

## **RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, May 18, 2021**

The Richmond City Council Evening Open Session was called to order at 4:30 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> and <http://www.youtube.com/user/KCRRTV>.*

*The methods to submit public comment were via mail, email to [cityclerkdept@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:cityclerkdept@ci.richmond.ca.us), teleconference, and telephone during the meeting. Written comments received by 1:00 p.m. on May 18, 2021, were put into the record and considered before Council action. Written comments received after 1:00 p.m. and up until the public comment period on the relevant agenda item closed, were also put into the record. **Attached herewith all written public comments received.***

### **ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Councilmembers Claudia Jimenez, Eduardo Martinez, Gayle McLaughlin, Vice Mayor Demnlus Johnson III, and Mayor Thomas K. Butt. **Absent:** Councilmembers Nathaniel Bates and Melvin Willis arrived after the roll was called.

### **CITY COUNCIL**

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

San Francisco Baykeeper and West County Toxics Coalition v. City of Richmond

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

One case

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS  
(Government Code Section 54957.6):

Agency Representatives: Jack Hughes

Employee organizations:

1. SEIU Local 1021 Full-Time Unit
2. SEIU Local 1021 Part-Time Unit
3. IFPTE Local 21 Mid-Level Management Unit
4. IFPTE Local 21 Executive Management Unit
5. Richmond Police Officers Association RPOA
6. Richmond Police Management Association RPMA
7. IAFF Local 188
8. Richmond Fire Management Association RFMA

**PUBLIC COMMENT BEFORE CLOSED SESSION**

Fidencio Morales gave comments via teleconference regarding the labor negotiations item.

Arika Giselle Ona gave comments via teleconference against the surge in Asian and Pacific Islander American hate crimes.

The Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 4:36 p.m.  
Closed Session adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 6:49 p.m. by Mayor Butt via teleconference.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Councilmembers Jimenez, Martinez, McLaughlin, Willis, Vice Mayor Johnson III, and Mayor Butt. **Absent:** Councilmember Bates arrived after the roll was called.

**PUBLIC COMMENT INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEO**

The Public Comment Instructional Video was shown.

**STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

Item I-3 was moved for approval under the Consent Calendar. Items H-5, H-18, H-19, and H-25 were removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion at the end of the agenda.

On motion of Councilmember McLaughlin, seconded by Councilmember Jimenez, suspended the rules and removed item H-4 from the Consent Calendar for discussion at the end of the agenda by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Bates, Jimenez, Martinez, McLaughlin, and Willis. **Noes:** Vice Mayor Johnson III and Mayor Butt. **Absent:** None. **Abstained:** None.

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

City Attorney Teresa Stricker stated there were no final actions to report.

## **REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Laura Snideman advised that the City of Richmond's annual 3rd of July Fireworks and Celebration event would not be held due to COVID-19 public gathering requirements. Ms. Snideman announced that grant funds were available to eligible homeowners for reimbursement of sewer lateral replacement work completed between July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021. The Sewer Lateral Program grant application and information were published online at: [www.ci.richmond.ca.us/2130/Sewer-Lateral-Grant-Program](http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/2130/Sewer-Lateral-Grant-Program).

## **OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following individuals gave the following comments via teleconference:

Jovanka Beckles expressed concerns regarding the cancellation of the Reimagining Public Safety Community (RPSC) Task Force presentation to the Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council (RNCC) that was scheduled on May 17, 2021. Mrs. Beckles advised that the recommendations of the task force were intended to help the police and having needed resources made communities safe.

Michele Seville announced that the Richmond Regla-Cuba Friendship Committee joined with the Savings Lives Campaign and Global Health Partners to help Cuba respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Seville advised that campaign donations were accepted online at: [www.ghpartners.org](http://www.ghpartners.org).

Alicia Gallo provided updates regarding the revitalization of Richmond's historic downtown commercial corridor. Ms. Gallo announced that the Richmond Main Street Initiative (RMSI) co-hosted the inaugural workday of a new partnership between RMSI and the Reentry Success Center on May 8, 2021. Ms. Gallo encouraged interested individuals to get more information online at: [www.richmondmainstreet.org](http://www.richmondmainstreet.org)

Tarnel Abbott expressed concerns regarding the proposed housing development at the Richmond AstraZeneca site and sea-level rise. Ms. Abbott requested a complete cleanup to residential standards at the site before construction.

Gary Hurlbut announced the launching of a new 501(c)(3) charitable organization, the Hurlbut Benevolent Fund, to give back to the community and enrich the lives of the citizens. Mr. Hurlbut announced that he and his wife, Maryn Hurlbut, would be reducing their involvement in other Richmond organizations to focus on their new initiative.

Ross Harris gave comments in opposition to defunding the Richmond Police Department. Mr. Ross expressed concerns regarding the members of the RPSC Task Force and their proposals made at the May 10, 2021, Special City Council meeting. Mr. Ross clarified that he supported increased funding for additional community resources but not at the expense of the police force. Mr. Ross recommended additional police training and supplemental police services by trained professionals.

Mark Wassberg gave comments regarding the ongoing rioting in Portland, Oregon. Mr. Wassberg provided a historic overview of violence in Richmond. Mr. Wassberg challenged Richmond to attempt to operate safely during the absence of police officers.

Steve Bischoff urged the Council to extend the term of the RPSC Task Force. Mr. Bischoff recommended the Council focused on community input regarding the task force's proposals and ascertaining potential impacts of pending state and federal measures. Mr. Bischoff also recommended the City of Richmond consulted with Contra Costa County for providing mental health services. Mr. Bischoff suggested researching how similar proposals were working in other cities.

Oscar Garcia expressed concerns regarding the lack of transparency and engagement regarding the efforts to decrease the Police Department's budget. Mr. Garcia advised that he conducted a Facebook survey and over 90% of the responses were against decreasing the Police Department's budget. Mr. Garcia expressed concerns regarding crime in the Iron Triangle Neighborhood. Mr. Garcia requested the Council to reach out for input from constituents.

Katrinka Ruk announced that the Richmond Council of Industries, Chamber of Commerce, 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Merchants Association, and RMSI formed a coalition that informed restaurant owners of the Restaurant Revitalization Fund. Ms. Ruk advised that additional information was available to all food and beverage service providers by calling the Small Business Association at (844) 279-8898 and online at: [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).

Leisa Johnson expressed concerns regarding the Council's actions at its May 10, 2021, special meeting regarding decreasing the Police Department's budget. Ms. Johnson questioned why a poll of Richmond residents on reimagining public safety was not conducted. Ms. Johnson urged the Council to seek adequate community input for this matter.

Jan Mignone clarified that the RPSC Task Force's presentation to the RNCC was canceled on May 17, 2021, because the task force presented at the Special City Council meeting on May 10, 2021. Ms. Mignone pleaded with the Council to not put the RPSC Task Force's recommendations into effect on June 30, 2021, and allow the residents and neighborhood councils to work with the RPSC Task Force.

Nathaniel Bates gave comments regarding "pride and purpose". Mr. Bates reported that he received several calls regarding overgrown vegetation and abandoned vehicles in Richmond. Mr. Bates urged staff to report the issues to the appropriate authority.

Savitri Khalsa gave comments in opposition to the RPSC Task Force's recommendations presented at the May 10, 2021, Special City Council meeting. Ms. Khalsa urged the Council to fully fund the Police Department and gather city-wide input.

Melvin Willis advised that he was unable to attend the Iron Triangle Neighborhood Council meetings due to conflicts with his work schedule. Mr. Willis recommended that requests for his participation at specific meetings be coordinated with the liaison to the City Council, Trina Jackson.

### **CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

**\*H-1.** Approved Amendment No. 9 to the contract with Tyler Technologies for Software as a Service (SaaS) for the MUNIS Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System, extending the contract term by three years to June 30, 2024, and increasing the contract amount by \$1,569,729.00 with a total contract amount not to exceed \$8,993,374.75.

**\*H-2.** Approved Amendment No. 3 to the contract with Mallory Safety and Supply, LLC for testing and repairs of Scott face masks and self-contained breathing apparatus (SBCA) equipment, increasing the payment limit by \$49,950, to a total contract amount not to exceed \$149,850, and extending the term of the contract to June 30, 2024.

**\*H-3.** Approved the sole-source contract with Definitive Networks, Inc. to provide remote electronic patient care report monitoring, quality improvement, on-site training, and other technical support services in support of the Fire Department's emergency medical services program, for a total amount not to exceed \$194,400 through June 30, 2024.

**H-4.** The matter to adopt a resolution of the City Council of the City of Richmond, waiving the privilege under Business & Professions Code Section 6149 to allow for a limited waiver of the attorney-client privilege, while retaining all other aspects of the attorney-client privilege and all other exemptions set forth under the California Public Records Act to allow for public disclosure of agreements the City enters into for the provision of all legal services, was introduced by City Attorney Teresa Stricker and Senior Assistant City Attorney Bruce Soublet. Discussion ensued. The Council recommended that executed legal service agreements be published on the City of Richmond's website. A motion was made by Councilmember McLaughlin, seconded by Vice Mayor Johnson III, to adopt said resolution. A friendly amendment by Councilmember Martinez to post executed legal service agreements on the city's website was accepted. The motion adopted **Resolution No. 54-21** with the friendly amendment by the unanimous vote of the City Council. Staff agreed to send the Council a periodic report of executed legal services agreements under \$10,000.

**H-5. Continued to the May 25, 2021, City Council meeting** the matter to approve (1) a first amendment to add an additional \$350,000 to the legal services agreement with the law firm of Downey Brand LLP for services rendered from April 1, 2021, through June 30, 2025, to represent the City in litigation relating to the development at Point Molate litigation and (2) a fifth amendment to add an additional \$100,000 to the legal services agreement with the law firm of Downey Brand LLP for services rendered from April 1, 2021, through June 30, 2025, to provide

legal services in connection with the ongoing obligations under the agreements for development at the site.

**\*H-6.** Approved a one-year contract in the amount of \$82,200 with an additional two-year extension option of \$173,400 with Forster & Kroeger in an amount not to exceed \$255,600 for vegetation management services at Point Molate. The contract term for one year was from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022.

**\*H-7.** Approved the following for the Via Verdi landslide: adopted **Resolution No. 55-21** adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration; adopted **Resolution No. 56-21** authorizing the award of a construction contract to Bay Cities Paving & Grading, Inc. (7,406,521.86 including contingencies); approved a design contract amendment with Nichols Consulting Engineers (\$976,900); and approved a construction management contract amendment with mack5 (\$639, 634).

**\*H-8.** Received the Veolia Monthly Operating Report for the month of March 2021.

**\*H-9.** Adopted **Resolution No. 57-21** approving the emergency justification for the purchase of the gearbox and mechanical equipment required to repair the Number 2B Aerator at the Wastewater Treatment Plant in an amount not to exceed \$70,500.

**\*H-10.** Adopted **Resolution No. 58-21** accepting the 2020 Annual Progress Report for the City's Housing Element (2015-2023).

**\*H-11.** Adopted **Resolution No. 59-21** authorizing contracts with three firms (Anita L. Tucci-Smith; Cybertary.com; and Sherri D. Lewis) for on-call transcription services in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 per firm, over three years, with an option to extend the contracts for two years.

**\*H-12.** Adopted **Resolution No. 60-21** authorizing an application for State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program (AHSC) funds for the Metrowalk Phase 2 Housing Project and designating the city manager or designee to execute the necessary agreements with HCD and Bay Area Rapid Transit to complete the project components, if grant funds were awarded.

**\*H-13.** Adopted **Resolution No. 61-21** authorizing submittal of the City of Richmond's Measure J 2018 & 2019 "Growth Management Program Compliance Checklist" to Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) to receive allocation of Fiscal Year 2019-20 & 2020-21 Local Street Maintenance and Improvement Funds.

**\*H-14.** Approved Amendment No. 3 to the contract with Waxie Sanitary Supply to increase the number of smart trash and recycling receptacles and provide necessary services for current stations, increasing the amount of the contract by \$303,275 for a total contract amount of \$900,000 and extended the contract term to June 30, 2022.

**\*H-15.** Adopted **Ordinance No. 8-21 N.S.** (second reading) repealing Chapter 12.62 "One-Percent for Public Art on Private Projects Program" and Resolution 70-97 "Establishing Public Works Improvements Arts Program" and adding Chapter 6.50 entitled "Public Art Program" to the Richmond Municipal Code and adopted **Ordinance No. 9-21 N.S.** (second reading) amending Chapter 3.59 of the Richmond Municipal Code entitled "Arts and Culture Commission".

**\*H-16.** Approved Amendment No. 3 to the Chevron Environmental and Community Investment Agreement (ECIA) to provide administrative updates and allow the City to use \$400,000 in funds from the competitive grant category to help offset City general fund obligations to specific community-based organizations.

**\*H-17.** Received the City's Investment and Cash Balance Report for the month of March 2021.

**H-18.** The matter to approve amendments to the contracts with Municipal Resources Group, LLC and with Regional Government Services each in the amount of \$20,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$30,000, was combined with item H-19.

**H-19.** The matter to approve a contract with Regional Government Services (RGS) to provide expertise on an as-needed basis in a variety of functional areas such as Human Resources and Accounting in an amount not to exceed \$250,000, was introduced in combination with item H-18 by Interim Deputy City Manager Internal Services/Human Resources Director Anil Comelo. Discussion ensued. Mr. Comelo clarified that the one-year term of the contract for item H-19 should have been changed to a three-year term ending on June 30, 2024. The Council recommended a contract services evaluation in one year. The Council requested a report of the total number of employees and the number of employees on leave of absence. Sean Staulbaum gave comments via teleconference. On motion of Councilmember Bates, seconded by Councilmember Jimenez, approved said contracts for item H-18 and approved the contract for item H-19 for a three-year term to June 30, 2024, for an amount not to exceed \$250,000, by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

**\*H-20.** Approved the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Recreation, Community Services Department Mini-Grant (CSD Mini-Grant) program guidelines, application, and award letter agreement; and authorized the city manager or designee to administer grant award agreements and disburse \$50,000 in grant-funds upon selection of recipients.

**\*H-21.** Approved an amendment to the contract with the Oakland Private Industry Council to provide additional services as the Contracting & Vendor Pay Agent for Individual Training Accounts and On-the-Job Training activities for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program participants. The contract term will be extended through June 30, 2022. The contract amount was increased by \$130,489 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$477,848.

**\*H-22.** Accepted and appropriated an \$855,380 grant award from the California Energy Commission (CEC) and in-kind match contributions to administer the grant in accordance with the funding agreement; and approved grant-funded contracts with the subcontractors identified within the grant to implement the programs.

**\*H-23.** Approved the minutes of the April 6 and 20, 2021, Regular City Council.

**\*H-24.** Proclamation declaring May 16 - 23, 2021, as Public Works Week in the City of Richmond.

**H-25.** The matter to extend the term of the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force to September 30, 2021, was removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion. Discussion ensued. The following individuals gave comments via teleconference: Emily Ross, Tarnel Abbott, Mark Wassberg, Luis Chacon, Randy Joseph, Marisol Cantu, Steve Bischoff, Leisa Johnson, Bhavin Khatri, Shawn Dunning, Ross Harris, and Ozmar Huerta. A motion was made by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember McLaughlin, to extend the term of the task force as recommended. Further discussion ensued. The Council recommended the use of “accommodations and compromise” to resolve the division caused by this matter. The Council suggested using American Rescue Plan Act funds to set up a pilot program for mental health professionals to assist the Police Department with mental health crises. The motion extended the RPSC Task Force’s term to September 30, 2021, by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Jimenez, Martinez, McLaughlin, Willis, and Vice Mayor Johnson III. **Noes:** Councilmember Bates and Mayor Butt. **Absent:** None. **Abstained:** None.

#### **COUNCIL AS A WHOLE**

**I-1.** The matter to receive a report regarding the status and steps needed to establish new district boundaries within the City of Richmond and direct staff to engage with National Demographics Corporation (NDC) to commence with the redistricting process to provide map options for City Council consideration, was introduced by City Clerk Pamela Christian who gave an oral report. Discussion ensued. On motion of Vice Mayor Johnson III, seconded by Councilmember McLaughlin, accepted the staff recommendation to engage with NDC and not establish a redistricting committee by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

**I-2.** The matter to receive a presentation and provide feedback on how Richmond should spend its \$27.7 million American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation was presented by Interim Library and Community Services Director LaShonda White. Mrs. White presented a Powerpoint that highlighted the following: ARPA \$1.9 Trillion relief package; Richmond’s ARPA allocation; uses of funds; stakeholder recommendations; Government Finance Officers Association guiding principles; and next steps. Discussion ensued. The Council requested staff to prioritize aligning potential expenditures with allowable funds usage categories and develop a strategy to spend the funds in an equitable manner. The following individuals gave comments via teleconference: Tarnel Abbott, Mark Wassberg, Katrinka Ruk, Steve Bischoff, Leisa Johnson, Alicia Gallo, and Valerie Jameson. Further discussion ensued. The Council requested or recommended the following: an analysis of the actual expenditures

for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds; criteria that met the needs of the most impacted in the community; how the City of Richmond was planning to coordinate with other agencies to not duplicate efforts; hire a grant writer; focus on seeking more community input; make an allocation for a housing preservation fund; implement trash “dump days” in impacted areas and encampments; provide an estimation of the actual funds available after debt close out assumptions; update the city-wide broadband infrastructure and provide free internet access and computers to community members; the usage of funds should include a strong emphasis from community input and staff recommendations; improve Veolia wastewater collection system and treatment plant; improve libraries, and the Booker T. Anderson and Martin Luther King Jr. community centers; invest in the Richmond Memorial Auditorium sound system; implement traffic calming infrastructure; invest in heating and ventilation improvements at community centers and city buildings, and in Smart Cities infrastructure; increase youth activities; and invest in parks and recreation.

**I-3.** The matter to direct staff from the Planning Division to work with the Homeless Task Force on various proposals (which will eventually be reviewed by the Ad Hoc Committee) to assist our unhoused community was moved to the Consent Calendar for approval. On motion of Vice Mayor Johnson III, seconded by Councilmember Willis, approved said direction by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

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

Vice Mayor Johnson III wished the community a happy Malcolm X Day, in honor of his 96<sup>th</sup> birthday, celebrated on May 21, 2021.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:16 p.m., in the spirit and honor of el-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz’s and the citizens of Columbia’s fight for complete and unmitigated freedom, to meet again on Tuesday, May 25, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

---

Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

---

Mayor

**From:** [Amanda Le Gaux](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept](#)  
**Subject:** 1) public comments – Open Session prior to Closed Session  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 12:57:52 PM

---

- Good afternoon, my name is \_\_\_\_\_Amanda Aparicio LeGaux\_\_\_\_\_
- I'm a \_\_\_\_\_Parking Enforcement Rep\_\_\_\_\_ for the City of Richmond  
I help our community grow / thrive / stay safe by \_\_Clearing Vehicle Blight from the Public Road  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I've been with the City for \_\_over 10 years\_\_\_\_\_ and I am a proud member of SEIU Local 1021, representing more than 200 City workers
- I'm here today to call on City Council to make City workers whole  
My co-workers and I work hard to give the people of Richmond the services they deserve
  - As union members and members of our community, we've sacrificed to help Richmond improve its financial situation
  - We worked hard to get Richmond a Real Estate Transfer Tax, and to pass Measure U
  - Richmond is in better financial shape than it has been in in years, with a large reserve fund and money coming from the American Rescue Plan Act
- But City workers make the same wage we did in 2015
- Over the past 6 years, the cost of living in the Bay Area has gone up by more than nineteen percent
  - Our wages have fallen badly behind, and it's hard for us to provide for our families
  - It's also been hard for the City, because with low wages like these, it's harder to recruit and retain the kinds of workers the residents of Richmond deserve
- It's time to do the right thing: it's time for City Council to make City workers whole

In 2015, the average SEIU 1021 member here in Richmond made 66 thousand dollars a year

In 2021, the average SEIU 1021 member here in Richmond still makes 66 thousand dollars a year

- But that money doesn't go nearly as far as it did
- We've given back, with furloughs and cutbacks
- We've helped the City fix its finances and now it's time the City helped our finances by making us whole after all this time
- Furthermore, I am against losing 32 Richmond Police Officers, this will hurt the community. At this moment I am the only parking enforcement rep for the entire city and this nation's bandwagon of defunding the police has already caused grief for me out on the field, so much that I have had to call for assistance from my fellow officers more times than I have in my entire career. Now who am I supposed to have dispatch call when there won't be enough bodies to save me. NO ON Reimagining YES on BETTER WAGES FOR THE WORKERS OF RICHMOND.
- Thank you and good afternoon

**From:** [Kathey Phan](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept](#)  
**Subject:** 1) public comments – Open Session prior to Closed Session  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 1:18:00 PM

---

- Good afternoon, my name is \_Kathey Phan
- I'm a Police Records Specialist for the City of Richmond  
I help our community grow / thrive / stay safe by providing services to the residents of Richmond  
I've been with the City for over 6 years and I am a proud member of SEIU Local 1021, representing more than 200 City workers
- I'm here today to call on City Council to make City workers whole  
My co-workers and I work hard to give the people of Richmond the services they deserve
  - As union members and members of our community, we've sacrificed to help Richmond improve its financial situation
  - We worked hard to get Richmond a Real Estate Transfer Tax, and to pass Measure U
  - Richmond is in better financial shape than it has been in in years, with a large reserve fund and money coming from the American Rescue Plan Act
- But City workers make the same wage we did in 2015
- Over the past 6 years, the cost of living in the Bay Area has gone up by more than nineteen percent
  - Our wages have fallen badly behind, and it's hard for us to provide for our families
  - It's also been hard for the City, because with low wages like these, it's harder to recruit and retain the kinds of workers the residents of Richmond deserve
- It's time to do the right thing: it's time for City Council to make City workers whole

### Conclude:

- In 2015, the average SEIU 1021 member here in Richmond made 66 thousand dollars a year
- In 2021, the average SEIU 1021 member here in Richmond still makes 66 thousand dollars a year
  - But that money doesn't go nearly as far as it did
  - We've given back, with furloughs and cutbacks
  - We've helped the City fix its finances and now it's time the City helped our finances by making us whole after all this time
  - The law abiding residents of Richmond deserves more officers to keep and city streets and its residents safe. Defunding the PD will bring more crimes and violence to the city. More Officers=less crimes. Less Officers=More crimes.
  - Thank you and good afternoon

Respectfully,

*Kathey Phan*

Police Records Specialist  
Richmond Police Department  
1701 Regatta Blvd.  
Richmond, CA. 94804  
(510) 621-1801

**From:** [Kim Hernandez](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept](#)  
**Subject:** public comments – Open Session prior to Closed Session  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 1:20:30 PM

---

Good afternoon, my name is Kimberly Hernandez. I have been with the city of Richmond for 36yrs and I am a member of 1021. I am here today to let you know me and my co-workers work hard to give the people of Richmond the services they deserve. I am a non-sworn in the police dept I have not had a raise in the past 10years , the last raise we received was to bring us back up from the 9 percent that was given up years prior, you may have forgotten that But we have not and many of the city workers that were here then have since left so not to many of us remain but we remember. Over the last 6yrs the cost of living has gone up 19percent. It is time to do the right thing and give us What is due I am sure all of you have gotten a raise in the last 10years you are no better than us. ALSO AS A COUNCIL YOU NEED TO DEFEND THE POLICE DO NOT DEFUND DO NOT BE THAT VIC THAT THE POLICE CAN NOT COME TO CAUSE SOMEONE ELSE'S INCIDENT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOURS STOP BOWING DOWN TO SOCIETY CRIES AND STANDUP FOR THE LAWS THE CITIZENS OF CALIFORNIA VOTED ON !!!!!!!

**From:** [ALEX MORTAZAVI](#)  
**To:** [Tom Butt - external](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Demnlus Johnson](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#); [Nat Bates](#); [City Clerk Dept](#); [Teresa Stricker](#); [Lina Velasco](#)  
**Subject:** OBJECTION - To Proposed General Plan Amendment - Richmond Initiative  
**Date:** Friday, May 14, 2021 11:13:36 PM

---

**Dear, Honorable Mayor Tom Butt, Council member Claudia Jimenez, Council member Eduardo Martinez, Council member Demnlus Johnson III, Council member Gayle McLaughlin, Council member Melvin Willis, Council member Bates Nathaniel, City clerk Pamela Christian, City Attorney Teresa Stricker and Planning Community Development Director Lina Velasco**

We like to have our objections on the records and for your consideration to reject the proposed amendments for following reasons :

### **The City's Proposed General Plan Amendment Violates SB 330**

1. SB 330 applies because this is an amendment to the Land Use Element to change it from what it provided as of January 1, 2018.
2. SB 330 prohibits downzoning, but provides an exception if simultaneous upzoning to accommodate at least as many units as are lost is also adopted.
3. The upzoning set out in the resolution is not real upzoning, it's just a paper exercise to pretend the City is upzoning. **No actual change in the zoning is being proposed.**
  - There is no increase in the allowable density under the General Plan of the parcels the City says it is upzoning.
    - The increases in density occurs only in the zoning, but the General Plan controls over an inconsistent zoning.
    - City would add language to GP stating that the “[t]he higher density represents the maximum number of allowable units, except in cases of density transfers, development rights and credits transfers, or when density increases are adopted in order to comply with Government Code section 66300 et seq in order to effectuate a voter initiative,” but that is insufficient to indicate whether a particular location can exceed the otherwise maximum density in the land use table. People generally look at the land use table to determine the maximum permitted density.
  - Although the City increases the maximum density permitted in the CM-4 and CM-5 zoning, there is no corresponding increase to height limits or setbacks in the zoning, suggesting that the maximum density may not actually be feasible. No indication that the City has done any test fits.
4. City illegally amends its Housing Element

- Many of the parcels the City relies on to replace the capacity of the vacant residentially zoned parcels area already developed with commercial uses, including parking lots. No indication that these parcels are likely to be redeveloped with residential uses during this housing cycle. (See Gov't Code § 65583.2(g)(1), (2)).
- City's Housing Element would be revised to have insufficient land to meet its above-moderate housing allocation.

5. New definition of FAR in the General Plan decreases intensity throughout the City for mix-used projects.

- General Plan amendment redefines FAR as “the area of all floors, regardless of composition including soil, **under roof in or connected to buildings, including porches, decks, carports, and attic floors** to the extent that the height of the ceiling is five feet or more above the floor.”
- Existing definition of FAR: “The numerical value obtained by dividing the **gross floor area of all buildings** on a premise by the total area of the premises on which the buildings are located.”
- General Plan definition will override the FAR definition in the Zoning Code, which excludes uninhabitable spaces, porches, decks, carports, etc. (§ 15.04.103.090.)
- **General Plan amendment thus decreases allowable FAR throughout the City with no compensating upzoning.**

### **The City's Proposed General Plan Amendment Violates CEQA**

1. The City-initiated General Plan Amendment is not an initiative and cannot avoid CEQA compliance by pointing out that the Richmond Hills Initiative (RHI) made some changes before. The RHI did not make the changes before the City Council now. If it had, there would be no need for the amendment before the Council so any reliance on the CEQA exemption for initiatives is worthless.
2. This is a general plan and zoning code amendment and it is a “project” for CEQA purposes.
3. If the city wants to claim it is making substantive upzoning decision to increase density beyond what was allowed before, it cannot avoid CEQA. If it claims that this alleged upzoning is categorically exempt that just makes the point that it is not a real upzoning. A real upzoning would require real environmental review pursuant to CEQA.
4. Material increase in density to allow for homes not previously permitted has both direct and indirect environmental impacts on multiple issues including traffic, utilities, aesthetics, schools, natural resources, not to mention the fact that it is

being finessed in such a way as to create potential internal inconsistencies in the existing zoning and general plan as noted above.

**Thank you,**

*Habitat*  
851 Burlway Rd., Suite 710  
Burlingame, Ca. 94010  
Tel. (650)-579-4994  
Fax. (650)-579-2646  
Email: [Habitat8@pacbell.net](mailto:Habitat8@pacbell.net)

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE:**

---

***This email transmission contains information from HABITAT and this information is CONFIDENTIAL AND/OR LEGALLY PRIVILEGED. This information is intended only for the use of the intended recipient, who is the specific individual or entity to which this email message was sent. If you are not the intended recipient, this email transmission is not for you. You are not to read or review this transmission. Furthermore, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or use of the contents of this email transmission is strictly prohibited and be may unlawful. If you are not the intended recipient of this email message, please call HABITAT at (650) 579-4994 to let us know of your having received this email transmission. Thank you.***

**From:** [Cordell Hindler](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comments- Open Forum  
**Date:** Thursday, May 13, 2021 3:13:50 PM

---

good Evening, Mayor Butt, Council Members and City Staff, I have a Couple of comments for the Record.

1. I Have spoken with other cities in west county, and they do have Standing Committees that discuss budget related items
2. I am glad that Council Member McLaughlin understands on why these positions is critical

Sincerely  
Cordell

**From:** [Savitri Khalsa](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept](#); [Tom Butt - external](#); [Nat Bates](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#); [Demnlus Johnson](#); [Laura Snideman](#); [Teresa Stricker](#); [Bisa French](#)  
**Subject:** public comments – Open Forum  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 10:40:48 AM

---

May 18, 2021

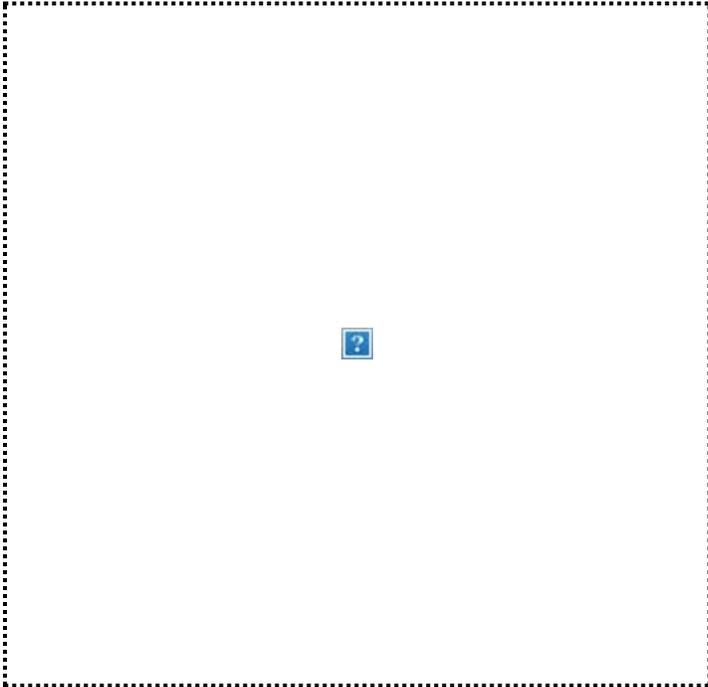
Dear Richmond City Mayor, City Councillors, City Manager, City Attorney, and City Staff,

My family and I live in Richmond and DO NOT support the proposed *Reimagining Public Safety Task Force* recommendations for the city of Richmond. Please fully fund our police force.

Please be very deliberate in your decisions for the city's police force funding as the 2021-2022 budget is prepared.

**OAKLAND IS FUNDING ITS POLICE DEPARTMENT** Did you see this past week, that [Oakland](#) chose to **increase funding** for it's police department? When surveyed 78% of Oakland residents said that they want at least current levels if not more police in their city.  
(Link here: <https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2021/05/11/oakland-mayors-proposed-budget-increases-police-spending/>)

**GATHER CITYWIDE INPUT** Will the city of Richmond survey the entire city of Richmond to find out what the majority of Richmond residents would like for this basic city service? It is not responsible city leadership to have a small group of 21 individuals (the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force) make budget recommendations that are not supported by Richmond residents citywide.



**DO NOT BE FOOLED BY MISLEADING DATA** The *Reimagining Public Safety Task Force* uses per capita SPENDING, not the NUMBER of officers. When you put Richmond into the [defundpolice.org](https://defundpolice.org) budget tool <https://defundpolice.org/budgeting-tools/> It shows how understaffed the Richmond Police Department is currently compared with other departments.

The police department size calculator narrative from [defundpolice.org](https://defundpolice.org) says: The City of Richmond Police Department has 63% the officers per capita as the state average, 63% the officers per capita as the national average, and 86% the officer per capita of its peers in population across the country. To match state, national, and peer department sizes

Richmond Police Department should have between 189 and 257 total officers.

The city needs to add to its force by 26 officers to be at the minimum of this range or add to its force by 94 officers to be at the maximum of this range.

**PLEASE LISTEN TO RICHMOND RESIDENTS** I've spoken with my district councilor, to no avail. It seems many of the city councilors are pushing agendas for your own personal career and idealism. This behavior does not govern this city. You must actually represent the residents of the entire population of the city.

In closing, please work with our very able City Manager and City Staff.

Thank you for your consideration.

Savitri Khalsa

--

Savitri Kaur Khalsa

**From:** [Jim Hanson](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comments - Agenda Item #H-5  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 12:59:35 PM

---

Dear Members of the Council,

Again Downey Brand appears before Council for funneling of money from SunCal developers, now running in the millions, but why? I've seen no evidence they are able to represent our City's interests on Pt. Molate.

The indications are that his firm acts primarily as an agent of the SunCal developers. During Design Review Board, Planning Commission's brief hearings on Pt. Molate, I repeatedly questioned the maps that were to show the promised 70% open space from any development at Pt. Molate. I recall that there was nothing from the Downey Brand representative about correcting the transparency flaws in the Pt. Molate EIR.

SunCal's first plan showed Stenmark Drive as open space. The second SunCal plan shows a new parking lot in a current wetland meadow at Pt. Molate, as well as what would be left over in steeply-graded cuts into the hills there, *as public open space*. I recall that when asked, the Downey Brand representative was of no help in advising these advisory bodies of their and the City's responsibility to clearly define project impacts to the land and biological resources of Pt. Molate. If a firm advises a City and developer to stick to a transparent EIR, the chance of having legal challenges is remote. You don't have that now.

Pt. Molate remains contentious and this firm is not helping. We need legal representation that helps to resolve the continued issues on the development of Pt. Molate for the City's and the public's benefit. I ask the Council to find a new and more beneficial approach to both development and long term public benefits to City, and a firm capable to better representing the the City's and public's interests in this regard.

Thank you,

Jim Hanson

Richmond resident  
Past Chair and Member, Pt. Molate Community Advisory Committee

**From:** [Cordell Hindler](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comments 1-2 Council as a whole  
**Date:** Thursday, May 13, 2021 3:17:50 PM

---

good Evening Mayor Butt, City Council and City staff, I have a couple of suggestions on how the money should be spent:

1. bringing back the Redevelopment Agency
2. also to do a class and comp study

Sincerely  
Cordell

**From:** [Katrinka Ruk](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Dept](#); [Tom Butt - external](#); [Demnlus Johnson](#); [Nat Bates](#); [claudia jimenez](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#); [Laura Snideman](#)  
**Subject:** public comments agenda item #\_I-2  
**Date:** Monday, May 17, 2021 6:19:12 PM  
**Attachments:** [05.17.21 #I-2 ARPA FundRecs.docx](#)

---



**COUNCIL OF INDUSTRIES**

**P.O. BOX 70088, PT. RICHMOND, CA 94807**

**(510)215-9325**

**501(C)(6) FED ID# 94-0672760**

May 17, 2021

**//email//**

**To: City Council, City Manager, City Clerk**

**Re: Public Comment / Item #I-2 Feedback on \$27.7M  
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Allocation.**

**On behalf of the Council of Business and Industries (COI) we are submitting these comments for your review. The Agenda Report indicated outreach was conducted through various forms to the community, however, as no outreach was made to the COI businesses, we would like to submit the following recommendations derived from a survey conducted with the business community.**

**Business respondents recommended that the City consider allocation of funds to the following:**

**1. Fill open positions in the police department.**

**2. Direct funding to street paving.**

**3. Make necessary investments in water/sewer infrastructure**

**4. Increase capacity of planning and building departments**

**5. Provide funding assistance to impacted households.**

**6. Provide funding assistance to impacted businesses.**

**7. Improve broadband infrastructure.**

**8. Incentives to help small businesses reopen or new businesses to open.**

**9. Funding to assist with the homeless programs.**

**10. Increase trash removal of illegal dumping.**

**Thank you for your consideration.**

**Katrinka Ruk**

**Executive Director**

Katrinka Ruk

Executive Director  
Council of Business & Industries  
510)260-4820 cell  
<http://www.councilofindustries.com>

This transmission may contain information that is privileged, confidential, proprietary, and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or use of the information contained herein (including any reliance thereon) is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. If you received this transmission in error, please contact the sender and delete the material from any computer immediately. Thank you.