

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, March 2, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Mayor Thomas K. Butt via teleconference.

Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Contra Costa County and Governor Gavin Newsom issued multiple orders requiring sheltering in place, social distancing, and reduction of person-to-person contact. 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 and livestream online at <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/3178/KCRT-Live>.

*Written public comments were received via email to cityclerkdept@ci.richmond.ca.us. Comments received by 1:00 p.m. on March 2, 2021, were summarized at the meeting, put into the record, and considered before Council action. Comments received via email after 1:00 p.m. and up until the public comment period on the relevant agenda item closed, were put into the record. Public comments were also received via teleconference during the meeting. **Attached herewith all written public comments received.***

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Claudia Jimenez, Nathaniel Bates, Eduardo Martinez, Gayle McLaughlin, and Mayor Thomas K. Butt. **Absent:** Councilmembers Melvin Willis and Vice Mayor Demnlus Johnson III arrived after adjourning to Closed Session.

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

AGENDA REVIEW

None.

The city clerk announced the public comment procedures published on the agenda.

REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Laura Snideman informed that a new public works director would begin soon and would work on methods to inform residents about the city's street sweeping program and reminders to move their vehicles on street sweeping days. A report would be forthcoming on this matter in April. Ms. Snideman also

announced the city's 2nd Annual Virtual Egghunt, which began on Saturday, February 16, 2021.

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals gave comments via teleconference:

Wayne Green, Phoebe Tanner, Alyssa Kjar, Hubert Ivery, Ross Harris, Marilyn Langlois, Jack Hamm, Marina Melara, July Roemer, David Naisuler, Marlene Alcalá, and Samir Mana gave comments in opposition to the proposed RV Safe Park at Civic Center on 25th and Barrett Avenue.

Debra Bayer and Tarnel Abbott gave comments regarding the importance of preserving Point Molate as open space and not building homes on that site nor at the Zeneca site.

Jan Mignone invited persons to the next Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council meeting on March 8, 2021, at 7 p.m., to receive information and input regarding the proposed RV Safe Park Pilot Program at the Civic Center location.

Elsa Stevens, Edith Pastrano, and Veronica Hernandez stated the city must pass an eviction moratorium to protect tenants.

Torm Nompraseurt, Marisol Cantu, Marilyn Langlois, Yenny Garcia, Cibelli Pacheco, Tania Pulido, David Sharples, and Naomi Williams, spoke in support of the RV Safe Park site at Civic Center.

CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

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

***G-1.** Approved the purchase of a breathing air compressor from Bauer Compressors, Inc. in the amount of \$68,628.63.

***G-2.** Adopted **Resolution No. 22-21**, authorizing the execution of a construction contract with Ghilotti Bros., Inc., for construction of the Yellow Brick Road Project in an amount not to exceed \$7,542,695.05, which includes a 10% contingency (\$685,699.55).

***G-3.** Approved the minutes of the February 2, 2021, Regular Meeting of the City Council.

***G-4.** Authorized the city manager or designee to execute all necessary agreements with ZNE Alliance (firm awarded CEC grant) to implement the Phase II California Energy Commission grant from the California Energy Commission for Advanced Energy Communities initiatives; and APPROPRIATE \$345,715 of grant-funds to prepare an AEC Environmental Dashboard, the Richmond AEC Data Exchange Procedures Manual, and the AEC Open Data Guidebook to the City Manager's Office, Economic Development Division with a grant term through March 2025.

***G-5.** Authorized the city manager to execute an indemnification agreement by the Open PACE program administrator, FortiFi, to indemnify the City as approved to form by the city attorney.

***G-6.** Authorized the City Manager's Office to enroll in the Polco/National Research Center's National Citizen Survey Program in order to conduct a 2021 survey of City of Richmond residents at a cost not to exceed \$30,000.

***G-7.** Adopted **Resolution No. 23-21**, authorizing placement of liens and special assessments for unpaid garbage collection service fees on County property tax records.

***G-8.** Received the City's Investment and Cash Balance Report for the month of January 2021.

***G-9.** Received a report summarizing non-contractual discretionary pays' status and the implementation of Special Assignment Pay and approved the establishment of the Special Assignment Pay.

***G-10.** Approved a construction agreement with NBC Construction & Engineering, Inc. to provide fencing at the Point Potrero Marine Terminal in an amount not to exceed \$34,158.

***G-11.** Approved four new legal services agreements and first amendments to two existing legal services agreements with Maloney Employment Law, Manning & Kass, Ellrod, Ramirez & Trester, McNamara, Ney, Beatty, Slattery, Borges & Ambacher, Newdorf Legal, Allen Glaessner Hazelwood & Werth and Best, Best & Krieger to represent the City of Richmond in pending and future employment, dangerous condition, police/tort defense and other municipal law litigation in state and federal court.

***G-12.** Proclamation declaring February 28, 2021 as Rare Disease Day in the City of Richmond.

***G-13.** Proclamation declaring March 2021 as Women's History Month in the City of Richmond.

***G-14.** Proclamation declaring March 10, 2021, as Tibetan Uprising Day in the City of Richmond.

***G-15.** Authorized the city manager to execute an Amended and Restated Promissory Note and Regulatory Agreement with Richmond Neighborhood Housing Services, to extend the term of the Loan for an additional 20 years for affordable housing purposes for the triplex located at 561-565 South 29th Street, in the amount of \$104,406.94 (the "Loan").

***G-16.** Adopted **Ordinance No. 01-21 N.S.**, amending RMC chapter 14.46 Neighborhood Parking Regulations, section 14.46.005 Definitions, section 14.46.010 (a) Neighborhood parking zones, section 14.46.010 (b) Electric Vehicle Charging, section 14.46.010 (c) Car Share, section 14.46.020 Installation and maintenance of parking revenue equipment, section 14.46.030 Curbs, street lines, markings and parklets, section 14.46.050 Unlawful parking in on-street parking spaces, section 14.46.070 Unlawful parking in off-street parking spaces, section 14.46.030, 14.46.100 Rates charged for use of parking spaces, 14.46.130 Notice of parking violation and vehicle removal, section 14.46.140

Disposition and use of revenue, 14.56 Neighborhood Permit Parking, section 14.56.020 (a) Legislative Findings, section (b) Specific Findings, section 14.56.030 (k) Definitions, section 14.56.060 (b) Designation process of a neighborhood permit parking area, section 14.56.080 (b)(3) Issuance of vehicle parking permits, section 14.56.090 Visitor permits, section 14.56.150 Revocation of permits, section 14.56.170 (b) Deletion of streets from neighborhood permit parking areas, section 14.44 Stopping, Standing, or Parking Restricted or Prohibited on Certain Streets, section 14.40.150 Parking in city-owned or operated lots, section 14.40.210 Parking areas for electric or low emission vehicles, section 14.08 Traffic Administration, and section 2.62 Administrative Citations.

***G-17.** Adopted **Resolution No. 24-21**, to accept and appropriate into the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget \$87,500 in grant-funds received from Marin Clean Energy, \$364,500 in state pass-through grant-funds received from the Construction Trades Workforce Initiative, and \$47,500 in state pass-through grant-funds received from the Alameda County Office of Education.

***G-18.** Adopted **Resolution No. 25-21**, approving the application to revitalize Dirt World with Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program Grant funds.

BUDGET HEARINGS

H-1. The matter to receive a presentation and adopt budget guiding principles was presented. This item was continued from the February 23, 2021, meeting. LaShonda White, Deputy City Manager, stated that the city retained Management Partners to analyze and evaluate the current and future budget situation of the city. Management Partners would provide the city with options to assist with achieving a structurally balanced budget and long term fiscal sustainability. Andy Belknap, Senior Vice President, and Steve Toler, Partner of Management Partners, presented a Powerpoint, which highlighted the following: Fiscal Sustainability Planning; Guiding Budget Principles for Consideration. Discussion ensued. The City Council requested that the Powerpoint presentation be provided to the public and posted on the city's website. The following individuals gave comments: Torm Nompraseurt, Tarnel Abbott, David Sharples, Jill, Ben Therriault, Edith Pastrano, Randy Joseph, Ofelia Alvarez, and Shiva Mishek. Further discussion ensued. A motion by Councilmember McLaughlin, seconded by Councilmember Jimenez, scheduled a special meeting on March 9, 2021, to discuss budget guiding principles ; receive a presentation from Lift Up Richmond and allocate 15 minutes for each presentation; followed up with questions and answers from the city council and public comments. City Manager, Laura Snideman stated that there would not be enough time for city staff to provide updated information or reports for the special meeting. The motion passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Jimenez, Martinez, McLaughlin, Willis, and Vice Mayor Johnson III. **Noes:** Councilmember Bates and Mayor Butt. **Absent:** None. **Abstain:** None.

H-2. The matter to receive updates on the Fiscal Year 2020-21 budget, overtime reports, and City bonds; and direct staff on which option to choose for the Pension Obligations Swap was presented by Finance Director, Belinda Brown, Revenue Manager, Antonio Banuelos, and consultants Jo Mortenson, and George

Majors, presented a Powepoint, which highlighted the following: FY 2020-21 Budget Update; Overtime Reports; Update on City Bonds and Swaps; Budget Goals; Debt Overview; General Fund Revenues and Expenditures; Bonds; Outstanding Debt; Interest Rate Swap; Assessing Swap Risks; and Synthetic Fixed Rate Debt. Discussion ensued. Lisa Cody gave comments. The City Council requested a cost analysis projection for all options from 2006 to the present, including the fixed rate option and the swap option. This matter will return at the March 23, 2021, City Council meeting.

H-3. The matter to authorize the city manager to fill four public works positions and the deputy fire chief position that were "frozen" as part of the Fiscal Year 2020-21 budget process was presented by Lashonda White, Deputy City Manager, which highlighted the in Public Works and Fire Departments; FY 20-21 frozen positions and Financial Impact. The five positions are Groundskeeper/Gardener; Equipment Operator, Parks Construction & Maintenance Worker, Electrician, and Deputy Fire Chief. Naomi Williams gave comments. A motion by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember Jimenez, approved the item by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

ORDINANCES

I-1. The matter to introduce an ordinance to revise the wages, salaries, and compensation for the Fire Chief (Salary Range 5.5 \$12,338 - \$19,640/month) was presented by Human Resources Director, Anil Comelo who gave an overview of the matter. City Council expressed that the current salary range is appropriate and should not be increased. No motion was made and the item was not approved.

COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

J-1. The matter to approve a legal services agreement with Goldfarb & Lipman, LLP to advise and represent the City in pending litigation with a payment limit of \$100,000 for services rendered from February 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023 was presented by City Attorney, Teresa Stricker, who gave an overview of the matter. This item was continued from the February 23, 2021, meeting. *(10:57 p.m. – A motion by Councilmember McLaughlin, seconded by Councilmember Jimenez, extended the meeting no longer than 11:30 p.m. for completion of items J-1 and J-2).* The following individuals gave comments via teleconference: Deborah Bayer, Jim Hanson, Sally Tobin, and Tarnel Abbott. Discussion ensued. A motion by Councilmember McLaughlin, seconded by Councilmember Willis, approved the contract for up to \$100,000 with an update provided to staff once the contact amount of \$40,000 was reached, by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

J-2. Mayor Butt announced recent resignation from City of Richmond boards, commissions, and committees; and announced vacancies as of February 17, 2021 and ask that interested individuals send applications to the City Clerk. This item was continued from the February, 23, 2021, meeting.

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

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:14 p.m., in memory of former City of Richmond bond council, John Knox, and father of former Mayor's Office Chief of Staff, Alex Knox. The meeting was also closed in memory of Denise Brown Mestas, to meet again on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor

From: [Cordell Hindler](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: open Session before Closed Session
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2021 5:18:41 PM

hello Sabrina, i think that the City Clerk has done a wonderful job reading off agenda items,
so i am hoping that the council would say positive things

Sincerely
Cordell

From: [Alvaro Lopez-Piedra](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: Public comments-open forum
Date: Tuesday, March 02, 2021 11:54:47 AM

I am voicing my strong opposition to the homeless trailer park project being considered next to Richmond civic center parking lot. It will bring our home values way down and create unheard of unsanitary conditions and bring more crime to our neighborhood, which is already dealing with high levels of it.

As most everyone voicing opposition justly declares, we are greatly upset that the proposition wasn't even announced to the citizens of Richmond and was done in a sneaky, underhanded manner. That is the crux of our outrage.

Thank you
Alvaro López-Piedra

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Bruce Freedman](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: public comments –Open Session prior to Closed Session
Date: Monday, March 01, 2021 11:25:16 AM

Letter to entire Richmond, Ca council body:

I am a 20 year resident of Richmond (northeast) and strongly contest having a homeless RV parking area in the Civic Center parking lot.

It is a poor solution and speaks of the council acting impulsively and with little regard for the community resident's safety and way of life.

I encourage members to re-think this proposal to find a solution that will satisfy the community who live in Richmond, CA.

Bruce Freedman

From: [Cordell Hindler](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: Open Forum For Public Comment
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2021 5:23:08 PM

hello Sabrina, i have some comments for the Record

1. I really did enjoy the State of the City that the mayor provide at the Council Meeting On Tuesday
2. Also i was very unhappy that the Idea of Having Homeless People parking their RV'S in our city lots
3. in Relating to the Matter, City Employees are concerned that their cars will get broken into

Sincerely
Cordell

From: [David Naisuler](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: Public Comment – Open Forum
Date: Tuesday, March 02, 2021 12:07:25 PM

To the Members of City Council Re. Houseless RV Parking At Civic Center Plaza:

We all want to help the houseless, but if this was such a good idea, why were we not informed of it in advance? In all my prior experience as a city commissioner and in the placement of public works, I have never seen such an intensively community facing project summarily approved by a city council with no prior solicitation of public input. This incredible outcry and generation of ill will was completely avoidable not just the first time with Hilltop, but now again? Your cause was noble but not adequate to dispel the blowback at Hilltop, and unfortunately no insight was taken by city council from that experience. You are trampling your North and East constituents, very much majority stakeholders in this endeavor, to take advantage of a paltry \$250k grant. This is very short sighted and impulsive policy making, far beneath the potential of your seats. If you came up with a properly vetted plan including all stakeholders you could actually have obtained a citywide bond, generating vastly more resources than this ramrodding will provide. The current city council is instead proving to constituents that it is not up to the very considerable task of solving homelessness with a community mandate, limiting your terms and stymying progress. Please prove us all wrong: Reconsider this vote, and come back to us with a real plan IN ADVANCE so you can get real money!

Sincerely,

David Naisuler

District 6

559 26th St Richmond, CA

From: [Deborah Fierro Martinez](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Cc: [deborah.fierro.martinez](#)
Subject: 3/2/21 Public Comments-open forum session - Safe RV Park
Date: Tuesday, March 02, 2021 1:03:09 PM

For inclusion in next meeting

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

From: **Deborah Fierro Martinez** <deborah.fierro.martinez@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Mar 1, 2021 at 5:12 PM
Subject: 3/1/21 RE: Civic Center Parking Lot Project
To: <claudia_jimenez@ci.richmond.ca.us>

Good afternoon Council member Jimenez.

I am writing on behalf of myself and my mother, Eloisa, a retired Richmond small business owner. For 25 years my mother owned and operated Lilly's Beauty Salon and was always an active member of the 23rd Street Merchant's Association.

Our family has lived in Richmond since 1975 when we first emigrated to this country and most recently since September 3, 1996 have resided in our current home on 26th Street, mere blocks from the proposed site for the Civic Center Parking Lot Project.

We are writing to advise that we are extremely distressed and disappointed over the decisions taken to bring this project to our quiet neighborhood. We have received no prior notice, nor had anyone seek our advice or opinions on the matter. I understand that originally Hilltop was the proposed site for this project, which you yourself supported.

We cannot begin to comprehend the thought process or the rationalization that went behind a decision to pick the Civic Center Parking Lot as a viable option for this proposed project. Surely Richmond has other untapped open land that would be more suitable. Not only my family but many of my neighbors are very upset and just plain livid, and rightfully so over this proposal.

We have elementary schools near by, the Richmond Art Center, the Richmond Library, places of worship and a senior center across the street, and weekly Farmer's Market that currently use this site. Additionally, we have a much needed COVID19 testing-site for our residents, many who are essential workers and need a safe and centrally located testing site in the community.

We voted for you in the last election because we wanted to support a Latina woman that we thought could represent our interest in our district....however it seems that was not the case. Please reconsider your position and let the voice of your constituents be heard. We do not want this project in our neighborhood! Period.

Respectfully,

Deborah and Eloisa Martinez
the 600 Block of 26th Street
Richmond, CA 94804

From: [Donna Ivery](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: public comments – Open Forum
Date: Tuesday, March 02, 2021 11:33:58 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Donna Ivery <donnaivory@me.com>
Subject: Public Forum Email for Richmond City Council
Date: March 2, 2021 at 11:26:43 AM PST
To: cityclerkdept@ci.richmond.ca.us

Dear City Council,

I live two blocks from the site you approved to shelter the unhoused in RVs/vans at the Richmond City Center.

We are a family of color and ministers who have worked hard to purchase and care for our home. Your decision will change the property value and safety of our neighborhood, as well as the heart of Richmond.

Shame on you all, for squandering the best of Richmond in effort to receive a one year grant. We love to walk to the Farmers' Market, walk to BART down Barrett, go to the Richmond Art Center. It is one of the nicest neighborhoods in Richmond, with churches, schools, and businesses in close proximity. When the Richmond Auditorium is in use, cars spill out into our neighborhood, and without the City Center Parking Lot, no vision for the future as a center for people to come together, and where they will park has been evaluated. Shame on you all for taking shortcuts and misrepresenting that this will help the unhoused in our neighborhood. We expect it to increase tent cities and cars, and RVs parking on the surrounding streets, in an area that is already besieged by inadequate support services for the homeless. Shame on you for pedaling this as a one year pilot program which, when established on City Property (public), it will be illegal to move people out unless you have a designated alternative space for them. You have rushed to make a decision that changes our neighborhood, and trashes our City Center for generations to come.

I am appalled and furious, and highly motivated to recall my neighborhood representative Claudia Jimenez, and work against the Progressive Alliance, whom I have always supported in the past.

I have been involved in serving the unsheltered. This is a BAD PLAN, with a City Council obliterating the heart of Richmond and their elected responsibility.

Sincerely,

Donna Ivery
549 26th Street
Richmond, CA 94804

From: [Doria Mueller-Beilschmidt](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Demnlus Johnson](#); [Tom Butt - external](#); [Nat Bates](#); [Laura Snideman](#); [Lina Velasco](#); [Teresa Stricker](#); richcityservant@gmail.com
Subject: Public Comments: Open Forum
Date: Tuesday, March 02, 2021 12:38:55 PM

Dear Mayor, City Council Members, City Clerk, City Manager, City Attorney,
and other City Staff,

Again, I am writing to ask that the City Council reconsider the development deal that was made last December 2020 to build housing on the AstraZeneca/Bay Campus site. It was seriously abused for such a long time with the dumping, leaking, spilling, etc. of so many dangerously toxic chemicals one can not safely healthfully allow people to live there, raise their families there. It would be wrong at any price.

Please find below the links to a few documents with information relevant to the Bay Campus/AstraZeneca Site to add to your library of documents you have received from many concerned Richmond and Bay Area citizens and organizations, especially the Community Advisory Group and Richmond Shoreline Alliance.

Thank you.

Doria Mueller-Beilschmidt
Richmond Resident

<https://www.oag.ca.gov/system/files/prop65/notices/2009-00329.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/exposurereport/>

From: [Elyce Klein](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#); tombutt@intres.com; natbate@comcast.net; richcityservant@gmail.com; [Demnlus Johnson](#); mclaughlin@ci.richmond.ca.us; [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Teresa Stricker](#); lina_velasco@richmond.ca.us
Subject: Public Comments Open Forum
Date: Tuesday, March 02, 2021 11:23:17 AM

**Dear City Council Members, City Manager; City Attorney, and
Community Development Dirctory:**

As someone who frequently rides my bike on the Bay Trail, It seems crazy to me to be building on a Superfund site that is prone to sea-level rise. Please do not proceed with this project with mitigation including and consideration of the fact that it is likely this site will soon be underwater.

I am writing to request the Campus Bay EIR be re-opened on the basis of health and safety reasons, as the City's current Campus Bay housing project (up to 4,000 units) is proposed with minimal removal (less than 2%) of the high volumes of highly toxic hazardous waste on the Zeneca site. It was because of the high volumes and toxicity that the US-EPA categorized the Zeneca site as "Superfund-qualified", which means the site is "hazardous to human and environmental health." Despite this decision by the US-EPA this site avoided the formal "Superfund" site label because the AstraZeneca corporation used a loophole in the Superfund legislation to have the site overseen by the state Dept of Toxic Substances and Control (DTSC). Make no mistake, the Zeneca site is a Superfund-qualified site; this means it is an extremely hazardous site and is much much worse than a "brownfield." Please support FULL REMOVAL of the hazardous waste BEFORE any homes are built!

Thank you for your consideration,

**Elyce Klein
1840 Sonoma Ave**

Berkeley, CA 94707

From: [Hubert Ivery](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: Public Comment - Open Forum
Date: Tuesday, March 02, 2021 12:02:30 PM

Dear Council Members,

I'm writing to express my concern about the Civic Center RV Parking plan.

Rev. Hubert Ivery, Pastor

From: [Jack Hamm](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENTS - OPEN FORUM
Date: Tuesday, March 02, 2021 1:02:50 PM

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to oppose the recent decision to site the RV Safe Park in the Richmond Civic Center parking lot. The manner in which this decision was made runs counter to participatory government and failed include appropriate community input in the process. There are numerous items that the Council has not satisfactorily addressed:

- The environmental impacts of the RV park
- The impact to neighborhood disaster response
- How this will impact ongoing safety issues that are already insufficiently addressed in the neighborhood
- How the park will be managed after 1 year and what will happen if the park draws non-participant unhoused into City land since removal from public land is no longer legal

I urge you to reconsider the decision and vote to bring this back for proper community engagement in site selection and neighborhood impact.

Regards,
Jack Hamm
533 26th St.
District 6

From: [Jack Hamm](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: public comments – Open Forum
Date: Monday, March 01, 2021 7:57:32 PM

To whom it may concern:

I would like to address the council on their recent decision to utilize the Civic Center parking lot for the safe parking initiative.

Regards,
Jack Hamm, district 6 homeowner

From: [Julie Roemer](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: Public Comments -- Open Forum
Date: Tuesday, March 02, 2021 12:28:21 PM

Dear City Council Clerk, Mayor Butt, and Members of the City Council,

My name is Julie Roemer, and I live at 2602 Roosevelt Avenue, where 26th Street and Roosevelt meet.

I am writing to express my opposition to the decision the City Council made on February 23rd to designate the Civic Center parking lot on Barrett as a Safe Park for RV dwellers who are currently living on Rydin Road.

The Council's prior vote to approve the use of a small portion of the vast, unused parking lot at Hilltop Mall was 5 - 1. Ostensibly, Council members who on February 23rd reversed their earlier vote to approve the Hilltop site were convinced to do so by the outrage of the Hilltop community that no outreach had occurred.

How cynical, then, for the Council to ram through approval of the Civic Center site WITH NOT A SINGLE APPARENT CONCERN ABOUT INVOLVING THE EXTREMELY ADJACENT NORTH AND EAST COMMUNITY IN THE DISCUSSION.

My community is also outraged, and very concerned about the process.

This site is already densely impacted, first by the proximity of the neighborhoods. By the proximity of the senior housing, by the proximity of a church, temple, funeral home, and Art Center. By the use of the parking lot by City Employees, students at the Art Center, and the historic use of the parking lot by the Richmond Farmer's Market.

Just two blocks away, the finishing touches are being made to a very large affordable housing complex. The city and all residents of this central area have absolutely no idea what will happen to traffic and circulation in the downtown area when these buildings are inhabited.

This site is simply too densely embedded in the area surrounding it to be suitable for a "pilot project" which, to my knowledge, has no exit plan, not to mention a plan to keep the site from being a magnet to other RVs.

In addition, there is legal uncertainty about whether the City can actually be confident that, after the proposed year's duration of the pilot program has elapsed, the RVs can be required to move from publicly owned land. These and many other specific issues must be resolved.

I appeal to the Council to reconsider this decision, involving the communities involved, with due consideration to the extreme complexity of this issue.

Sincerely,

Julie Roemer

From: karlene.lopez-piedra
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENTS - OPEN FORUM
Date: Tuesday, March 02, 2021 12:52:40 PM

Dear Council Members,

It is in both my personal and my professional opinion as a local Realtor that this is a huge mistake to locate the RV Safe Park in the Richmond Civic Center parking lot. My husband and I have lived on 26th St. between Barrett and Roosevelt for 19 years. In that time we have watched our North & East Neighborhood grow into a vibrant community. We have also faced down challenges on our block such as squatters taking over a vacant home, local drug dealers and 23rd St. prostitution overflow. We work together as a collective to try and keep our neighborhood safe and know that we are all better because of it. There is nothing you can say that will make me believe putting a Safe Park so close to our neighborhood is in the best interests of our community. I know from experience what happens when RV's move in, sanctioned or otherwise. I worked in Berkeley on Harrison St. between 10th and 11th Streets for over 10 years and watched it turn into a living hell for those who worked or traveled the area.

The Safe Park will go in and shortly afterwards a tent or two will pop up outside the confines of the Safe Park. Next, random RV's will be parking on Barrett, MacDonald and down the side streets lined with homes of tax paying and voting citizens. Soon more tents will be seen on Barrett and the surrounding areas. Trash will become obscene and crime will escalate. I'm not unsympathetic to the homeless crisis but I just can't for one moment believe this location was ever a wise choice. The Library, Richmond Art Center, City Offices, Senior Center, etc, all right there and now the Farmers' Market has to be relocated. You will be killing a neighborhood where homes are now selling in the \$800's! I can assure you this will change the home values thereby lowering the property taxes collected. As I see it, Richmond is already in financial trouble and this will only add to it. This will become a disclosure for Realtors both for home sellers as well as buyers. I wonder if the person who just paid over \$800K for a homes less than two blocks from the proposed Safe Park would have done so knowing this was a possibility. If I were them I'd be contacting my attorney.

I beg you to revisit this homeless park decision. Clearly our District Council Member, Claudia Jimenez, did not take into consideration her constituent's best interests or even ask for our opinions when she voted to approve this action. This is not going to "lift up our neighborhood" as she suggested. The North & East Neighborhood was already lifted due to the people living here. This is a very desirable neighborhood and one I'm proud to live in. If this Safe Park continues to move forward that will not be the case.

Respectfully,

Karlene Lopez-Piedra

Karlene and Alvaro Lopez-Piedra
560 26th St. Richmond, CA 94804

karlene.lopez-piedra
klpiedra@gmail.com

From: [MsLady Dandie](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: I wouldn't go through I just got home
Date: Tuesday, March 02, 2021 6:52:56 PM

I am a concerned citizen, MsDandie, who lives in Northeast on Nevin Avenue down the street from where the safe park is planned to be located.

I want to share with you that I work with the homeless and mental health every day, 24 hours a day.

I enjoy working with the homeless and the mental health; however, I am concerned that our District City Council member, Claudia Jimenez, who has not attended our neighborhood Council meeting to address that the Safe Park will be moving into our community/District Ms.

Jimenez did not ensure the community that she will take full responsibility and safety of our neighborhood while the Safe Park is in our community. As a Councilmember I expect her to make sure that everything goes according to the City Council plans and assure we are safe and the neighborhood is kept clean, and resources are available and accessible as needed.

As the Council decided to go with District Elections it is our elected District Councilmembers responsibility to speak up for our district whether it's good or bad on how our district should be managed.

Her only concern was to build up

GRIP because she was a part of their Board. Eventually, as a conflict of interest she removed herself. But yet she has made no comment about the Safe Park in District 6 as to whether she approve or not.

Homelessness is not a crime and housing is for everyone that wants or needs it. Ms. Jimenez needs to make her thoughts clear to the citizens living in District 6. I need, we need, to know what she is planning to do.

For safety precautions in our district, I have offered my nonprofit to be a case manager for the Safe Park for after hours. I want to ensure safety for our community, children & families. I

**want to make sure the needs of
our new community are heard and
addressed**

From: [Wayne](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: Public Forum Comments Civic Center a parking lot
Date: Tuesday, March 02, 2021 1:15:24 PM

On Mar 2, 2021, at 12:25 PM, Liliana Herrera <herreralliliana28@gmail.com> wrote:

I will not be able speak at tonight's meeting, but below is what I sent to Claudia.

Message 1:

Dear Ms. Jimenez,

I am writing to you as a concerned District 6 constituent. I read in the news recently that an RV camp has been approved at the Civic Center parking lot, and I am deeply upset. I live on 26th Street, just blocks away from the Civic Center, where my 3-year-old son and I often walk to and spend some time playing on the grass. When he is old enough to take art classes I planned on enrolling him at the Richmond Art Center. Plans for the RV camp there will change that.

It is my belief that having an RV camp at the Civic Center will negatively impact the neighborhood, which is currently undergoing a renaissance with the Civic Center having been recently remodeled, and with the Farmer's Market adding to a sense of a collaborative community. It will cease to be a safe space if it is overrun by homeless persons, because, let's be honest--oftentimes these communities are unclean and introduce drug and alcohol use to the situation. I would hate to start seeing needles and broken glass littering the ground around the area. I am disappointed that the families that live nearby were not contacted before this decision was made. Additionally, it is my understanding that the first plan was to have the RV camp at Hilltop Mall, which makes much more sense, since the proximity of the camp to family homes would be much more distant. I urge you to please, please reverse the Civic Center decision.

Sincerely,
Liliana Herrera

Message 2:

Claudia,

Residents of the neighborhood that will be directly impacted by the RV park were NEVER consulted before the decision was made. This is unacceptable, and merits legal recourse.

Additionally, as public land, it will be impossible to remove the RVs and tents that will line up outside the site after it has filled. You are creating a huge problem for the heart and center of our city, for years and years to come.

I am deeply disappointed in you, the neglectful manner in which you approved this project, and your failure to see how this will affect our community in the long run. I am copying your colleagues who may have also voted for this to reconsider the plan to move forward with it.

Liliana Herrera
District 6 Constituent

From: [Michelle Costante-Hamm](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: Public Comments - Open Forum
Date: Tuesday, March 02, 2021 12:47:13 PM

Dear Mayor and Members of the Richmond City Council,

I am writing in regards to the Pilot Safe Parking Program and the Civic Plaza parking lot that was recently selected as the site for the program. I am writing to inform you of my dissent over the decision to place the program at this location and ask for its reconsideration by the council.

There was no due process in involving the impacted community in this decision. The Hilltop community was not informed and when they raised this issue with you, the City Council immediately turned around and repeated the same error with the North and East. This is very disappointing that the City Council is repeatedly not listening to their constituents, and our trust has been shaken with this council and our district representative.

Besides the lack of community involvement, there lacks a transparent plan on how it will be managed over time, what mitigation strategies are being taken to reduce risk and harm to the neighboring community, what criteria will be used to determine if the program is successful or not, how funds will be obtained beyond the initial grant, and if/how there is a long term plan including an exit strategy.

I am sure the City Council is aware of what surrounds the Civic Center lot and it's various ongoing uses. More problematic is the use of public land for this use, which may inadvertently commit the neighborhood to this pilot program long after it is done being a pilot. This is something that can impact us for years to come, and yet we were not consulted and the due diligence was not done.

There are numerous major concerns with use of the Civic Center parking lot, and they do not appear to have been considered or appropriately addressed, as you are required to do as City Council, and as part of your duty in listening to the voice of your district.

Please reconsider your position, let the voice of your constituents be heard, and together let's find a viable solution to those who most need our assistance.

Respectfully,
Michelle Costante-Hamm
Barrett Avenue and 26th Street block
Richmond, CA 94804

From: [Savitri Khalsa](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: March 2 Open Comments
Date: Tuesday, March 02, 2021 12:58:57 PM

Please accept this letter for the open comments period of the city council meeting today.
Thank you.
Savitri Khalsa

Dear Mayor Butt, City Councilors, City Manager, and City Planning Staff,

My family has a home in Richmond very close to the Civic Center.
We do not want the Safe Parking Program located in this area.

A Story of City Central, Richmond, CA.

I have seen so many positive plans for developing the center of this city and improving the main downtown areas along Barrett, MacDonald and Nevin. My family is watching daily the Terraces at Nevin rise as a hopeful new beginning for 289 housing units in Richmond's central city. The tenants of this complex will use the area of the city stretching from it and connecting to the Civic Center. This project can be labeled with all the hallmarks of a progressive city--high density, affordable, and with ready access to parks, and multi-modal transport. Nearby grocers like: Heng Fath, LaRaza, and LaFortuna Latina standby, an easy walk, to support these new residents.

Soon, centrally located blighted areas of Richmond's past will shift and change. For example, the former 1300 MacDonald Richmond Hacienda is finally funded and will soon be a Mercy-renovated and managed home for 150 low income seniors.

The Richmond Transit Village project with housing for 100 now and potential for more in the near future is supposed to be part of a network that connects BART to City Hall, Kaiser Hospital, and commercial centers. In countless documents created by city staff and the planning departments, the connection of multi-model transit, bike path lanes, and low-income housing redevelopment is emphasized.

I understand we are in a pandemic, but the role of city council is to protect and promote positive growth and long term planning for the city and it's residents. Presently, the area surrounding Civic Center is under threat.

Daily homeless individuals are compromising the safety and security of this area. Listen to the librarians, they tell the truth about the library courtyard filled with homeless who party day and night, pitching tents and scaring residents who'd like to use the Civic Center library and plaza to walk their dog, plug in an electric vehicle, practice native dance, or even cry out in mourning about the murder of Vanessa Guillen.

Look at Preble Street adjacent to 24th Street now filled with campers. Why are city ordinances not being enforced on this street? How are Nevin Plaza residents, our elderly/disabled families feeling about venturing outside their homes into this situation?

Soon housing agents will attempt to lease the Terraces at Nevin. Will families want to walk out from these apartments down MacDonald Avenue to play at Nicholl Park, shop at

Palace Furniture, or buy a happy meal? Not if they have to walk past the ever-intoxicated individuals surrounding and harassing at MacDonald, 7-Eleven, and Nelson's Liquor.

Did you not hear the recent commentary from staff of the Richmond Activities League about how the area surrounding their facility has been inundated by homeless sleepers, human waste, and syringes on the ground. How can this city center location fulfil its mission to provide a safe and nurturing environment for youth through recreational, educational, and cultural programs if families don't feel safe walking in the center of the city?

I understand individuals are suffering especially during the pandemic, but the residents of the abutting neighborhoods to the Civic Center are too. We're busting our tails, working overtime to pay our taxes and to live indoors in Richmond. We are working people, with little time to notice all the workings of the City Council's agenda, and who want to live in a city we can be proud of and feel safe in.

In April, 2019 my family was very pleased with city leadership when the homeless encampment formerly located at 22nd and Carlson Blvd was shut down. This helped our city tremendously. This encampment was a depressing mess in the heart center of our city.

Please reconsider some more, about our city's future. Do not place the proposed Parking Pilot Program dead center in the Civic Center, the heart of the city's public face.

I was lucky enough to get my covid shot today at the Oakland Coliseum. We drove by 2 of the Oakland's Safe Parking Program lots run by the Housing Consortium of the East Bay. These are located next to the Bart tracks in industrial areas, next to auto repair shops, the Coliseum, and underneath highway ramps, not in the center of the city.

Thank you for your consideration,

Savitri Khalsa

Richmond Resident & Homeowner

Not part of any progressive party

Just a working person paying taxes hoping for Richmond to move forward

Logically noticing that the 80+ RVs in District 5 should not be moved to any neighborhood, especially District 6, when residents do not want them.

--

Savitri Kaur Khalsa
(774) 993-9216

From: ohsquirrel@aol.com
To: [City Clerk Dept](#); [Tom Butt - external](#); [Nat Bates](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Demnlus Johnson](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); melvin_willis@ci.richmond.ca.us
Subject: Public comments open forum /Better location for Richmond Homeless camp
Date: Tuesday, March 02, 2021 11:54:45 AM

Public comments open forum

March 2, 2021

Dear Mayor and City Council:

You already have a site that has the homeless located in Richmond (Vernon Street) and you have Rhonda Harris (founder of the Veterans Resource Program that houses homeless veterans) willing to help transition the homeless into housing and other services. This was a great idea for the homeless a year ago and a great idea now.

“The transitional center would go on a 5.9-acre, city-owned lot surrounded by Vernon Avenue, Castro Street and the Richmond Parkway. The lot already is occupied by some homeless people in tents and recreational vehicles, and the city says an adjacent Castro Street site could accommodate many more RVs, cabins and tents”.

The idea that the encampment should be in the Civic Center Parking Lot is absurd. If you put the homeless in the proposed area the homeowners are going to be extremely angry and the value of our homes will go down. Many of us have worked our entire lives to purchase a home and are constantly aware of home values as we rely on that asset to fund our retirement and beyond. We already pay the highest taxes in CCC. As a homeowner I'm getting tired of the direction Richmond is taking. There seems to be no consideration for home owners or small business people in Richmond.

The smart thing to do is to follow through at the City owned Vernon Street site.

I'm adding the article below from that I have quoted above.

I vote in every election.

Thank you

Sheree Howe

Richmond planning new 'transitional village' for homeless residents

By **ANNIE SCIACCA** | asciaccia@bayareanewsgroup.com | Bay Area News Group

PUBLISHED: February 27, 2020 at 6:00 a.m. | UPDATED: February 28, 2020 at 3:32 p.m.

Richmond is planning to establish a transitional center for homeless people struggling to find housing on a city-owned lot along the Richmond Parkway.

In addition to authorizing staff to start planning and seek funding for the center, the City Council this week directed staff to draft an ordinance allowing emergency shelters to be set up for the homeless, such as sleeping cabins and mobile homes.

The 2019 Point in Time Count showed that at least 333 homeless people live in Richmond — about 23 percent more than the previous year. Richmond Mayor Tom Butt said during Tuesday's council meeting that although there may be fewer this year, there still are too many people without shelter in the city.

Noting that "(Gov. Gavin) Newsom committed dollars for (homeless) projects," Butt said he wants "to make sure Richmond wouldn't lose out on these opportunities." Having a plan would give the city leverage in obtaining some of that money.

Newsom has asked state legislators for \$1.4 billion in the new budget to help curb homelessness.

"Permanent housing is the ultimate goal of any successful program to address homelessness; however, there remains a great need for transitional projects and programs to provide temporary shelter, services and programs to lead to that ultimate goal of permanent housing and to provide an alternative to recreational vehicles parked on city streets and tent camps along freeways, creeks and railroad rights of way," a city staff report states.

The transitional center would go on a 5.9-acre, city-owned lot surrounded

by Vernon Avenue, Castro Street and the Richmond Parkway. The lot already is occupied by some homeless people in tents and recreational vehicles, and the city says an adjacent Castro Street site could accommodate many more RVs, cabins and tents.

“With sufficient funding and services, this site could be ramped up quickly as a homeless service center, with toilets, showers, storage and a shelter for service providers,” according to a staff report.

Several Richmond residents spoke in support of planning the transitional “village,” including Rhonda Harris, founder of the Veterans Resource Program that houses homeless veterans.

From: [Steve Ford](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: public comments – Open Forum
Date: Tuesday, March 02, 2021 5:00:29 PM

Hello,

I'm in district 6. If City Council wants broad public support for the safe parking program, it shouldn't be near houses. It can and should be in a more industrial area. There is no reason why not. The rubric needs to change. It is the best compromise that can be made, and most in Richmond would support this. Civic Center has far too many issues as it is, will almost no police presence. I do not think adding rv's is a good idea.

Thank you,
Steve Ford

From: [Steve Ford](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: public comments – Open Session prior to Closed Session- SAFE PARKING SITE
Date: Tuesday, March 02, 2021 12:50:05 PM

Hello,

I'm in district 6. If City Council wants broad public support for the safe parking program, it shouldn't be near houses. It can and should be in a more industrial area. There is no reason why not. The rubric needs to change. It is the best compromise that can be made, and most in Richmond would support this.

Thank you,
Steve Ford

From: [Terence Krista](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: public comments – Open Forum
Date: Tuesday, March 02, 2021 9:55:51 AM

My name is Terence Krista and a homeowner in the Civic Center neighborhood. At last week's city council meeting, a majority of the council voted to change the site of the proposed Safe Park program from a long vacant Hilltop parking lot to a much used parking lot in Civic Center. This vote was done without any prior notification or input from residents in the neighborhood most affected by this move. Not only is the lot bounded by Barrett and Nevin and 24th and 25th Street in regular use by the Richmond Art Center, Civic Auditorium, Wilson & Kratzer Mortuary, residents of Nevin Plaza as well as a nearby church and temple, it is also the home of the much loved Richmond Farmers Market. I was dismayed that Hilltop residents refused to share even a tiny portion of their acres of empty, unused parking lot for Safe Park. I was even more dismayed that their resistance was readily seconded by a majority of the council.

The Civic Center neighborhood is already beset with its fair share of social challenges and has been for years. Prostitution along 23rd Street regularly spills into our neighborhood. Those suffering from mental illness and addiction roam our streets. Homeless individuals live wherever they can erect a makeshift tent. The illegal dumping of furniture, mattresses and assorted garbage occurs throughout the neighborhood. Into this challenging mix the majority of the council decided to fill an entire city block with those living in campers, RVs and cars. It has already been announced the long established Farmers Market is being evicted with no plan of where it will go.

To reiterate, this decision to locate Safe Park in our neighborhood was done without any participation from the stakeholders most affected. The Civic Center neighborhood is already overburdened with many social challenges and we are now being forced to shoulder another complex and intractable national problem.

I urge the council to reconsider their vote to put Safe Park at Civic Center.

Thank you.

From: [Wayne](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: Open forum comments re Safe Park
Date: Tuesday, March 02, 2021 1:00:32 PM

Council member Jimenez. Wife and I are 32 year residents of Richmond, 25 years homeowners in the North and East.

We are writing to express our disappointment with your decision to locate the "Safe Trailer Park" in the Civic Center Parking lot.

Hilltop was really the best solution and I believe you know that because you voted in support of it. Putting this Park in the middle of a residential neighborhood adjacent to senior housing, a Buddhist Center, 2 churches, two schools, the library and the Richmond Art Center, not to mention disrupting a Farmer's market, Covid-19 test site and a quiet stable neighborhood of predominantly single family homes is just a TERRIBLE idea!

We voted for you in the last election cycle but feel you did a poor job soliciting input from your district about this, if at all.

There are many, many neighbors in this area who are equally upset about this and I doubt they will vote for you again because they think you cannot be trusted.

Please reconsider, in the interest of your District. Thank you

**Wayne and Rose Greene
600 Block [26th St](#)
[District](#)**

[Tom Butt](#) – Mayor

- [Nathaniel Bates](#) – Vice Mayor at large
- [Claudia Jimenez](#) - Councilmember (District 6)
- [Demnlus Johnson, III](#) - Councilmember at large
- [Eduardo Martinez](#) - Councilmember at large
- [Gayle McLaughlin](#) - Councilmember (District 5)
- [Melvin Willis](#) - Councilmember (District 1)

~ from WEGie iPad

From: [Cordell Hindler](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: Public Comment H-1 Budget Session
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2021 5:27:17 PM

hello Sabrina, i have looked at the Budget Principles and i am impressed so i am hoping that the Council will approve it as Received

Sincerely
Cordell

From: [Cordell Hindler](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: Public Comment H-2 Budget Session
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2021 5:30:54 PM

hello Sabrina, i have Reviewed the Power Point Presentation and i think that the City Manager's Office and Finance has done a exquisite job

Sincerely
Cordell

From: [Cordell Hindler](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: Public Comment H-3 Budget Session
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2021 5:35:17 PM

hello Sabrina, I have Reviewed the Proposal and i think that the City Manager should Authorize to fill the Positions

Sincerely
Cordell

From: [Jim Hanson](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: Public comments - J-1
Date: Tuesday, March 02, 2021 12:57:27 PM

Dear City Clerk-

Concerning J-1, "a legal services agreement for legal advice and representation in an amount of \$100,000 in connection with pending land use litigation while the City Attorney improves and enhances the RFQ process to select and retain outside counsel"

The public should be informed about what pending land use litigation is, that is, what is the project is and what is the subject of the litigation.

Thank you,

Jim Hanson

From: [Cordell Hindler](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: Public Comment J-2 Council as a whole
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2021 5:44:15 PM

hello Sabrina, i have some Fabulous News I have an update in Regarding the Vacancies on Boards and Commissions

i did receive some Communications from Richmond and De Anza High and it looks like they are interested in hearing about the Youth Council

Sincerely
Cordell