

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, June 30, 2020

The Richmond City Council Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Thomas K. Butt via teleconference

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PARTICIPATED VIA TELECONFERENCE

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

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

Written comments received by 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 30, 2020, were provided to the City Council via e-mail, considered a public record, put into the record, and considered before Council action. Comments were submitted via email to cityclerkdept@ci.richmond.ca.us.

ROLL CALL

All Council Members participated via teleconference.

Present: Councilmembers Jael Myrick, Demnlus Johnson III, Eduardo Martinez, Vice Mayor Bates, and Mayor Thomas K. Butt.
Absent: Councilmembers Ben Choi and Melvin Willis joined the meeting after adjourning to closed session.

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

AGENDA REVIEW

Item F-13 was removed from the Consent Calendar to be discussed at the end of the agenda.

REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Laura Snideman introduced Emergency Services Manager Genevieve Pastor-Cohen and Building Official Chris Castanchoa, who presented an update on the COVID-19 Reopening Plan, which highlighted the following: City facilities were reopened on June 22, 2020; public allowed to conduct City business by appointment only on June 29, 2020; City services in operation since March 16, 2020; employee safety; initial safety assessments; sites in need of safety assessments; self-assessment; self-screening tools; and safety precaution signage.

CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Councilmember Johnson III, seconded by Councilmember Willis, the items marked with an (*) were approved by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

***F-1.** Approved a contract with KnowBe4 for a three-year subscription of security awareness training in an amount not to exceed \$22,075.20.

***F-2.** Cancelled a contract with Ricoh Managed Services with a savings to the General Fund in the amount of \$75,000.

***F-3.** Approved an Amendment No. 2 to the contract with Liebert Cassidy Whitmore, in the amount of \$115,000, which will increase the total contract amount to \$175,000 for the continuation of contract negotiations and other services through June 30, 2022..

***F-4.** Awarded an on-call professional services contracts with six firms: Fehr & Peers, Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc., W-Trans, CSW Stuber-Stroeh Engineering Group, PHA Transportation Consultants and Alta Planning + Design, for as-needed transportation engineering services for various transportation improvement projects, in an amount not to exceed \$450,000 per firm, from grant funds, Gas Tax, and Measure J funds with no impact to the General Fund, for a three year term with the option to extend the term for two additional years.

***F-5.** Announced recent resignation from City of Richmond boards, commissions, and committees; and announced vacancies as of June 24, 2020, and asked that interested individuals send applications to the City Clerk.

***F-6.** Approved a sole-source contract with POGO Park for design, contract management and administration, community outreach and for facilitation of the community design process and community participation in the amount of \$1,600,000, and authorize the city manager to execute all required documents and contracts to facilitate the design of Harbour 8 Park expansion project, in amounts not to exceed the Proposition 64 grant funding requirements..

***F-7.** Adopted **Resolution No. 67-20**, authorizing the purchase of the Administration (Admin) Building (360 S. 27th Street) from the Richmond Housing Authority (RHA) by the City of Richmond for \$1.00; and authorized the City Manager to execute the final form of the agreements, including a purchase and sale agreement, and any supporting U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) documents to facilitate the sale of the Admin Building to the City of Richmond..

***F-8.** Approved the minutes of the Regular June 2, 2020, and Special June 9, 2020, City Council meetings..

***F-9.** Adopted **Ordinance No. 13-20**, amending Richmond Municipal Code Chapter 9.48 (Integrated Pest Management) by repealing sections 9.48.035 (Sale of Pesticides) and 9.48.045 (Enforcement for Sale of Pesticides) to comply with California Food and Agricultural Code section 11501.1.

***F-10.** Adopted **Ordinance No. 14-20**, amending Chapter 2.52 [Contracting and Purchasing Procedures] of the Richmond

Municipal Code to increase the formal bidding threshold and authorize the acceptance of electronic bids..

***F-11.** Adopted **Resolution No. 68-20**, by the City Council of Richmond authorizing the approval of IFPTE Local 21 Mid-Managers Association and the City's May 29, 2020, Tentative Agreement to modify the MOU and direct the Human Resources Director to execute the final MOU; and Introduced an ordinance (first reading) to establish compensation for the classifications represented by IFPTE Local 21 Mid-Managers Association in the City's classified service providing for a one-time lump sum payment in the amount of \$1000 (minus applicable payroll deductions), an increase in the safety footwear allowance from \$125 to \$300 annually for those required to wear safety footwear, and a change in bilingual pay from 2% of salary to a flat \$200.00 per month..

***F-12.** Introduced an ordinance amending Chapter 2.43 of the Richmond Municipal Code to require that the City Council first appropriate and allocate funds as part of the adoption of the City's annual budget funds prior to awarding public matching funds for campaigns under the provisions of the ordinance, and reducing the total amount of matching funds from \$25,000 to \$12,500 per qualified candidate.

F-13. The matter to award on-call professional service contracts to three firms: Ghirardelli Associates, mack5, and Swinerton Management & Consulting, for as-needed construction management and inspection services for capital projects, in an amount not to exceed \$450,000 per firm, from grant funds, Gas Tax, and Measure J funds with no impact to the General Fund, for a three-year term with the option to extend the term for two additional years was presented by Vice Mayor Bates. This item was continued from the June 23, 2020, meeting. A motion by Vice Mayor Bates, seconded by Councilmember Myrick, approved the item by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Choi, Johnson III, Martinez, Myrick, Vice Mayor Bates, and Mayor Butt. **Noes:** None. **Absent:** Councilmember Willis. **Abstain:** None.

BUDGET SESSION

G-1. The matter to review and accept final budget projections for the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Annual Operating Budget and Fiscal Years 2020-25 Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan was presented by Finance Director Belinda Warner, Budget Administrator Markisha Guillory, and Revenue Manager Antonio Banelos, which highlighted the following: Budget Goals; Budget Overview & Financial Impact; Recommendations for Closing the Gap; and Budget Updates. Discussion ensued. The following individuals gave comments via telephone or e-mail: Elsa Stevens, Lyzy Lusterman, Claudia Jimenez, Marisol Cantu, Tarnel Abbott, Ben Therriault, David Sharples, Mike Parker, Carolyn Graves, Sara Cantor, Cornelio Perez, Elizabeth Castro, Gayle McLaughlin, Loren Rasmussen, Ezequiel Chum, Edith Pastrano, Michael Lusk, Michael Schlemmer, Hipolito Pastrano, Blanca Retano, Cristina Lorenzano, Elizabeth Castro, and Veronica Hernandez. A motion by Councilmember Myrick, seconded by Councilmember Johnson III, to adopt the budget as presented, and add back the Dispatcher II in the amount of \$137,533 by reducing the overtime budget in that amount. The City Council requested that the overtime was taken out of the salaries line item and shown separately, and that it be tracked and justified on a monthly basis. The motion failed by

the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Choi, Johnson III, and Myrick. **Noes:** Councilmembers Martinez, Willis, Vice Mayor Bates, and Mayor Butt. **Absent:** None. **Abstain:** None. A motion was made by Vice Mayor Bates, to continue the item for one week and that staff return with a revised budget that shows the overtime clearly and separately from the salaries line item; the necessity for the Dispatcher II position; and the justification for the Office of Neighborhood (ONS) staffing. The motion died for lack of a second. A motion was made by Mayor Butt, seconded by Councilmember Myrick, that the City Council operate under a continuing resolution. A substitute motion by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember Myrick, to adopt the budget as presented and eliminate the furloughs for employees who make less than \$90,000 per year by obtaining the difference from the overtime budget, and look into the overtime spending. A friendly amendment was made by Councilmember Choi to not include the elimination of furloughs for employees who make less than \$90,000 per year, but rather eliminate furloughs for all employees. Councilmember Willis accepted the friendly amendment. The motion passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Choi, Johnson III, Myrick, Willis, and Mayor Butt. **Noes:** Councilmember Martinez and Vice Mayor Bates. **Absent:** None. **Abstain:** None.

G-2. The matter to adopt a resolution approving the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Appropriations Limit for the City of Richmond pursuant to Article XIII B of the Constitution of the State of California was presented by Finance Director, Belinda Brown. A motion made by Councilmember Myrick, seconded by Councilmember Johnson III, adopted **Resolution No. 71-20**, by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

H-1. Continued to the July 7, 2020, meeting, introduce an ordinance establishing certain fees for the proposed Master Fee Schedule.

COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

I-1. The matter to direct staff to prepare a plan to transition from Richmond's current "community policing" model to a plan conducive to the reduced police force and return to Council with the preferred policing model and a plan for implementation by the end of Fiscal Year 2020/2021 was presented by Councilmembers Myrick and Johnson III. Discussion ensued. (11:00 p.m. – A motion by Councilmember Choi, seconded by Councilmember Myrick, extended the meeting for 30 minutes by the unanimous vote of the City Council). The following individuals gave comments via telephone or e-mail: Edith Pastrano, Valerie Jameson, Loren Rasmussen, Kristin Lobos, Marisol Cantu, Tarnel Abbott, Mike Parker, Don Gosney, Carolyn Graves, Sara Cantor, Jiggy Athingam, Edith Pastrano, Blanca Retano, Cristina Lorenzana, Hipolito Pastrano, Elizabeth Castro, Taylor Kennedy Sadie Egan, Claudia Jimenez, and Ben Therriault. Further discussion ensued. (11:30 p.m. – a motion by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember Myrick suspended the rules and extended the meeting to complete Item I-1 by the unanimous vote of the City Council. City Manager Laura Snideman stated that staff could return with options and recommendations on how to facilitate community input for either an ad-hoc committee or a task force. A motion was made by Councilmember Myrick,

seconded by Councilmember Willis to approve the item; direct staff to create a transition accountability task force composed by members of the public, including community organizations, individuals who were impacted by law enforcement, and law enforcement. The task force would have access to legally allowable City data, have standing meetings with the city manager and police chief; require the task force to convene within two weeks and report back to the City Council by September 15, 2020, and then monthly thereafter. Councilmember Willis made a friendly amendment to allow the task force to receive legal advice. Councilmember Martinez made a friendly amendment to include community groups, such as Safe Return Project, and RYSE Center. Councilmember Myrick accepted the friendly amendment and also included, but not limited to, members of the Community Police Review Commission, Office of Neighborhood Safety, police department, and Contra Costa County. The motion passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Choi, Johnson III, Martinez, Myrick, and Willis. **Noes:** Vice Mayor Bates and Mayor Butt. **Absent:** None. **Abstain:** None. Mayor Butt disbanded the previously approved ad-hoc committee.

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

Vice Mayor Bates stated a comprehensive program and plan needed to be established regarding the homeless population. Vice Mayor Bates also reported that Amazon was actively hiring and encouraged individuals to apply.

Councilmember Johnson III thanked those who participated in the Junetheenth Caravan.

Councilmember Martinez thanked a police cadet who assisted him with the report of the recent theft of his vehicle.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:52 p.m., to meet again on Tuesday, July 7, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor

Sabrina Lundy

From: Cordell Hindler <cordellhindler@ymail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 6:04 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT BEFORE CLOSED SESSION

hello Sabrina, i think that Rachel is doing a remarkable job as the Interim City Attorney

Sincerely
Cordell

Council Meeting - 6/30/2020

Meeting Time: 06-30-20 18:30

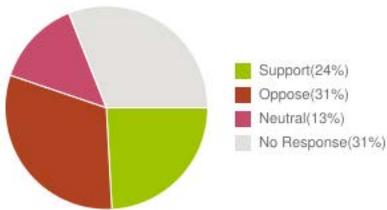
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Council Meeting - 6/30/2020	06-30-20 18:30	48	29	7	9	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 - 6/30/2020

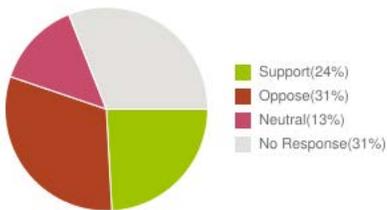
06-30-20 18:30

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
B. PUBLIC COMMENT BEFORE CLOSED SESSION	3	0	0	2
G-1. REVIEW and ACCEPT final budget projections for the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Annual Operating Budget and Fiscal Years 2020-25 Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan – Finance Department (Belinda Brown 620-6740/Markisha Guillory 620-5434).	13	0	9	0
I-1. DIRECT staff to prepare a plan to transition from Richmond's current "community policing" model to a plan conducive to the reduced police force and return to Council with the preferred policing model and a plan for implementation by the end of Fiscal Year 2020/2021 - Councilmember Myrick (620-6636) and Councilmember Demnlus Johnson (620-6568)	13	7	0	2

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

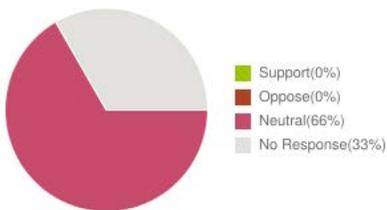
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



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

Overall Sentiment



Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 12:43pm 06-30-20

With all of the current cuts proposed, why are Administrative cuts not being considered?

For example, the City Manager's position. We fired our last CM because he suggested reorganization. We are still paying him \$260,000. Then we hired a new city Manager who we are paying \$343,000. We are also paying a Deputy City Manager over \$200,000. Is it necessary to tie up over \$800,000 in a City Manager position? To add insult to injury, none of these people are from or live in our City.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:58pm 06-29-20

I'm writing to ask you to:

- * end large factory animal farms,
- * break up agribusiness monopolies, and
- * help small farmers transition to more sustainable farming

By passing the At-Risk Farmer and Rancher Diversification Act

Thank you.

Guest User

Location:

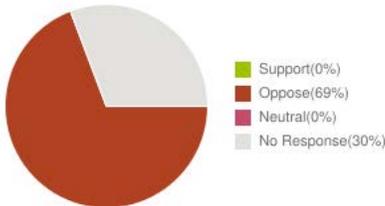
Submitted At: 3:20pm 06-28-20

Why was this comment page not actively linked to on the city council website? I am saddened that the city IT staff or the city clerk is lacking the competency to make it easy to use this new system. Overlooking this essential item when nearly everything else is linked is odd.

Otherwise would could conclude that city staff or leadership is intentionally interfering with and discouraging the use of this new system against the the interests of democracy and stifling the voices of the community.

Agenda Item: eComments for G-1. REVIEW and ACCEPT final budget projections for the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Annual Operating Budget and Fiscal Years 2020-25 Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan – Finance Department (Belinda Brown 620-6740/Markisha Guillory 620-5434).

Overall Sentiment



Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 2:53pm 06-30-20

I do not support passing a budget that does not make significant divestments from the police. The \$2 million dollar cut proposed is not sufficient. We need to make significant changes in the budget to divest from police and invest in education, social services, and community-based initiatives.

Sara Cantor

Location:

Submitted At: 2:35pm 06-30-20

This proposed budget does not take community input into account. We are asking for at least a \$14.4M decrease in RPD's operating budget. A \$2M cut is not enough. Please, listen to your residents as we ask you to divest from the police and to invest in essential community services. Mayor Butt and Vice Mayor Bates are beholden to the police union, as their campaigns in 2018 were sponsored by the RPOA. They cannot be neutral in these

decisions and recuse themselves.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 1:53pm 06-30-20

I do not feel well-represented by Mayor Butt, and I hope that the rest of the City Council will protect and serve the people of Richmond by decreasing the RPD operating budget by much more than 2 million dollars. Let's go for 14 million! And let's redistribute those funds to really important social services, community-led safety, and health and education.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 1:20pm 06-30-20

The proposed budget isn't community focused. Funding the police force that is 38 times larger than office of neighborhood safety and 8 times larger than our library staff is a clear sign that this budget isn't aligned with pride and purpose but with fear of change.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 1:14pm 06-30-20

As a Richmond resident and special education teacher, I do NOT support the minuscule measures being taken to defund the police. 14.4 million needs to be taken from the police budget and invested back into the community. Invest in mental health of our community, youth resources, libraries and restorative justice. I can say with first hand experience the police are not trained to handle the calls regarding mental health, people with disabilities and crisis intervention.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 12:56pm 06-30-20

As a Richmond home owner, resident and teacher, I do NOT support the minuscule measures being taken to defund the police force. At least 14.4 million should be taken out of the police force budget and invested back into the community. We must invest into mental health of our community, youth resources, libraries and restorative justice. The police are not trained to handle most of the calls that are being made to them and we must reinvest into resources that will HELP our community.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 12:44pm 06-30-20

This budget proposal does not adequately address the issues of an inflated police budget. I demand that at least \$14.4 million be cut from RPD's budget and re-invested in community-based initiatives and social services, including libraries. The police generally are tasked with answering calls that other more appropriate and equally if not more qualified entities could answer, and the time to start pushing for alternatives to policing for Richmond is now, with this budget period.

Laura Canelo

Location:

Submitted At: 6:12am 06-30-20

SEE ATTACHED..

Sadie Egan

Location:

Submitted At: 8:23pm 06-29-20

I oppose passing a budget that does not seriously divert funding from RPD to create an alternative community safety and well being agency which focuses on mental health, housing, drug abuse, and partnering with the community. I want more funding for social services and funding such as ONS, libraries, and restorative justice initiatives.

Colin Brown

Location:

Submitted At: 5:33pm 06-29-20

Please see attached

Letiva Robles

Location:

Submitted At: 5:28pm 06-29-20

I second Victor Rocha's letter. I have been a dispatcher for a little over 2 years now but I can see how our work load has increased. I can only imagine seeing it on the scale of over 10 years. I also find Mayor Butt's comments about defunding RPD THE DAY AFTER the city had a shooting as irresponsible. Dispatchers are completely needed to this city. I can see cutting positions in some departments but dispatch is not one.

Victor Rocha

Location:

Submitted At: 4:30pm 06-29-20

Please See Attached

Sarah Merrill

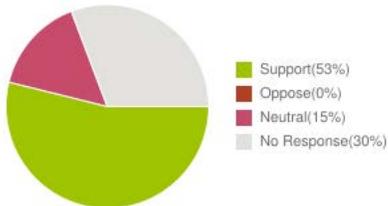
Location:

Submitted At: 1:51pm 06-27-20

As a Richmond constituent, I would like to Oppose the approval/acceptance of these budget projections, Annual Operating Budget, and 5-Year CIP until the Re-evaluation of the Richmond Policing Model is addressed per Item I-1 of this meeting agenda. The potential findings of re-evaluating our policing model would impact a large percentage (40%) of our city's budget with potential long-term effects on pension cost projections and other related cost items.

Agenda Item: eComments for I-1. DIRECT staff to prepare a plan to transition from Richmond's current "community policing" model to a plan conducive to the reduced police force and return to Council with the preferred policing model and a plan for implementation by the end of Fiscal Year 2020/2021 - Councilmember Myrick (620-6636) and Councilmember Demnlus Johnson (620-6568)

Overall Sentiment



Laura Bowles

Location:

Submitted At: 2:59pm 06-30-20

As a resident and in support of my community I demand public involvement in the planning of this model.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 2:47pm 06-30-20

I support the proposal to identify a task force to propose and imagine alternative policing models and violence prevention, which starts with properly resourcing education and mental health systems.

Sara Cantor

Location:

Submitted At: 2:25pm 06-30-20

I support a modified version of this proposal. Instead of just directing staff to prepare a plan, a task force should be convened. This task force should include community members and community organizations. The task force should be given access to all available data, as well as access to the City Manager and City Attorney. The task force should also have a budget of at least \$100K, drawn from RPD's budget. It is time to move beyond policing and toward community alternatives.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 1:55pm 06-30-20

Please make sure there is community involvement in this planning commission.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 1:22pm 06-30-20

I support the exploration of ways to move funds out of the police budget and into services for addressing root causes of suffering and social problems. I also support alternative systems for addressing non-violent offenses that don't involve responding with armed officers and avoids pulling our community members into the judicial system at all costs. This will save money for the city and for its residents who will not have their lives and families disrupted over nonviolent offenses.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 1:21pm 06-30-20

I support the creation of a task force to propose alternative policing models and I ask that Council Member Melvin Willis join the team as he seems to be one of the few council members listening and acting on what Richmond residents want. I also ask that we involve our black neighbors and youth who are crucial members of this team as they suffer the negative impacts of over policing.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 11:57am 06-30-20

This transition plan does not have much detail. What, other than overtime pay, would be cut from the budget? Will the result be that police officers spend less time on duty? If so, what will be the impact on crime?

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 11:43am 06-30-20

I support the plan to direct staff to focus on moving towards alternative models to policing, which should include intentional transformative and restorative justice practices. First steps include defunding the police - the current proposal is not enough; substantial reinvestment into education and social services needs to happen. I agree with fellow supporters that intentional engagement and full transparency with the community must be included in the plan.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 8:17am 06-30-20

I would like to encourage the council to move funds from the police department into mental health services, homeless services, jobs creation, affordable housing, youth services, substance abuse, and domestic violence. These are all areas that the police should not be handling and are not trained to handle. 40 percent of the budget is too much for a police department that cannot be trained to handle these issues.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:44pm 06-29-20

It's time for actual *community* policing that emphasizes preventative measures and the use of de-escalation, when necessary. The people of Richmond need real change, not virtue signaling, and people-of-color should be a part of this change.

Sadie Egan

Location:

Submitted At: 8:34pm 06-29-20

I support the creation of a task force to propose alternative policing models, however I question who would be on the task force when so broadly identified as "staff". Community members, especially our black neighbors and youth are crucial members of this team as they suffer the negative impacts of over policing. There must be transparency and community collaboration for this to be an authentic step towards improving our community safety and social services

Jessica Cortes

Location:

Submitted At: 5:14pm 06-29-20

Why are there no community members on this planning team? Please do not create a plan without community input. I would also like to see Council Member Melvin Willis join the team. The majority of the residents (myself included) who have commented in recent council meetings overwhelmingly agree with Mr. Willis's stance on drastically reducing the police budget and diverting funds to programs that enrich the community.

Sarah Merrill

Location:

Submitted At: 2:04pm 06-27-20

As a Richmond resident & homeowner, I strongly support the Agenda Item I-1 to direct staff to prepare a plan to transition Richmond's current policing model. Also, I would ask that community members be notified of all plan findings, be given appropriate times to provide comments on the Draft Plan, and that local social justice group's leadership be included directly in the creation of this plan. A complete financial impact report should be included as a key part of the plan.

Sabrina Lundy

From: a.birnam@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 3:24 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Agenda 6/30, 2020 - Open Forum for Public Comments - not on the Agenda

I am writing as a concerned citizen and Richmond homeowner with regards to the City Council's consideration of cost cutting for Richmond's community centers.

In these very uncertain and distressing times, community centers and the services they offer are vital to the health and well being of our community.

I would strongly urge you to consider adequate and continued funding for the city's community centers, such as the Booker T. Anderson Community Center very close to where I live.

Please truly embrace the city's motto as "The City of Pride and Purpose" by supporting our community centers which provide so many residents with services worthy of pride and purpose.

Do the right thing by your residents and constituents. Your actions will speak louder than words.

Thank you,
Alida Birnam

Sabrina Lundy

From: Irene Wibawa <irenewibawa@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 12:46 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: public comment - items G-1 and I-1

With a \$934 Million expenditures, \$2 Million decrease in RPD operating budget is not enough!! 80% of Richmond's budget goes to RPD. ARE YOU KIDDING ME? While you say there is a large deficit, you won't actually address it with real solutions. Decreasing the funding for RPD would have solved this! Instead you're choosing to favor the status quo and your OLD boomer ideas and not face the problem head on and new ideas and new solutions. Change is hard, especially for the older generation, but it is necessary and you are resisting it because of the unknown. You need to let the young people lead because they're the ones who will endure your bad policies. You're choosing to cut services that benefit the community as a whole, when the community is telling you our libraries, community centers, social services are important and these are the things what we want and need! Show you actually care about the community you're supposed to lead by listening to what we want. We want to DEFUND THE POLICE!
CREATE ALTERNATIVE MODELS TO PUBLIC SAFETY.
INVEST IN OUR COMMUNITY!

sincerely
M. Irene Wibawa

Sabrina Lundy

From: Kaila Baće <kailamcb@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 2:08 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: public comment - Items G-1 and I-1

- I am in support of at *least* a \$14 million decrease in the RPD operating budget so we can invest in important community services, like housing, healthcare, education, and community-led safety

- I am in support of community involvement in the planning commission for the Policing Model Proposal.

Thank you,
Kaila Bace

--

Kaila Baće
[Firemaid Soundcloud](#)
[Bows Soundcloud](#)
[Big Tree Bandcamp](#)
[Brass Magic Bandcamp](#)

Sabrina Lundy

From: Luke Bace <lukebace@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 2:36 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: public comment - Items G-1 and I-1

To Whom It May Concern:

Regarding G-1:

According to the city of [Richmond's 2018-2019 budget](#), public safety accounts for 59% or 99 million dollars of the city's budget. A 2 million dollar decrease in the budget is a 2% reduction. This is insignificant and simply a gesture of appeasement.

The coming economic hardship in this country from the coronavirus pandemic will be particularly difficult for our economically vulnerable communities in Richmond. Instead of perpetuating the status quo wherein police are seen more in poor neighborhoods than affluent and put people behind bars and terrorize communities, I would like to see a significant *reduction in the Richmond police force budget* with those funds directed to a city fund for economic alleviation.

If the city leaders are worried about a lack of safety resulting from defunding the RPD, I'm sure Chevron would be happy to make up the difference.

Regarding I-1:

The community *must* be involved in this planning commission.

Thank you,

--

Luke Bace
CoCo County Tax-Payer

Sabrina Lundy

From: Cordell Hindler <cordellhindler@ymail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 6:31 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Budget Session G-1

hello Sabrina, i was going thru the first item under Budget Session G-1

first of all, i would like to give Laura Snideman, Finance Director Belinda Brown and Budget administrator Markisha Guillory a lot of credit because this Process is not that easy in any city in West County, going thru the whole system like reducing certain things to balance the budget. with that said, i was looking at the Multi Year position Listing, and if i would take a certain Position off the list, it would have to be Sustainability coordinator because the position has not been used in 10 years. so in conclusion i have reviewed the whole budget and it looks fantastic

so i would hope that the council will approve it and be done with it

Sincerely
Cordell

Sabrina Lundy

From: Erin Kerley <ekerley@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 10:32 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: public Comment- Agenda Item G1

Richmond City of Pride and Purpose. Unfortunately that is no longer the case

The city is now run by people who care more about their political standing and their own personal gain than the citizens of this city. Council men who refuse to vote, too cowardly to take a stand. Throwing away the children of Richmonds future so that they can continue to earn HIGH salaries and do nothing that might jeopardize their political standing. You can't take a 1% pay decrease so that kids can get a book? Use a computer? Have somewhere safe to go after school. It's a shame that you aren't willing to help the next generation like you were helped when you were growing up.

I bet you have stories about that one teacher that one librarian that one book that changed your life but you are going to make damn sure no kids in Richmond have your opportunities are you?

Enjoy your retirement with your big pension, your kudos from all your buddies who you helped along the way, the unions and business interests you were too scared to stand up to who toasted you on your way out.

But don't forget you are cowards who are forsaking children's futures because you can't stand up and say enough is enough.

Have some pride and purpose.

Thank you,
Erin Kerley

Sent from my iPad

Sabrina Lundy

From: Jeannie Pham <jeannie.pham@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 2:14 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Open forum for public comments – not on the agenda

My name is Jeannie Pham and I am calling on you to bring back part-time library staff and reject any similar cuts that further cut our library services.

It is already devastating that the City Council has voted on cuts to part-time staff of an already underfunded but vital community resource while increasing police salaries amid an already extensively funded police budget.

The average salary per FTE in the police department is twice that of library employees. The employees affected by these budget cuts are among the lowest paid and have the least benefits. Budget cuts and layoffs will only exacerbate the financial struggle of our community. At this moment in our country, it is more clear than ever, that we need to enhance public services that lift up and educate our communities. We need to be investing in our community in these spaces, not reducing staff and services. We are watching where you stand: to invest in communities means NO cuts for the libraries.

Sabrina Lundy

From: jessica angulo <angulojessica09@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 10:35 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: public comments – agenda item #G1

Dear Council,

I am new to working for the city of Richmond. I have been working for Adult Literary Services for 6 months which by the way, is separate from the Library with different budget streams. I think it's important to note that we are separate from the Richmond Public Library because I'm not sure the public understands that the LEAP program is run separately from the Library and offers different resources than the Library can. Our program helps adults obtain their GED, high school diploma, learn to read and write, and helps our ESL community learn English. Adult education is crucial to prepare job seekers to get back into employment and the council should understand our program is essential to the community when considering the budget.

In my time working here, I've noticed in the past month the stress of my colleagues as they wait for the uncertainty in their futures and how the budget will impact our program. We already lost 3 part time staffers after COVID with the remaining staff figuring out how to pick up where we left off. There is absolutely no way I can see our program flourishing with staff having to adapt our program to the "new normal" and dealing with furlough days and paying into OPEB. The majority of our staff doesn't make more than \$70,000 and we shouldn't be penalized for it when Executive Management is making double the amount in salaries and overtime and doesn't deal with the public as much as our program does. I cannot fathom the idea that my colleagues will not be able to even enjoy their job because of the mental and financial stress these changes will cause.

I urge the city council to look into balancing the budget by looking into the salaries of our upper management and letting the "workers" continue to do their jobs for the community.

NO CUTS, NO FURLOUGHS, NO LAYOFFS, NO PAYING INTO OPEB!!

Thank you,
Jessica Barragan

Sabrina Lundy

From: John Adams <adamsjp007@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 2:10 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comments--#G-1

Dear City Council Members,

My name is John and I am a City of Richmond employee. I am the kind of employee who does his job well and makes the world go round. I know, for a fact, that I have impacted the lives of hundreds of community members in extremely positive ways. I have helped community members earn their GED, get their high school diploma, and improve their literacy skills. After listening to City Council for the past few months I felt compelled to comment.

I am writing to urge you not to force your employees to take a pay cut, especially to pay medical and retirement. Like the caller last week on June 23rd, you would be forcing me to cut my paycheck hundreds of dollars a month reducing my paycheck to a wage that is not livable, making even groceries a struggle. I took this position, accepting the pay that was offered, because I love this community and serving its people. I live in Richmond. I pay taxes in Richmond, and I work hard to make Richmond a wonderful place. By reducing my salary and changing the terms by which I was hired you are undercutting that agreement, you are under-paying the already struggling middle class, and you are becoming part of the problem that is building inequality in this country. The Covid-19 crisis is a one-time problem and I would be willing to work with you, through our union, for a one-time solution. That seems like a fair arrangement in a crisis, but forcing employees to change the terms service and reducing my pay permanently is not fair. It's demoralizing. It's signaling to your employees that you don't value their service. I understand the City Manager's concern about systemic debt, but the Covid-crisis is not an opportunity to solve that problem. It's an opportunity to band together as community and lift each other up. That is what the people of Richmond value. I urge you to vote in a way that reflects the values of this community--people are more important than dollars. The union has offered a plausible plan, we have more money in our rainy day fund than ever, you can cut the pay of the top earners and executives without affecting their livelihood (maybe their vacations), and I can say that I am willing to do my part and accept a one-time solution. There are solutions to get this done without layoffs and without permanently changing our salaries. For that to occur you must choose to think of your employees first. You must choose to be part of the solution.

Please do your part for the people whose families depend on you as employers and who are working to make Richmond a great place to live.

John

Sabrina Lundy

From: Laura Bowles <laura.funke@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 2:58 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public comment- Item G-1

I am a resident of the city of Richmond writing today to implore you, our city council to take the concerns of your constituents seriously. 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. 2M in cuts with no corresponding investment in our communities does not address the deep structural inequities present in this budget, nor does it begin to approach the magnitude of change being demanded by the citizens of your city.

Sincerely,
Laura Bowles

Sabrina Lundy

From: Mapuana Bal <lilikoi26@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 2:48 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Open forum for public comments – not on the agenda

Hello my name Mapuana Bal.

I am a born and raised Richmond girl that also has been working for the city since 2001. The City of Richmond has always been a great love to me, with its vast Richness in history. I believe that Richmond has always had a certain culture about her. There is a reason that "Pride and Purpose" go synonymous with Richmond. With the current fiscal status of Richmond, I fear that you, the city council, are asking to much from your already exhausted work force. Every time there is a crisis or budget deficit you all look to trim the fat from us, the people that run the day to day for this city. We are always asked to make concessions, and it stops now. I love what i do and where I work, however not having any raise or cost of living increase in 5 years is CRIMINAL. I live pay check to pay check, and because I can budget myself very well I can make do. These proposed cuts, furloughs, and other concessions are hurting the working person tremendously. What are we supposed to do? Eat and not pay our bills, pay our bills and not eat? Get two more jobs to just supplement our income just to make it by? Ridiculous! We, your work force, have no where else to "trim the fat". It is time for you to support us and find the money else where.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Ms. Michelle BAPTISTE <michellebaptiste@berkeley.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 12:55 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Open forum for public comments – not on the agenda

Dear City Clerk of Richmond

The Richmond public libraries matter to me and my family. My daughters and I have happy memories of spending time in the Bay View branch reading and checking out diverse picture books. The first thing we need in the community is a source of knowledge and books that mirror and reflect who we are. As Andrew Carnegie said when he dedicated funds to so many libraries:

A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert.

--

Michelle Baptiste

"The love of one's country is a splendid thing. But why should love stop at the border?" - Pablo Casals

Sabrina Lundy

From: Mona Reilly <monareilly1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 7:27 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comments Agenda Item G-1

Please keep our libraries! We use and need them! This is a priority!!

Mona Reilly

Sabrina Lundy

From: Rebecca Newburn <rebeccanewburn@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 2:56 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment- Agenda Item G1

Rebecca Newburn

I support our public libraries and funding them fully. Libraries serve vital service from providing access to reading materials, computer as well as a safe place for some of our more vulnerable community members to be able to rest and have access to public bathroom.

Currently, the library's budget is 3% and police's budget is 40% of the City's overall budget. This is the time to define who we are as a community. I support keeping part-time workers and library services fully funded. Reducing our police budget is a way where we can provide vital services to our community. Many of the services our public librarians and part-time library workers provide create a stronger and healthier community.

Kind regards,
Rebecca Newburn
North and East

--

[Richmond Grows Seed Lending Library](#)

Planting seeds for the just and sustainable future.

Contact Me [Facebook](#) [Flickr](#)

Sabrina Lundy

From: Sharolyn Babb <sharolyn_babb@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 2:57 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Open forum for public comment-not on the agenda

My name is Sharolyn Babb. I've been an employee for the City of Richmond since 1992. I started from Recreation Program Aid and gradually became the Recreation Coordinator for the Developing Personal Resources Center (DPRC). I love my job and passionately serve the community with pride.

I am saddened by the way the extraordinary men and women who are essential employees are being treated unfairly.

NO raises and NO cost of living wages have been given for over five years and now you ask for concessions from locals 1021 and 21 to give more.

City of Pride and Purpose?

For who?

Let's be honest!

Surely it is not for residents who need our services the most!

It surely is not for your front line employees who serve the community!

You can make the right choice to right this wrong.

Let's truly be the City of Pride and purpose!

Thank you.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Steve Gibson <steve@bandworks.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 12:50 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comments - Agenda Item G-1

I'm writing in to express my strong support for a budget that doesn't cut services to citizens, but instead reallocates funds from the police budget. As I'm sure you will have heard already in this meeting, there are lots of ways to reimagine public safety that don't require anywhere near the budget allocated to our police. It's the easy thing to change nothing, but we are well past time for needed changes, while preserving our valued services. If concessions from unions are going to be insisted upon, we need to protect the lowest paid employees, and have the burden of the cuts come from the top.

Thank you!

Steve Gibson

Sabrina Lundy

From: Cordell Hindler <cordellhindler@ymail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 6:33 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Budget Session G-2

hello Sabrina, i have reviewed the Budget Session G-2, and it looks fantastic so i am asking the council to approve it and move on

Sincerely
Cordell

Sabrina Lundy

From: N&E Neighborhood Council <northandeastcouncil@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 10:20 AM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Agenda # I-1

Dear Mayor Butt and City Council Members,

I just wanted to remind you of the history of the Richmond Police Department prior to the City of Richmond's Financial issues. At one point RPD had 210 sworn officers and because of continuous budget cuts and the lack of interest in becoming a police officer in Richmond, we now have approximately 150 officers. We have approximately 9 officers patrolling the entire City of Richmond at any one time. By my estimation we have cut the City of Richmond's police force by 37.5%. Instead of talking about defunding the police, let's talk about making sure our police officers are trained properly and support the Office of Professional Accountability that we already have in place.

Thank you,

Jan Mignone, long time Richmond resident

Sabrina Lundy

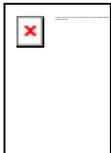
From: Megan Zapanta <megan@apen4ej.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 10:06 AM
To: City Clerk Dept; Ben Choi; Melvin Willis; Demnlus Johnson; Eduardo Martinez; Jael Myrick; Nat Bates; Tom Butt - external
Subject: Public Comments - Agenda Item I-1

I would like to register my support for I-1. As the Richmond Organizing Director for Asian Pacific Environmental Network, I strongly recommend defunding and dismantling the current police system and invest the money in preventative measures like mental health, healthcare, job development and education that the families we work with and our neighbors so desperately need.

We are part of the Richmond Our Power Coalition, which [submitted a statement](#) with clear recommendations of how we can defund policing and invest in solutions for the black community. As an organization of Asian immigrants and refugees, we stand with our black community members in calling for a change in how we address safety as a community. Please reduce the police budget, invest in services and involve the community (especially black and indigenous people) in the planning for the new system.

Megan Zapanta,
Richmond Organizing Director
Asian Pacific Environmental Network

--



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



Sabrina Lundy

From: David Sharples <dsharples@calorganize.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 6:31 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: public comment – agenda item G-1

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

My name is Angela Flores, I am a Richmond resident and a member of the community group ACCE. I am writing to you today because I have heard some concerning news that has to do with budget cuts to some very important services that our community relies on. I have three kids. They like to read and I am always making sure that they are expanding their opportunities inside and outside of their schooling. I don't like the idea that services like Code Enforcement, Parks and Recreation and Libraries are being forced to take a cut. Please do not take these services for granted because they are what keeps the city together. If you are going to make cuts please make cuts to the Police Department. Thank you for your time.

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

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

balance the city budget. The City council and staff also need to figure out how to bring in more revenue for city services. Don't take away what we barely have.

Briceida Guzmán- I live on Coalinga ave. in Richmond and I am an ACCE member. I am not okay with any budget cuts to our libraries and vital city services that we depend on for the betterment and safety of our community. Please do whatever you can to avoid taking away from our kids, our seniors and our safety. Where there is a will there's a way and I implore you all find another way, there is always another way and I believe you all can and will do better. If you need to make cuts to any Department it should be the Police Department not to libraries and other vital city services.

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

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

My name is Edith Pastrano, I am a community organizer with ACCE. As a lifetime Richmond resident, I have fond memories of going to the Richmond library and having such a wonderful experience there as a child, checking out books and finding a passion for learning new things. Over the years I have seen how our libraries, art programs, and other extracurricular activities constantly get shorthanded. It's heartbreaking because this tells me that our community resources are not a priority for the city when it comes to investing in it. As if that's not enough, the parks and recreation department as well as Code Enforcement are also under threat. I have had to personally reach out to parks and recreation to make sure someone came out to pick up a bunch of trash, needles, tampons and shit, to make sure the area where kids play, is clean and safe. I have also made calls to code enforcement a number of times for friends and family because this is the unit whose job it is to make sure health and safety codes are not being violated and ensure that complaints get resolved. This is too much of an essential department that reducing staff or its budget actually seems like a legal issue. If the city can't handle the cases that we already have now, I can't even imagine what it will look like when Richmond's Code Enforcement Department can't even get the jobs done properly, or how this will reflect if other governing bodies have to step in to pick up the slack. Others have also made a really good point about keeping the employees employed which I will also agree with. In conclusion, I see no reason for these essential services to be tampered with, if anything, I suggest cutting the police department.

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

Hello my name is Elizabeth Castro, Richmond resident. I am an ACCE member and I live on Bissell Ave, and would like to express my concern for the city budget. I have 5 children including a newborn. I want you all to know that my children are avid volunteers for the city of Richmond events. Ever since they were little they have always liked to volunteer in anything that they liked. I have been more

aware about what it means to stand up for what is right and definitely during this time. I ask that this body to consider other options to fix our city budget. You can't possibly go to bed at night knowing that you are doing away with vital services that we all need. Do not take away services from seniors, workers, children and vulnerable people. Do the right thing. I have faith that you all want the best for my children and other children from our community and there is nothing that would be more devastating than to know that our parks and traffic safety could possibly be defunded. Remember that you are putting jobs on the line. Please cut the Police budget if you need to help balance the city budget. Don't cut the services we depend on.

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

My name is Hipolito Pastrano, I am a Richmond resident for over 30 years and a local ACCE member. I would like to start off by saying that I am not in favor of reducing the budget for services that are essential to the city. Code enforcement is already understaffed and our neighborhoods need upkeep. Traffic safety is very important as well as our libraries and parks and recreation. There are a number of ways to close the deficit in the budget, including making cuts to the Police, but cutting budgets that are already underfunded is not the best way to fix this problem.

My name is Jose Murillo. I am a Richmond resident and a member of ACCE. There are 5 people living in my family. I am very disappointed to know that the city is proposing to make cuts to services that we desperately need. We can't take any more deprivation. I work very hard to make sure that I am doing everything I can to take good care of my children and my wife. I am writing to express my concern around the budget cuts that are being considered for the fiscal year. The city should protect the vital services that we need in my community at all cost. I would like my kids to be able to go to the library and to enjoy the parks in Richmond. I know we are in a pandemic and there are grave decisions that need to be made in order to see a future but right now we must think about services that are sacred, that is; Code enforcement, traffic safety, and parks, especially right now. We need to take our kids for walks to relieve stress that the quarantine is causing many people.

My name is Juan Lozano. I am a Richmond resident and a member of ACCE. Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts. I disagree with the city's plan to slash funds from very important departments city wide. First of all, Code Enforcement is too much of an essential department to be messed with. Our city libraries need more funding not less. If you are going to make cuts to any department it should be the police. Not these other services that we depend on.

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

My name is Martha Pastrano. I am a Richmond tenant, I've lived on S. 30th St for over 15 years. The conditions of our streets lack attention. Over the years of living on this street, the pavement has deteriorated and multiple pot holes now decorate our narrow streets. The back street on Hoffman is notorious for having debris and illegal dumping. We need a budget for code enforcement and traffic

safety in order to maintain our streets.. The city needs to find other sources of revenue to fill the gap in the budget. Cutting our services like code enforcement and traffic safety is not the way to do it. These resources need to stay in these departments to suit our community needs. Also, cutting library hours is not going to fill the gap, again, not only will it take away from our community, this will negatively affect our city workers by having unnecessary layoffs.

My name is Raul Vasquez. I am a Richmond resident and a ACCE Member. I have three sons who are students. They regularly use the Richmond Public Library to do research and study. In my forty years of living here in Richmond, I have never seen anything like this pandemic. With the spread of COVID we do not need the Mayor to cut the budget for community services. We need the parks so that we have places to exercise. We need the city to invest in traffic safety measures to prevent more accidents from occurring. If there are any budget cuts to be made, the cuts should be made to the police department. The police have received more than enough money. It is now time to provide our communities with more assistance and services to make sure Richmond residents are healthy now and into the future.

My name is Sara Rodriguez, I am a Richmond resident and a member of ACCE. I would like to side with my comrades about the concern for the city budget. I don't think that cutting city services is a good idea especially because we are talking about essential work in the city and not to mention the staff workers. What will happen to them? The city should be doing everything possible to maintain it's staff employed now more than ever. I'd like to add that I usually take a walk at the park by Kennedy, I live on Taft Ave. Our parks need to be well maintained. People like to visit the parks. It would be a shame if this council decided to cut parks and recreation when other options like cutting the Police exist.

My name is Veronica Medina Hernandez, I am an ACCE member. I do not agree with this council's decision to make budget cuts to our services. I have kids that look forward to going out and taking a walk at the park. I would like to have our libraries functioning so my kids can benefit from them. When I heard that cuts could be made to traffic safety and code enforcement I was sad because we need to make sure that our streets and our buildings are being kept up and that they are safe. How can the city not take care of us and keep us well and safe? We all want the best for our families so please do everything to maintain our services running smoothly. Thank you.

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

Sabrina Lundy

From: Dorothy Gilbert <mariesnicewerewolf@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 6:31 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment - Agenda Item G1

Dear City Clerk: May I ask you to submit this letter for reading to the the City Council tonight? Many thanks.
Dorotohy Gilbert

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

I'm Dorothy Gilbert, a Richmond resident 22 years in July. Thank you for hearing me. Once again I am writing to you to urge you to please--please--fund and support the Richmond Public Library.. A public library is the heart and center of a community. We need our Bookmobile, with its driver; we need our branches (I live near the Bayview branch and have been glad of its presence and proximity). And we need reinstatement of our Library staff. We need them to make the Library function and we have so far placed an unfair burden on the part-time workers by dismissing them.

I am a scholar and author, and I can't imagine functioning without a library. But like many people, I use a public library for learning about the world around me, and for much needed recreation. I speak for many people of various ages and conditions when I say that a library is essential for its services: its story time for kids, and assistance for kids; its bank of computers for those who do not have them at home, its reliable supply of humanizing texts for us all. It is a center for people to meet and study together. And the Bookmobile is essential. I remember the Bookmobile from my childhood, over sixty years ago, how much we kids (and parents) looked forward to it, how exciting it was to get into the van and look around at all the books and choose them.

My mother was a librarian in a public middle school and she always felt that she reached kids at a critical time. It was that age, she said, when kids begin wanting to read on their own and to love reading. Of course it is important for younger children, too--story time, book talks, fine books. Please, fund the Library! Funding 3% of the budget for the Library and 40% for police is not the right proportion! Support the Library!

Thank you again for your attention.
Dorothy Gilbert

Sabrina Lundy

From: Laura G. Canelo <emrldfyr@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 6:33 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Budget Session G-1

Dear Mayor Butt and City Council Members,

I am a proud member of the City of Richmond Communications Center. We dispatch emergency and non-emergency calls for the Richmond Police and Fire Departments. I have been here over 28 years and am the most tenured dispatcher in the center. In that time, our incoming 911 calls have increased exponentially. Our calls for service have increased significantly as well. Additionally, we have added Emergency Medical Dispatching, Text to 911, Shot Spotter, citywide CCTV, GEM911 GPS tracking, and Rapid Deploy Radius technologies. While we dealt with the added call volume, field activity and added responsibilities; you have taken our staffing from 28 full-time working dispatchers, to 16 dispatchers. The State of California recommends a MINIMUM of 7 working dispatchers in the center during our busy times, we regularly have 3. On top of that, our state-mandated 15 second ring time for incoming 911 calls is dangerously longer because of your decisions. With these GRAVELY DEPLETED conditions, it is completely unbelievable to me that the city sees it fit to freeze our empty positions. A typical dispatch trainee takes 10-12 months to do the job proficiently. We have a few new employees that have entered the training program, but not nearly enough. We are the sole point of emergency contact for our community. In the case of any type of disaster we are egregiously understaffed, and won't be able to handle the increased call volume and radio traffic. As you continue to take positions from us, add to our workload and provide us less resources... how can you tell your citizens you have their best interests at heart? You have kept and even added many positions that do not attend to the community in their time of need. Although having additional records clerks, additional supervisory positions throughout the city, and having so many managers making more money than they did two years is a wonderful thing for our city morale. It does not address the basic life-saving services the city is supposed to provide its citizens. **THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO FURTHER DAMAGE DISPATCH! WE NEED YOUR HELP! YOUR CITIZENS NEED YOUR HELP!** Every single day, we answer our citizens' call for help. **IT IS NOW TIME FOR YOU TO ANSWER OURS!**

I also with all due respect challenge each and everyone of you to come sit in our 911 Center for a full 12 hour period to experience a day in my life as a 911 Dispatcher.

DO NOT FREEZE OUR POSITIONS!

Sincerely,
Laura G. Canelo
RPD Dispatch

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Sabrina Lundy

From: Loren Rasmussen <rasmussen.loren@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 7:36 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: public comment- items G-1 and I-1

Dear Richmond City Council Members,

I am a resident of the North and East neighborhood of Richmond and would like to recommend that a task force be created to develop alternatives to the police rather than internal City staff working on a plan independently without community input.

This task force should include both members of the community as well as community based organizations. Any consultants who are contracted by the city must have experience with alternatives to policing, police budgets, as well as over-policing of Black communities- all consultants should be approved by the task force.

The task force should be provided with all legally available city data as well as a budget allocated from the RPD to perform the work needed to recommend alternatives to the police appropriate for the City of Richmond. This task force should additionally have standing meetings with the City Manager and the City Attorney.

June 30, 2021 is too long to wait for such urgently needed changes to Richmond Policing. This task force should be appointed expediently and begin reporting to City council monthly beginning no later than September 15.

Sincerely,

Loren Rasmussen
Richmond Resident

Sabrina Lundy

From: Michael Schlemmer
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 6:50 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item G 1

Mayor and City Council Memembers,

I have been employed working in the 911 Dispatcher Center going on 25 years, currently I manage the center. In my career I have seen the dispatch staff go from 28 full time dispatchers and 3 supervisors to now, 16 dispatchers and 4 supervisors. Our staff has been nearly cut in half yet our work load has nearly doubled in the same time frame.

Since the beginning of 2016 we have lost 9 dispatchers, 6 of these dispatchers resigned, reason given was fatigue, tired of working so much over time. Of these 6, 4 went to work at other dispatch centers in Contra Costa County where the work load was substantially lighter.

All staff work on average 12-24 hours per week of mandatory over time. Cutting more positions from the dispatch center will increase this amount thus causing more burn out and fatigue.

As a Richmond resident myself, I can not stress how important keeping the 911 center operational in the City of Richmond is to our communities safety and quality of life.

Please reconsider freezing any of the dispatcher positions.

Thank you

Michael Schlemmer
Communications Center Manager

Sabrina Lundy

From: Sally Tobin <otwsally@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 6:35 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Cc: Laura Snideman; Tom Butt - external; Ben Choi; Nat Bates; richcityservant@gmail.com; Demnlus Johnson; Jael Myrick; Melvin Willis
Subject: Public Comment - Agenda Item G1

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

In the current budget situation, of course cuts must be made. But NOT to the libraries! Libraries are a community resource. Libraries support education. Libraries provide exploration and knowledge to Richmond youth. Libraries are valuable for adult education. And libraries are a relatively inexpensive part of the Richmond budget.

As a child, the library system in my town had a bookmobile! Certainly my school had no such resources. My horizons were opened, and it has made a huge difference to my personal and professional life. We owe the youth of Richmond that chance to grow. How can they see the universe of possibilities without access and resources?

Please do not cut the budget for the Richmond Public Libraries, and keep all branches open!

Sincerely,

Sara L. (Sally) Tobin, Ph.D. (with credit to the libraries)

Sabrina Lundy

From: Taylor Kennedy <taylorknnd2@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 6:33 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment- Items G-1 and I-1

Dear City Council,

I am writing to urge you to defund the Richmond Police Department by at least 14.4 million and demand community involvement in the I-1 planning commission. The Richmond Police Department has shown us over these past few weeks that they do not understand the Defund the Police movement or what it represents whatsoever. We all heard call after call from RPD two weeks ago during the city council meeting say they were offended by community members' calls to defund RPD and concerned about the criminals that would take over our streets. These sentiments show how little to no reflection they have on their job performance or understanding of the reason for the defund movement. So tonight I ask you to acknowledge that RPD is hurting our community in countless ways and killing our residents without any contemplation or change to their actions. Please vote tonight to DEFUND RPD by at least 14.4 million and INVEST IN COMMUNITY such as Office of Neighborhood Safety, mental health services, homeless outreach, and youth programs. This is your chance to show Richmond residents that you are listening to your residents and why you deserve to keep your seat on this council. We will remember each one of your actions tonight when city elections come in November.

Thank you

Taylor Kennedy

Sabrina Lundy

From: Yvonne Raymundo
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 6:27 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Budget Session, G1, 2
Attachments: Budget Session.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Subject: Budget Session, G1, 2

Dear Mayor Butt and City Council Members,

I am writing to you regarding my concerns for the Budget Session (G1,2).

I am currently a Communications Shift Supervisor and have worked as a Dispatcher for the last 14 years. Being short staffed in the center has always been a concern. We are the first-First Responders and our duties vary throughout the shift(s). We answer incoming lines from both Emergency (911) and Non-Emergency numbers, work a main Law Channel and a secondary Service Law Channel for Police Services. We also work a Fire Channel and deploy Emergency Medical Dispatch for citizens needing medical attention and/or requesting an ambulance. We also take calls that are out of our jurisdiction or require some type of transfer to the correct and proper resources. These are just a few of our daily duties and we perform these duties while working with minimal staffing and on numerous hours of overtime.

I supervise a team of two dispatchers, making us a crew of three. There is a daily vacant shift of overtime. For the past three months, our team (dayshift Thursday – Saturday and every other Wednesday) has answered 12,775 calls for service. We have worked a total of 1902.6 hours. Employees have been working 72 hours of overtime, or more, each month in order to fill vacancies and alleviate the work load.

If positions are “frozen” or cut in the Dispatch Center, current employees will have to add even more overtime to their already full schedule. The concern here is sleep deprivation and compassion fatigue. Studies show that after 20 days of demanding activity, if one gets 7 hours of sleep, they function at 87% peak efficiency, 6 hours a day at 50% peak efficiency, and 5 hours a day 28% peak efficiency.

Mayor Butt, I lateralled over to the City of Richmond with Richmond PD as a Communications Shift Supervisor from another agency. I was asked in my interview with the Chief and Captain, “why Richmond?” My answer was simply, “it is home”. I was born and raised in Contra Costa County and although I didn’t spend all of my years residing in the City of Richmond, I did spend a good percentage of them here. One rule that I personally live by is to always remember where I came from. I am proud of the services that Richmond PD provides to citizens and I am extra proud to be a part of that service. The Richmond Police Department has given me a warm welcome and made me feel like I never left home.

In your 2016 response to “Richmond’s compensation is driving its budget deficit (East Bay Times guest commentary)” it states:

One place that Richmond stands out from many other cities is the relative amount of the police budget. When many cities cut their police budget, and consequently the number of officers, during the recession, Richmond did not. One of the results is that Richmond disappeared from the list of the ten most dangerous cities in the U.S. and in California. Those Bay Area cities that made cuts are now on the latest list of [California's ten most dangerous cities](#), including Stockton (2), Vallejo (4), Oakland (6) and Antioch (7). We believe Richmond residents would rather be safe than unnecessarily frugal.

As a former Richmond resident, your feelings are correct – I would rather be safe. Please consider how essential Dispatchers are to the community.

Thank you for your time,
Yvonne Raymundo

Sabrina Lundy

From: Sadie Egan <sadierubye@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 6:35 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: Public Comment Item I-1

I applaud Council Members Myrick and Johnson for putting item I-1 on the agenda and am hopeful that this step is a meaningful and sincere response to the surge of community voices demanding our current policing systems and budgets be drastically altered. It is absolutely crucial that the task force includes black community members and representatives from local organizations that are already deep in this social justice work and involved in the defund movement.

I would also like to see authentic and transparent opportunities for community collaboration and input throughout the investigation and planning process. We are asking for a holistic approach to community safety which requires the experience and expertise from a variety of professions and lived experiences.

Sabrina Lundy

From: Valerie Jameson <valjam92@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 8:59 PM
To: City Clerk Dept
Subject: [READ] Public Comment in support of item I.1: Shifting and Reducing Policing

Hello again council,

My name is Valerie Jameson and I am a Richmond resident. My comments are in support of the spirit of Item I.1. I first want to acknowledge that the Black Lives Matter movement and young Black activist and organizers locally have set the foundation for this conversation to proceed. Putting forward a resolution on transitioning out of our existing policing model would not have been possible, without first raising the legitimate call around defunding the police. It is important to remind the council that this action is more than a long-term cost-saving measure. It is an investment in recalibrating the city budget to align with deeper intention around preventative programs, restorative services, and alternative models to public safety. This will be an extensive undertaking that should be treated with care, focus, and intention. I urge the council not to take this national call to action in vain and take the additional steps to both strengthen and approve this item in a way that commits the time, dedication, resources, and multi-stakeholder approach necessary for its success.

- First and foremost, this process cannot result in staff simply outsourcing contracts to expensive consultants to develop ideas that do not get implemented.
- Instead, direct staff to recruit a transition accountability task force that will guide the conversation around how re-imagining public safety can be implemented in the coming year. The Task Force should be composed of a majority Black people and communities of color that have personally been impacted by incarceration, criminalization, and police violence. The task force should also allow for community-based organizations who have extensive experience working on criminal justice reform, violence prevention, health interventions, and trauma-informed services to join. This includes but is not limited to existing groups such as the Community Police Review Commission, Office of Neighborhood Safety, Safe Return Project, Richmond Revolution, RYSE Center, and other.
- It is important for this taskforce to be given legitimacy and recognition as a body of experts with a wealth of local expertise to create viable solutions for the implementation process. This task force should work in partnership with city staff and be empowered to come back and present the final findings and recommendations directly to the council. In order for the taskforce to do their best work, it is important for them to be able to assemble a working budget equal to compensation traditionally given to outside consultant which often exceeds \$100,000 dollars. These funds can be used to host planning sessions, conduct additional research and analysis, or contract with national groups that have experience in the IMPLEMENTATION (not just the study of) alternative public safety models.

The success of this effort relies on city investment and resources are the ultimate level of commitment. We want this process to be done thoroughly, and thus the taskforce should also be given access to city data and have standings meetings with the City Manager, key police representatives, city analyst, and the city Attorney's office for ongoing counsel. I also encourage that a six-month timeline be mapped out to create clear benchmarks for this process and allow the taskforce to impact changes in a midyear budget adjustment

and in upcoming police union contract negotiations. Lastly, I urge the council to place a moratorium on long term spending for the police department until after the taskforce has presented their findings and recommendations and to ensure congruence with the desired outcome of this effort.

Thank you for your time.