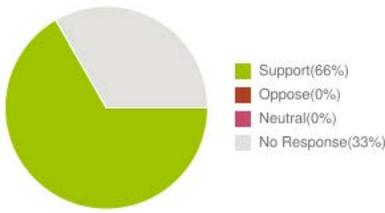
Location:

Submitted At: 11:21pm 06-06-20

I support adequate funding to re-open the Kennedy Swim Center and the Richmond Plunge now and in the future. This is an essential service citizens rely on to maintain their health. Swimming is widely recognized as a beneficial form of exercise. The recent quarantine showed how important recreation is for all ages. With already limited recreation venues, keeping the pools closed would be a great loss. The pools are important enough for you to fund operations now and in the future. LaVern Lazzereschi

Agenda Item: eComments for Open Session To Hear Public Comment Before Closed Session

Overall Sentiment



Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:39pm 06-09-20

How has the police changed its policies regarding use of force and deescalating techniques, since the Wallace Jenson murder of Richard Perez in 2014? And now in the wake of current BLM movement, how in tangible steps will they respond? I would like to see clear communication of these policies and a new model of shifting police funds to other needed social services.

Lucas Menanix

Location:

Submitted At: 9:06pm 06-09-20

Given the national focus on reducing police use of deadly force. I would like to see our city enact all 8 policies proposed by <https://8cantwait.org/>

Currently we are lacking strong enough polices around:

- Bans Chokeholds and Strangleholds
- Requires De-escalation
- Requires Exhaust All Alternatives Before Shooting
- Ban Shooting at Moving Vehicles
- Has Use of Force Continuum
- Requires Comprehensive Reporting

Thank you,

Lucas Menanix

Guest User

Location:

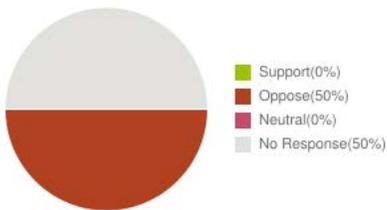
Submitted At: 8:10pm 06-09-20

I've been swimming laps and water aerobics at the Plunge since the restoration.

As a 77yr old this is the only way I keep my achy, stiffening body functioning! There are so many of us seniors who need and really value this community asset. I miss this soooooo much. Could some overtime expenses be cut? Could the fees be raised slightly? Could there be partnerships with say, KaiserP as a healthy community effort?

Agenda Item: eComments for F. BUDGET SESSION

Overall Sentiment



Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:47pm 06-09-20

Proposal D is the only short term solution for 20/21, but will not resolve the real problem. With payroll making up 74% of the budget, there is no solution unless salaries are rolled back. Layoffs would need to be sizable to even break even. Salaries and benefits are too rich and will bankrupt us. Employees cannot enrich themselves at the expense of Richmond's future.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:45pm 06-09-20

We must reallocate funds to make our community safer. It is a fact, police do not keep us safe, neither do they prevent crime. What actually would make our beloved city of Richmond safe, is adequate resources spread out in an equitable way. This looks like housing, access to fresh food choices, youth programs, comprehensive health care and mental health--just to name a few.

Agenda Item: eComments for F-2. RECEIVE a report on the status of the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Annual Operating Budget– Finance Department (Belinda Brown 620-6740/Markisha Guillory 620-5434).

Overall Sentiment

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:59pm 06-09-20

As someone who used to work with our community and youth I can say it's best to invest in the growth of our people antagonizing.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:55pm 06-09-20

My name is Quan and I am a resident in Richmond. The budget cut should affect first and foremost the Richmond Police Department. I oppose RPD's requests to fill vacant positions. The budget should NOT be cutting from recreation programs, libraries, and other social welfare institutions. Please consider the preventative approach to reducing crime and build community, rather than incarcerating and continuing the cycle of violence.

May Nguyen

Location:

Submitted At: 9:49pm 06-09-20

As a Richmond resident and taxpayer, I demand the abolition Richmond Police Department. I demand investment in education, health and housing inequity to address the root causes of crime in our community. I demand material investment in the Black community and resources to ensure Black people can not only survive, but thrive. I demand in the health and prosperity of our community with an emphasis on youth programs. Let's use our tax dollars to fund resources that will actually make our city safe.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:43pm 06-09-20

The Richmond Police Department receives 41% of our city budget. Yet, according to Richmond's 2019 National Community Survey, 93% of residents say that reducing crime is "Essential" or "Very Important." To make our community safer, we must invest in libraries, schools, public health, housing, and other social programs. Cutting these will increase crime and increase our city's dependency on a militarized police force whose guns and tasers do not equip them to handle the real problems of our city.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:42pm 06-09-20

My name is Heather and I live in Richmond. Our city's budget should be balanced by defunding the RPD, since policing as an institution is a racist system that perpetuates violence against black bodies. Crime and harm rates go down when communities have the resources that they need, so if our goal is truly public safety then our money must be invested into services like education and housing.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:39pm 06-09-20

I call on City Council to defund the Richmond Police Department and instead invest in social programs and education, which have generally been shown to be much more effective at promoting safety and social equity than policing and incarceration. RPD has been at the forefront of community policing in the past, but it is time to recognize that policing has disproportionately harmed our Black and Brown citizens and needs to be reimaged into a more equitable model of public safety. - Jennifer K.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:33pm 06-09-20

Budget cuts should first and foremost be taken from the Richmond Police Department budget. The police system should no longer be funded as it is perpetuates targeted violence against black bodies. Our tax dollars should be invested in community resources and education



Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:24pm 06-09-20

My name is Rachel Ng and I live in Richmond. I'm a youth worker in SF Chinatown. I oppose the RPD's request to fill vacancies. Please focus on & actually start funding PREVENTATIVE measures to keep Richmond safe. It makes no sense to cut \$340,982 from recreation programs (from the 2020 spring/summer brochure: enriching quality of life, focus on health/wellness, etc) yet fund 8 new officers at \$232,951 per. It's time to actively invest in community measures that build the foundation for safety.

Nifa Akosua

Location:

Submitted At: 9:12pm 06-09-20

Hey it's Nifa Akosua, long time Richmond Resident now before any cuts are made to our library and any other services that actually help our community. We need to look into our police budget and make necessary cuts to that system, we the people know for a fact that mentors, jobs and access to more resources is true public safety. This is how communities thrive, let's invest more in our people rather harming and punishing them.

Helene Burks

Location:

Submitted At: 8:55pm 06-09-20

Hello, I would like to see the City of Richmond balance its budget by making the remainder of the cuts from the Richmond Police Department budget. It is time for us to defund the police, as this system has proven to perpetuate violence against black bodies. The cuts that make sense due to Covid (festivals, etc) should not be cut from the budget but rather invested in services for the community.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Chandra Hauptman <shayna@lmi.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 4:15 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public comment for item F2

I understand you are planning to eliminate the pool program but this is a really bad idea. Please save the Richmond Swim Center.

I have limited physical mobility and take aquatic therapy classes there that are necessary for my physical health and well being. Many seniors, and people with disabilities like myself, depend upon the use of this pool to help them maintain and increase their mobility which is a critical need.

Please do not eliminate the swim programs.

thank you,
Chandra Hauptman

Sabrina Lundy

From: Dave Severy <davidsevery@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 5:15 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: public comment – agenda item F-2

Now is not the time for austerity in our budget making. I implore the council to shift significant funding from our police department towards services that actually benefit our community - namely our youth, seniors, renters, homeless, and persons with disabilities.

As a father of a two year old, I embrace the vision and the demands put forward by the inspiring young people at Richmond Revolution who organized Saturday's beautiful rally and march to the police department. The state sanctioned murders and violence committed by police officers across the country these past few weeks have created a new urgency for the abolition of city police departments, and Richmond is no exception. In the interim, city leaders can and should take the following actions:

- Implement a hard hiring freeze for all city departments, including the currently unfilled positions in the police department.
- Reduce salaries from the highest paid city employees.
- Protect funding for services that benefit the most amount of residents - public libraries, recreation, health, education, tenant protection, and homeless programs.

Now is the time for real leadership from our city decision makers. Thank you.

Dave Severy
Richmond Resident

Sabrina Lundy

From: David Green <dgreenberkeley@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 5:49 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Agenda Item F-2

Hello Richmond City Counsel.

I'm a psychotherapist working with children and families in and around Richmond. Libraries have a positive effect on the mental health of the Richmond community. I would hate to see you cut funding to Libraries at any time but especially now, when there is so much extra stress and we need as many positive public spaces as we can get.

Thank you.

David Green LCSW.

Sent from my iPhone

Sabrina Lundy

From: Diane Sadowski-Joseph <diane@lifelabslearning.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 4:44 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Agenda Item F-2

Hi there,

My name is Diane Sadowski-Joseph and I am a Richmond resident. I understand that the city is facing unprecedented constraints on resources. I'd like to add my voice to the case that eliminating library access and services is not where to make cuts.

Libraries like ours offer vital programs, services, and safety. More importantly, they offer opportunity and autonomy over learning in a world where that is in short supply, particularly in communities like ours.

I think we are all eager to see a more just and equitable world, and saving our library feels like a step in that direction.

Warmly,

Diane Sadowski-Joseph

--

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Diane Sadowski-Joseph

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Erika Helene <ehelene@lmi.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 4:42 PM
To: Ben Choi; Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item F-2

I am fed up with new and increased taxes and fees (those are taxes!) and they need to address the huge elephant in the room that they keep inflating year after year. It is only getting worse by your inaction and it will burst in the very near future as our expenses are unsustainable.

Quote from another resident that I absolutely agree with:

"I have watched Richmond employees and City Council game the budget for years. Now, \$100M of City maintenance has been deferred and our city deteriorates. And despite questions during zoom budget public hearings, we have no realistic schedule for when deferred maintenance will be caught up. Why – because each year we run in circles with an unrealistic budget fire drill." "If things continue as is, you are approving an income transfer program from the 110,000 poorer residents of Richmond to it's [sic] over paid employees. This is not OK, and we will NOT be taxed more to bail out this situation."

What is wrong with you people? Get control of the expenses so that you can focus on fixing all the deferred maintenance on this city and provide some services. We are taxed like crazy to pay your salaries and got no services in return!!!

Sabrina Lundy

From: Ian Carlton <teuast@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 5:26 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Agenda Item F-2

To Richmond City Council,

Hello! I hope this message finds you well. Public libraries are some of the most undervalued public resources we have, and supporting them is one of the best things a city can do for the working people who live there. Conversely, laying off library workers is one of the worst. Please keep them on and support the library. That is all.

Sincerely,
Ian Carlton
Dublin, CA

Sabrina Lundy

From: jan diamond <jandiam@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 5:47 PM
To: Nat Bates; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Ben Choi; Tom Butt - external; Melvin Willis; Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: F-2 BUDGET HEARINGS

PLEASE MAINTAIN adequate reserves, Richmond cannot afford to have their credit rating lowered like it was in the past -- this would just hurt us over time -

We need to make staff reductions, and staff cuts - even if it requires union negotiations. Do not let the city of Richmond be completely run by the unions -- Do the right thing and make some necessary lay-offs and some wage cuts for some high paid workers. Management NEEDS some flexibility in hiring - DO NOT insist on a HARD hiring freeze.

We need to maintain adequate police protection, we are a high crime city with high theft and burglary rates - complete hiring freezes just increase over-time and can be counter productive.

Thank you

Jan Diamond

Sabrina Lundy

From: Jiggy Athilingam <jathilingam@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 3:59 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: public comment – agenda item F-2

My name is Jegath Athilingam. I am a resident of Richmond, living in the Richmond Annex.

The American policing system is rooted in a long history of racism, its main function being to lock up Black and brown community members. We cannot reform an institution that is so deeply rooted in white supremacy and the actions of the past few weeks have demonstrated that police forces across the country are unreformable.

It is time for us to reimagine what public safety looks like in this country without police. Richmond can be on the leading edge of that change.

We can start here in Richmond by significantly cutting the police budget and redistributing those funds into the services that actually make our communities safer like housing, education, health, and mental health services. We need to invest in Black community, and resources to ensure Black people can not only survive, but thrive.

In consideration of the Richmond city budget, I ask that you start considering how to defund the police and reinvest in our communities. Thank you.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Karen Juster Hecht <karenjusterhecht@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 5:06 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Agenda Item F-2

Dear Esteemed Council Members,

I am writing to ask you to please do everything in your power to find funding to keep all Richmond Public Libraries open. As you probably know, the public libraries are essential services for many in our community -- libraries offer safe spaces for children and others to engage, access to the internet, various public programs and also of course, books so that people can educate themselves and find pleasure through reading.

If you are planning budgets, it seems that now especially would be a GREAT time to reduce the police budget and instead put money into the libraries and other community services that have been proven to help reduce crime before it starts!

There are many resources and citations which I can provide if you would like to learn more.

Thanks,

Karen Juster Hecht, Attorney-at-Law

--

[Karen Juster Hecht, Counselor at Law \(California\)](#)

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"Compromise is the best and cheapest lawyer."

Robert Louis Stevenson

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Kathleen Wimer <kathleenwimer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 5:20 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public comment - AGENDA ITEM F-2

The City of Richmond, its elected councilmen and mayor are fortunate to lead at this momentous juncture in our nation's history.

The convergence of the disclosures about black lives that the coronavirus dramatizes; the numbers of people of color whose work is *essential* to keeping the more fortunate from getting exposed; the disproportionate number of people of color subsequently dying of COVID-19; the disproportionate number of *women* of color, in particular, endangered on the job and disproportionately represented among the unemployed.

THEN, on top of that, another three, four more black people murdered by cops! The count does not seem to stop. We watched a cop squeeze the life out of a totally subdued black man even for a couple of extra minutes after the man's life expired under the cop's knee.

As surely as you know these things; you know the times make the man. You have the good fortune to be the ones charged with rising to the moment.

You have ideas and have been following initiatives other cities are taking to rise to the occasion - to realign expenditures with community values and needs. That 90's policing model of "manning up and arming up" no longer serves. It can't continue to drive the City's budget.

So how to realign the budget? It's okay to let unfilled jobs remain unfilled, even if a number of them are police employees. The City can proportionately reduce employee salaries by larger percentages the higher up the pay scale, so pain is more equally felt top to bottom. And we need a devolution from highly paid city administrators managing outside contracts to a workforce of city servants, including those trained in mental health services and conflict resolution, recreation, youth and employment services; employees whose skills will help us reimagine policing in Richmond. *And* we can keep our library and the branches open, because it's essential to the kind of town we want.

The challenge of crafting a budget to reflect the Richmond we know we are and can be is yours. Good luck and thank you for your labors.

Kathleen Wimer
Citizen

Sabrina Lundy

From: Laura Mangels <laura.mangels@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 5:18 PM
To: City Clerk Dept; cityclerkdept@ci.richmond.ca
Subject: public comments F-2

Dear city council,

We need to cut the budget. And amid all these cries to defund the police, how is it the case that ALL of the options on the table include hiring MORE police officers?

Let's do a FULL hiring freeze on the police department, not a partial hiring freeze. And let's not allow for overtime to take up the extra slack. Instead, let's come up with a budget that diverts those resources to the community instead.

This city council must not vote to allow the police department to continue to search to fill vacancies while in the midst of a hiring freeze.

- 1- Freeze ALL the police positions, not just some.
- 2- Eliminate mandatory overtime for police
- 3- Reallocate funds into community health and mental health, addiction support, homelessness prevention, domestic violence prevention, and community mediation programs

Sincerely
Laura Mangels

Sabrina Lundy

From: legahenni@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 3:40 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public comment agenda F

Please keep our pools open closing them permanently will put many people in our community too far away to access other pools or water activity. These are public resources that the community relies upon and it is up to the city to keep them open and accessible! Thank you Leighann Jorin Richmond Ca

Sent from my iPhone

Sabrina Lundy

From: Luis Chacon <lfchacon7@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 5:16 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment -- Agenda Item F2

Hello, my name is Luis Chacon and I am from Ohlone territory.

Thank you city councilmembers. As you consider the city budget, I urge you to take an approach that centers our Black community members as well as those most vulnerable in our city.

I urge for a hard hiring freeze, cuts to those that are paid the highest salaries, as well as the protection of library and public health and social services. I also strongly urge you to take seriously the demands of youth in our city who have been peacefully protesting. Please show our youth that peaceful protest is indeed a means to an end. Their demands include investment in addressing education, health, and housing inequity issues as well as investment in the Black community by making sure resources are available to support our Black community members thrive.

I support protester calls for defunding RPD. As resources would be reallocated to meet the root cause needs of our community, in the long run this would make RPD's job safer and easier. The time to address crime after it takes place is over. We must take a preventative approach and address the issues that lead our community members to engage in criminal activity.

I look forward to seeing and hearing you work with our community and listen to our youth voices.

Thank you.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Irene Wibawa <irenewibawa@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 3:01 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item F-2

My name is Maria Irene Wibawa and I live in Richmond, CA. I urge the Richmond city council to reconsider cutting off funding to community services including our community centers, such as community pools like the Richmond Plunge and our libraries to make up for the budget deficit. These community centers promote community stability and resiliency. Shutting down services that benefit the community at large in favor of maintaining the high salaries of a few lie in opposition to what most residents want and need. Do right by the community and protect funding for the community services, including libraries, community pools, health services, homeless services. If you have not been hearing the demands the recent protests have been calling for, you're not listening to the voices of the masses. Instead of cutting the funding for our community services that benefit many, I urge you all to consider a hard hiring freeze, especially with the police department, and pay cuts and freeze to overtime pay to the highest paid staff to make up for the deficit. Please consider doing what is best to support our community in these trying times, rather than keeping the status quo for the top paid city staff.

Sincerely,
Maria Irene Wibawa

Sabrina Lundy

From: Rebecca Newburn <rebeccanewburn@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 4:21 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comments - Agenda Item F-2

Dear Honorable Mayor Butt and Respected City Council Members,

I am writing to express my concern over the City's budget shortfall and to demand a rethinking of resource allocations.

This is a moment in history with the compounded crisis of a pandemic, white supremacy, economic duress, and environmental degradation and climate change. It's time to be bold and take decisive action to access who do want to be as a community and what is truly going to support our well-being and healing. I strongly encourage that 911 dispatch records be reviewed to see what percent of calls are for mental wellness or neighbor disputes (such as noise complaints) and redirect funds from the police to increase social workers to handle these calls and to provide a service of mediation in our community for neighbors to talk about disputes to allow each other to hear each other's concerns. I would like to defund the police and have a community lead response to handle many of the community issues that police are not trained to handle and only increase the risk of violence for people of color in our community.

I have also been concerned for years over the excessive amount of overtime in the City's police and fire departments and dispatch services. This practice needs to stop. While I live in Richmond, I am a teacher in a different county and we are doing a hard freeze. I recommend the City do the same. The shortage in police officers isn't really a shortage, when we look at the misuse of police to handle things outside of their purview. Many of the 911 calls need to be addressed by social workers. Bring them in to address calls that are better handled by mental health professionals. Have a team of social workers connected to the dispatch services to send them out on calls.

Besides protecting social services and ensuring that those departments, along with the Department of Recreation, are funded fully. I also strongly support the library services. The library is a commons. It is a place to learn, a place for computer access for many people who lack access, and a place where houseless people are offered information about community services.

Additionally, when cuts need to be made. Protect our lower waged civil servants and take the cuts from the top. The highest paid staff should take the larger percentage decreases to their salaries and benefit packages.

This is a moment that can define our City and its heritage and commitment to all community members. I hope the City Council takes bold, decisive action to creatively respond to the crisis to create a more just Richmond.

Kind regards,
Rebecca Newburn
North and East resident

--

[Richmond Grows Seed Lending Library](#)

Planting seeds for the just and sustainable future.

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Sabrina Lundy

From: Sofi Hecht <sofihecht@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 5:09 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Agenda Item F-2

To Richmond City Council,

My name is Sofi Hecht and I live and work in Richmond.

I am writing to say PLEASE DO NOT eliminate The Richmond Public Library from the budget.

Libraries are extremely important public centers of education and information. They provide information, especially internet, for those who don't have it in their homes. They provide safe and educational after school activities for children whose parents work full-time. These resources are provided to the people of Richmond regardless of their ability to pay and help fight against racial inequalities. If you take away the libraries, you will be taking away a lifeline for the residents of Richmond. At this moment in our country, it is more clear than ever, that what we need is public services that lift up and educate our communities. Libraries are one such example of this.

Additionally, during this time of COVID-19, libraries still offer many vital services to people remotely & safely, even if the buildings themselves are closed. Ideas on how a safe opening can be achieved are being discussed and tried throughout the country. Frontline staff must be included in decision making about what tasks can be done and what a safe future opening can look like.

I oppose the layoff of SEIU 1021 members. This will only exacerbate the financial struggle of our community as a whole. Please don't disappoint our community. Save public services and stand with the working people of Richmond!

Thank you for listening,
Sofi Hecht

Sabrina Lundy

From: Vivien Feyer <vivfeyer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 5:01 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA ITEM #F-2

Greetings Dear Mayor and City Council Members!

In your decision making this evening, please remember that Richmond California has proudly declared itself a HUMAN RIGHTS CITY, with the City Council unanimously agreeing to put human rights first when making any and all decisions.

Therefore, I urge you this evening to make health services, recreation, libraries and homeless programs top priorities for funding - and to shift some of the money now going to policing back into these essential services.

With gratitude,
Vivien Feyer

Sabrina Lundy

From: Andrea Mullarkey <andrea.mullarkey@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 7:15 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment: Agenda Item F2

Good evening mayor and city council members. I am Andrea Mullarkey a Richmond resident, an SEIU 1021 member and a public librarian. I join with others in urging you to fully fund the library, retain all staff, and keep all locations open.

I'm sure some of you know there was a tailgate story time event and car caravan this weekend for community members to come together and celebrate the library. I had hopes some of you might have come and was under the impression that at least one of you had plans to be there. Since you weren't I will encourage you and members of the public to check out the video and photos from the event on our website:

saverichmondpubliclibraries.com

Several of my family members came and had a wonderful time. But some family members could not be there and this is the message my 10-year-old cousin Callie sent along for you:

Dear Richmond City Council,

My name is Callie and I love coming to the library, there is just something so comforting when I get to go inside the library and look through all of the books, and find the right book for me! Libraries have made a big impact on my life in many ways, I love taking my younger cousins to the library because I get to show them books that I used to like when I was their age. It makes my younger cousins feel super accomplished when they find the right book and it makes me happy that I got to show them how amazing libraries are! Please do not close down any libraries!

I could tell you hundreds of stories like this one but I know what is really on your mind is how to pay for this. There are two really important first steps:

- 1) implement a hard hiring freeze, and
- 2) fund the remainder from reserves.

Reserves are money set aside during relatively good times to provide for core services during tough ones. If this isn't that I don't know what is.

Please fully fund the library and maintain full staffing so Richmond can continue to be served by these wonderful public servants in bad times as well as good.

Thank you.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Andrés Soto <adcsoto@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 6:03 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Agenda Item F-2

Dear Mayor and Council Members;

Recent events have now brought us to the point where we need to have a serious discussion about turning the city, and the country, in a new direction. This direction should include the dismantling of the Richmond Police Department, selling off all of its military style equipment, and use the funds to prioritize library, education, health, employment and recreational services for our youth and struggling adults.

In returning from the COVID 19 pandemic, which is far from being over, we need to look to new models for moving our society forward. In Amsterdam, Netherlands they are the first at using the "doughnut" economy model. This means out with the global attachment to economic growth and laws of supply and demand, and in with the so-called doughnut model, a guide to what it means for countries, cities and people to thrive in balance with the planet.

The inner ring of the doughnut sets out the minimum we need to lead a good life, derived from the [UN's sustainable development goals](#) and agreed by world leaders of every political stripe. It ranges from food and clean water to a certain level of housing, sanitation, energy, education, healthcare, gender equality, income and political voice. Anyone not attaining such minimum standards is living in the doughnut's hole.

The outer ring of the doughnut, where the sprinkles go, represents the ecological ceiling drawn up by earth-system scientists. It highlights the boundaries across which human kind should not go to avoid damaging the climate, soils, oceans, the ozone layer, freshwater and abundant biodiversity.

Between the two rings is the good stuff: the dough, where everyone's needs and that of the planet are being met.

All planning decisions are made by assessing whether or not the project will be the dough. If not it is not approved. This should certainly attach to Pt. Molate for example.

Andres Soto

Sabrina Lundy

From: Brenda Illescas <sinfronteras1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 6:22 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Agenda Item F-2

To Richmond City Council,

My name is Brenda Illescas and I am a Richmond resident.

Do NOT eliminate The Richmond Public Library from the budget.

The Library is the only public educational institution that this City has. Libraries provide information, especially internet, for those who don't have it. They let parents know that their children are safe after school. These resources are provided to the people of Richmond regardless of their ability to pay and help fight against racial inequalities. If you take away the libraries, you will be taking away a lifeline for the residents of Richmond.

I oppose the layoff of SEIU 1021 members. This will only exacerbate the financial struggle of our community as a whole. Save public services and stand with the working people of Richmond!

As a mother of a three year old we rely on the library for story times and a way for my child to enrich her vocabulary through the amazing books we check out from the library.

Consider your decisions tonight and think about the countless children, families, and members of the community you will be affecting with these cuts.

Brenda Illescas

Sabrina Lundy

From: deborahbonet@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 6:17 PM
To: City Clerk Dept; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Item F-2

To Richmond City Council Member, Mayor Butt and Ms. Snideman, Cuts to part-time library staffing will lead to a reduction of library open hours. It will mean that remaining full time professional staff (librarians) will be required to spend more time at public service desks. On the surface this may not seem significant, but it is. It becomes more so if we consider how community connections and outreach will be affected. Bookmobile service will be eliminated. The bookmobile visits 14 schools per week most of which are located on the perimeter of Richmond in the Hilltop, Eastern Richmond Hills area or North Richmond environs. The bookmobile provides library services, books and story times to hundreds of Richmond families who live in book deserts. Closure of Bayview library will impact families in the Crescent Park /Annex area who depend on that library for early literacy programs, an afterschool safe place, and for access to computers and Internet resources, books and movies. Staffing cuts will eliminate branch story times which reach up to 150 children and parents each week. It will upset relationships that the library has nurtured with Richmond families. Every month, 24 Richmond Head Start classrooms receive visits from Richmond Public Librarians. They teach songs, engage in early literacy play, and share stories with over 250 children and their teachers. These services areas are geographically unique and those 800 plus children who have enjoyed this connection to the greater world through library outreach will be once again left out. Those relationships will be lost. In the long run, connections with books, ideas, art, and the people who love them are an economic, cultural, and psychological benefit. Cutting library staff and budget is a short-term solution with long term consequences.

Deborah Bonet, Librarian, Children's Services, Richmond Public Library

Sabrina Lundy

From: L W <bettymart_98@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 6:29 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Richmond City Council, June 9, 2020, Agenda Item: F2.

Re: Richmond City Council, June 9, 2020, Agenda Item: F2.

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

According to a Jun 2, 2020, study from <[Ziprecruiter.com](https://www.ziprecruiter.com)> states the average annual pay for the Average jobs category in Richmond, CA is \$74,730 a year. They note on their website that Richmond has salaries as high as \$152,451 and as low as \$22,980, the majority of salaries within the Average jobs category currently range between \$55,487 (25th percentile) to \$82,951 (75th percentile).

Starting off on moving toward balancing the city's budget, I favor the following temporary steps.

- 1.) A hiring freeze across all departments.
- 2.) A cap on overtime pay.
- 3.) A temporary 5% (or higher?) cut on yearly salaries above \$150,000.00, which is close to double the \$74,730.00, the average Richmonder's yearly pay, stated by Ziprecruiter.

Also, no cuts to libraries. Libraries act as interactive community centers with free educational and cultural programs.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Jane Courant <janecourant@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 6:10 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public comment Agenda item F-2

In the past week, we have been reading and hearing about cities across the nation, spurred on by the murder of yet another black victim of police violence, finally cutting their inflated police budgets and redirecting funds to vital public services that reduce crime **at its source**. Libraries and recreational facilities, not to mention housing, job training and other basic needs, must be robustly supported and not cut regardless of a city's financial status.

Right now, during its fiscal crisis, Richmond has the chance to do just that, and strikingly with the **endorsement of its own police union!** And that action would be a **hard freeze** on hiring. What a great opportunity we have to make such cuts, preserving jobs and without dissension among the ranks of the police force itself!

At a moment of national reckoning over racism and abuses in policing, we must devote more of our precious resources to ensuring public safety through essential services that support a strong community.

As a senior who cares about her city's residents and whose physical and mental health depends upon two of these essential services, namely **our pools and our branch libraries**, I urge you to follow through with a **hard freeze** on hiring to keep all our public workers employed!

Jane Courant
6108 Santa Cruz Ave
Richmond, CA 94804

Sabrina Lundy

From: John Brown <johnbrown0059@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 6:31 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comments-Agenda Item- #F2

City Council Members and Mayor,

It seems like every year the City of Richmond is talking about not having enough money, so why is it a huge surprise that Richmond is here again. Richmond should look at long term solutions that are geared towards protecting the little services offered to its people. Ive lived here for nearly three decades, and i still ask myself what exactly are the services Richmond provides me. The library and pool are the only ones I can think of. My streets are dirty, my neighborhood is full of crime, homes around me are falling apart...you get the point. At this point, and as a property owner I am embarrassed to say, but rent control is another service that has at least been responsive to my questions. Aside from that, I'm not sure what services there are. Why does the police spend so much money and there's so much crime? I'm not one of these people who are yelling defund the police but Richmond should ask if they have been affective. The mayor said on his e-forum that in 2015 the police approval rating was 50%. I may have went to school decades ago but I am sure 50% is still a F. And that was back in 2015. Thanks have gotten a lot worse so its probably lower now. Anyway, I don't think you should defund the police but I do think you can balance the budget by cutting from the police budget. Maybe don't approve military weapons or the newest car. Also, you can probably save money by not looking for a new city attorney. I thought we have one? She seems to be doing fine. Maybe Richmond can save money by trusting its workers more and not spending all this money asking other people to tell Richmond what its doing wrong? I know the mayor doesnt trust Richmond workers like he said on his efourm but I don't think the hole council thinks that. Maybe hire someone from Richmond to fill these positions? Might be cheaper and they might care more? I think you are all doing a great job but maybe you should look for your answers inside the four walls of city hall rather than dumping staff and looking to the outside.

Sincerely,

John Brown

Sabrina Lundy

From: Kathlene Carney <carneypr@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 7:04 PM
To: City Clerk Dept; Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Melvin Willis; Ben Choi; Laura Snideman
Subject: Public Comments - Agenda Item #F-2 (Report on budget status)

Dear City Clerk — I am providing these comments directly to the City Council and Staff for their review and to be included in the formal record.

I am dittoing the letter submitted by Leisa Johnson (forwarded below). I heartily agree with every point she makes, but she expresses it much more articulately than I can. Therefore she has given me permission to use her words to express my concerns as well.

Respectfully,
Kathlene Carney
Richmond Resident

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, Councilmen and City Manager:

Every 1-2 years, we continue to have the same discussion and the same glaring issue. But last week revealed a whole new level of Richmond's, "The Tail that Wags the Dog".

- 1. Why are union members, whose salaries & benefits are paid for by the taxpayers, allowed to give their own highly skewed presentation regarding their own proposed cuts and taxpayer increases, yet the public hasn't been afforded the same opportunity?**
- 2. Will the Taxpayers & Voters, who are your bosses and shareholders of this City, also be shown the same respect and be allowed to give their own presentation and list of concerns and cuts?**
- 3. Will this Council follow the City Manager's and financial consultants' recommendations on maintaining our reserves?**

Why do you pay for a city manager, staff and financial consultants if you don't want to listen to the cautionary words they continue to share with you?

The unions and city councilmembers they support are asking to cut the City's reserves down to dangerous levels.

I do very much appreciate the City Manager's efforts to protect them, especially after the City has worked over the past few years to increase them to **recommended** levels and to help **restore** our bond ratings after some recently went to junk status. **Ms. Snideman** - I know that you are in a difficult & highly political situation. But as our City's CEO, I hope you will stick to your

convictions and not allow our reserves to be jeopardized any further. You have repeatedly stated & made your case and provided due warning. That it falls on politically deaf ears is this Council's own doing and will ultimately be their downfall. Please don't make it yours.

We are already tinkering on the brink of a state audit, and if our reserves are misspent and the fiduciary responsibilities of your office and that of our elected city councilmembers are not upheld, then the state will likely intervene on behalf of taxpayers and creditors, as they rightfully should.

4. The majority of people are facing serious economic pressures and **no one** wants to see people potentially lose their job, experience furloughs, or incur salary &/or benefit reductions. It is happening broadly across the private and public sectors, and it is our economic reality.

Yet with each passing year, the elephant in Richmond's City Hall only grows larger and will eventually burst because **our city council does not have the political will to do what they were elected to do.**

The Taxpayers have been repeatedly asked to unfairly shoulder this burden at the expense of their own savings plans while simultaneously experiencing layoffs, furloughs and benefit reductions. Our economic crisis is real and the recovery from Covid-19 will take a long time. **Do you really think that now is the time to ask taxpayers for yet more, especially when those who are lucky enough to still have a job and business are making far less than the majority of City employees?**

5. Richmond already has a reputation for being the most difficult city in which to do business, yet they sorely need the revenues that businesses provide.

Do you really think that proposing ballot measures that increase business taxes or vacant lot taxes (which failed miserably in 2018) are the answer?

If you want to kill business and development in Richmond, and importantly much needed **revenue**, then vote for the unions' recommendations as well as those from members of this council.

Why would any business want to stay in Richmond let alone come here with the unwelcoming, unsupportive, high risk culture that this City Council continuously adopts, and which only grows worse with each passing year?

You appear to be completely tone deaf to the significant economic losses that your residents, housing providers and small & large businesses have incurred due to Covid-19. I guess you feel it is appropriate to punish them even further. We need leaders that will ***first review the root cause* and *then pass legislation**

to effectively address it*, rather than just increase taxes & fees (which are taxes by the way!) that will ultimately destroy what businesses still remain here.

If people are leaving parcels vacant, there is a reason - a primary one is that Richmond is the most difficult city in the Bay Area and California at large, exposing housing providers and businesses to unwarranted risk.

You are elected officials and voters expect you to uphold your fiduciary responsibility and represent all of this City's residents, not just your primary donors. Please respect that and us.

Respectfully,
Leisa Johnson
20-year Richmond Resident



Sabrina Lundy

From: Laura Mangels <laura.mangels@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 6:04 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: public comments F-2

Dear city council,

We need to cut the budget. And amid all these cries to defund the police, how is it the case that ALL of the options on the table include hiring MORE police officers?

Let's do a FULL hiring freeze on the police department, not a partial hiring freeze. And let's not allow for overtime to take up the extra slack. Instead, let's come up with a budget that diverts those resources to the community instead.

This city council must not vote to allow the police department to continue to search to fill vacancies while in the midst of a hiring freeze.

- 1- Freeze ALL the police positions, not just some.
- 2- Eliminate mandatory overtime for police
- 3- Reallocate funds into community health and mental health, addiction support, homelessness prevention, domestic violence prevention, and community mediation programs

Sincerely
Laura Mangels

Sabrina Lundy

From: Laura Thomas <laurakthomas@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 6:54 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comments Agenda Item F-2 Budget

My name is Laura Thomas and I am a Richmond resident.

Last week the agenda was changed and budget discussions were moved up so my comment was not received even though I was at the meeting for hours. This is unacceptable and shows that you are able to change and adapt on the fly but residents are penalized for any error in communicating our messages.

The defunding of our public libraries and recreational services is directly connected to our current political protests in my opinion. We need to be investing in our community in these spaces, not reducing staff and services.

We need to preserve the budget we have and make cuts elsewhere or use the budget reserves.

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?

We have a choice to start funding our future or paying to maintain the status quo that is clearly not working. I am fighting to maintain Library and Recreational services to ensure that our most vulnerable community members can continue to benefit from them now in the pandemic and going forward.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Laura Thomas <laurakthomas@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Jun 2, 2020 at 8:26 PM
Subject: Public Comments Agenda Item H1
To: <cityclerkdept@ci.richmond.ca.us>

I would like to be called for public comment: 415-378-2359

My name is Laura Thomas and I am a Richmond resident.

The systematic defunding of our public libraries and recreational services is directly tied to the current protests in my opinion. As a result "sharing the pain" as we continue to see a call for, no longer feels feasible to me. There's just not enough left! We need to be investing in our community and our residents in these spaces.

We need to preserve the budget we have and make cuts elsewhere. The police department is not the only option, but it's one I feel has received more protection overall and can stand to be de-prioritized more now as a result.

If we defund the services people of color depend on and disproportionally fund police services, what does that say about the priorities of our community?

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[Help Save Richmond Public Libraries](#)

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[Help Save Richmond Public Libraries](#)

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[Help Save Richmond Public Libraries](#)

Sabrina Lundy

From: Lisa Park <lpark@sonic.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 6:16 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public comment – agenda item F-2

Dear Richmond City Council Members and the Mayor,

1) Regarding the City budget: If there are going to be cuts made to salaries, the highest paid staff should take the biggest percentage decrease.

2) Protect funding for libraries: Let us use any money saved towards Richmond libraries. Our city needs libraries.

Thank you,

Lisa Park

5626 Bayview Avenue

Richmond, CA 94804

Sabrina Lundy

From: Michael Gliksohn <mgliksohn@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 6:20 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: public comment – agenda item F-2

Dear Mayor Butt and Councilmembers,

There are many issues and considerations that you are facing in order to produce a balanced budget for the City of Richmond for 2020-2021. I am just one of a chorus of citizens asking that you make no cuts to city services. Here are two ways you can do that: A hard hiring freeze and cuts from the top

In order to preserve existing jobs, the unions have united around a position on “hard” hiring freeze, meaning absolutely no new hires. (Management wants a “soft” hiring freeze, which would allow them flexibility in filling some new positions.) A hard freeze represents a big shift of resources away from police, as there are currently over a dozen unfilled police positions. This is what I support.

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. This is also what I support.

Please take my and many community members' wishes seriously. Do not sacrifice vital city services. Make the better choice.

Thank you,
Michael Gliksohn
Richmond resident

Sabrina Lundy

From: M Parker <mparker@rts-tech.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 6:12 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Item F2 6/920

Mike Parker, Richmond resident

Budgets –How we spend the City’s money is a statement of our values –our priorities .

We happen to be working on our budget while the Country and the world are telling us that we are fundamentally wrong in believing that a militarized police force brings most of us safety. We can start by showing with our budget decisions we are listening and make sure that we prioritize our services: libraries, recreation, code enforcement, health, housing

Whatever strategy we use in this budget let’s make sure that it involves shifting resources to the services we need. If we go with the Hard Freeze, that will effectively shift resources for now, let’s make sure it is understood that when we find the money that it does NOT go to filling police vacancies first.

And if we have to ask employees to take a cut of some kind let’s make sure that it is progressive and falls mainly on those who cost the city more than \$250,000/year –again police is the biggest group here.

Richmond police are in many respects superior to those in other cities. But depending on police to keep a community safe does not work. After this budget we should begin acting now to determine what public safety really requires.

BTW how much did the Richmond “mutual assistance” to help the Oakland Police attack protesters cost this city. Why not forbid “mutual assistance” in dealing with political protests? it makes an important statement and it helps our budget.

Mike Parker

Sabrina Lundy

From: Valerie Jameson <valjam92@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 7:45 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for F.2

I wish for my comment to be read out loud:

Hello Richmond City Council,

I am reaching out today to request bold action be taken in developing next years fiscal budget. Across the country, we have seen large social uprising for racial justice. Locally we have heard demands from youth organizers around the need for a deep investment in the Black community that includes resources to ensure Black people can not only survive, but thrive. This requires investments in health, housing, and other social services with a key focus on youth programming. It is essential that the Richmond Kids First Initiative stays in place, and that we make a coordinated effort to continue to invest in preventative services for children and youth over the policing of our community. The movement for black lives nationally and locally is calling on council members to begin rethinking the definition of public safety. Which includes acknowledging that increased crime stems from limited resources and a lack of access, as well as a commitment to defunding archaic institutions like prisons and police. It is important for the council to see that taking steps to defund the Richmond Police Department is not a personal attack of the public servants in those positions or a radical or unattainable idea, but rather a pragmatic approach to dealing with the cities existing budget shortfalls.

I urge you all to make all available cuts or stoppage of funds to the police department in the coming year and reinvest any available funds to restorative systems and programs. The following changes include but are not be limited to:

- A hard hiring freeze of all Richmond police department staff.
- Furlough of officers with misconduct record and/or **suspension without pay for officers that are involved in lawsuits. As is the case with** Richmond police officers Ahmed Khalfan, Brandon Hodges, Jesse Sousa and Kristian Palma that were named in a federal civil suit released to the media on June 5th.
- A moratorium on capital improvement projects for any police station or purchasing of police equipment
- Additional oversight before RPD commits to costly and time-consuming regional taskforce that deploy Richmond officers to other cities, as was the case with RPD officers presence in Oakland over the past two weeks.
- A cap on overtime for officers, and any other available cuts that the city can make that sit outside of existing MOU's or contracts.

Simultaneously, I urge the city to implement a long-range plan for reducing the police departments functions, and moving homeless outreach, triage, and other critical activities to mental health practitioners and social workers. A cost-effective next step to this strategic planning effort should be to bring together members of the existing police commission, human rights commission, and other community-based organizations to craft a transition plan that will allow for our cities general funds spending to reflect our values.

Thank you!

Sabrina Lundy

From: Victoria S. <svictoria940@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 6:00 PM
To: Tom Butt - external; Nat Bates; Eduardo Martinez; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Melvin Willis; Ben Choi; Laura Snideman; City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment for Item F-2

The City Council's proposed new taxes, including increases to the Business License Tax are a very bad idea. At a time when the city should be focusing on welcoming people and small businesses to generate more revenue for the city, they are effectively driving them away.

Before the city considers any extreme measures like this one, they really should be trimming the fat from their own departments to balance the budget. Many city employees compensation packages are extremely generous. And why should we have to pay for their overinflated pensions when the vast majority of us taxpayers don't even receive pensions ourselves?! Maybe if we got rid of pensions, we wouldn't have to cut services and pay more taxes. The current compensation structure is simply not sustainable and will lead to bankruptcy and many more problems for all of us.

During this time when residents and businesses are struggling financially — taking pay cuts, losing money and their jobs — the city's trying to make things even more difficult for us.

The city's staff shouldn't be immune from the same economic forces we are subject to. It's time to institute hiring freezes and pay cuts, decrease pensions, and eliminate redundant positions for city employees.

Property owners and small businesses already pay a ton in taxes. The fact that the City's trying to massively raise those taxes during an economic recession (and possible depression) when we're already suffering financially is a new low and crossed a line for me. Tenants aren't paying their rent, people are reducing their spending at businesses, banks don't have moratoriums on commercial property mortgages, and now the City wants to raise taxes on us specifically, what a way to kill small businesses and small landlords off. When the mom and pop businesses die, the big corps win and we can't let that happen. Please stop this madness! Perhaps the city should look into taxing billionaires and companies which have increased revenue during the pandemic like Amazon and Walmart more - that would generate a lot of revenue.

Sincerely,
Victoria Song