

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, June 1, 2021

The Richmond City Council Evening Open Session was called to order at 5:30 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/KCRTTV>.

*The methods to submit public comment were via mail, email to cityclerkdept@ci.richmond.ca.us, teleconference, and telephone during the meeting. Written comments received by 1:00 p.m. on June 1, 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 Nathaniel Bates, Eduardo Martinez, Gayle McLaughlin, Vice Mayor Demnlus Johnson III, and Mayor Thomas K. Butt. **Absent:** Councilmembers Claudia Jimenez and Melvin Willis arrived after the roll was called.

CITY COUNCIL

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS
(Government Code Section 54957.6):

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

PUBLIC COMMENT BEFORE CLOSED SESSION

There were no public speakers via teleconference.

The Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 5:32 p.m.
Closed Session adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Mayor Butt via teleconference.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Bates, Jimenez, Martinez, McLaughlin, Willis, Vice Mayor Johnson III, and Mayor Butt.
Absent: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEO

The Public Comment Instructional Video was shown.

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Teresa Stricker announced her recusal from item J-1 because her formal law partner was mentioned in the staff report. Ms. Stricker advised that Senior Assistant City Attorney James Atencio was acting on her behalf for Item J-1.

AGENDA REVIEW

Item J-3 was moved for discussion immediately following the Consent Calendar. Item H-6 was removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion at the end of the agenda.

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 made the following announcements: The Hacienda affordable housing development was officially moving forward. The City of Richmond was hosting a community budget meeting scheduled on June 3, 2021. The City of Richmond and GRID Alternatives were hosting a virtual workshop scheduled on June 10, 2021, regarding no-cost solar energy.

Community Development Director Lina Velasco presented a Powerpoint that highlighted the Rydin/Castro Safe Parking Program update and next steps. Discussion ensued. The council requested the following: Staff to send the Powerpoint presentation to the full council; support for the unhoused community members with pets; and the percentage of Richmond residents that were occupying the Rydin Road and Castro Street sites.

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals gave the following comments via teleconference:

Mark Wassberg gave comments regarding former Richmond Police Captain Mark Gagan. Mr. Wassberg announced that the Fourth Street Market in Richmond was shut down. Mr.

Wassberg expressed concerns regarding the proposed services for unhoused individuals in Richmond.

Judy Weatherly gave comments regarding a distressed family living in the Civic Center neighborhood and the conditions in that area. Ms. Weatherly urged the council to seek community feedback for its community decisions such as safe parking sites.

John Halfacre gave comments in support of affordable housing for seniors. Mr. Halfacre inquired about low-income housing programs in Richmond for veterans and disabled individuals.

Alix Mazuet thanked the City of Richmond for the services that it was providing to the unhoused community in Richmond.

Luis Padilla gave comments in honor of Memorial Day and Richmond's key role during the 1940s wartime era. Mr. Padilla announced that the Richmond Fire Department had eight veterans. Mr. Padilla requested the City of Richmond to compensate its reserve veterans and not penalize them by taking away their recruit time.

Tarnel Abbott thanked Councilmembers McLaughlin, Martinez, and Willis for their letter to the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) regarding the Richmond AstraZeneca site. Ms. Abbott advised that the DTSC extended the public comment period to June 15, 2021. Ms. Abbott announced that the virtual DTSC public meeting was scheduled for June 3, 2021. Ms. Abbott urged the community to request DTSC to extend the public comment period to August 2, 2021.

Victoria Kahlan expressed concerns regarding fireworks and fire safety in Richmond. Ms. Kahlan reported that there was an event held over the Memorial Day weekend located at 15th Street and Macdonald Avenue that may not have been permitted. Ms. Kahlan questioned if Councilmember Willis attended the event.

Naomi Williams gave comments in support of increasing City of Richmond staff. Ms. Williams announced that the Richmond Juneteenth celebration was scheduled on June 19, 2021, and encouraged the community to participate in the parade.

Shawn Dunning gave comments in support of more community services. Mr. Dunning expressed concerns that decreasing the Police Department's budget would increase crime.

Leisa Johnson expressed concerns regarding the encampments of unhoused individuals, vehicle dwellers, and illegal dumping throughout Richmond. Ms. Johnson recommended Richmond police officers cite the vehicles and notify the Code Enforcement Division. Ms. Johnson reported significant illegal dumping at Hoffman Boulevard and South 1st Street in Richmond.

Randy Joseph expressed concerns regarding the upcoming expiration of the Richmond moratorium on tenant evictions. Mr. Joseph requested a plan to keep tenants housed.

Yenny Garcia encouraged the community to work together to improve Richmond.

Nancy Burke expressed concerns regarding nightly fireworks and fire danger in the May Valley Neighborhood. Ms. Burke requested help to resolve the issue.

Michelle Marshall expressed concerns regarding the visual appearance of the Richmond Hilltop district. Ms. Marshall requested for her quality of life to equal the taxes and assessments she paid. Ms. Marshall advised that the Hilltop district's infrastructure, landscape, and lighting needed improvements.

Cesar Zepeda announced the celebrations held on June 1, 2021, in honor of Richmond Rainbow Pride and Juneteenth. Mr. Zepeda invited the community to the Digital Pride Show scheduled on June 6, 2021, and to visit www.RichmondRainbowPride.org for more information.

Deborah Bayer expressed concerns regarding the responsible party in the prospective purchase agreement that the DTSC was expected to execute with Hilco Redevelopment Partners/Campus Bay LLC. Ms. Bayer recommended that the City of Richmond investigate this matter.

Melvin Willis clarified that he attended the event located at 15th Street and Macdonald Avenue on May 29, 2021, and that he was unaware that the event was not permitted until after the police arrived.

CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

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

***H-1.** Approved to amend standing purchase orders to increase additional funding to (1) Omega Pacific, (2) Azco Supply, and (3) JAM Services to provide street and traffic light poles, and related products on an as-needed basis to replace damaged street and traffic light poles throughout the City of Richmond in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 per vendor for the remaining of the five-year standing purchase order which expired on June 30, 2022.

***H-2.** Adopted **Resolution No. 62-21** authorizing participation by Villa Mira Vista Homeowners Association in the City of Richmond's private sewer lateral grant program, and award private sewer lateral grants to the developments in a manner that was consistent with the current grant program guidelines.

***H-3.** Approved a construction contract amendment and payment for the final change order for roof replacement at the City of Richmond's Corporation Yard in an amount not to exceed \$14,500 for a total construction contract amount of \$364,500.

***H-4.** Adopted **Resolution No. 63-21** authorizing the city manager to execute Amendment No. 6 to the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement of the West County Agency by and among the West County Wastewater District and the City of Richmond and Richmond Municipal Sewer District.

***H-5.** Adopted **Resolution No. 64-21** approving emergency justification contracts for the clean-up and decontamination of the Parr Canal and stormwater collection system with Patriot Environmental Services in an amount not to

exceed \$325,000 and for US Ecology (dba NRC Environmental) in an amount not to exceed \$90,000 for a total project amount not to exceed \$425,000.

H-6. Continued to the June 8, 2021, City Council meeting the matter to approve (1) a first amendment to add an additional \$500,000 to the legal services agreement with the law firm of Downey Brand LLP for services rendered from March 1, 2021, through June 30, 2025, to represent the City of Richmond in litigation relating to the development at Point Molate 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 through June 30, 2025, to provide legal services in connection with the ongoing obligations under the agreements for development at the site. The services provided under both legal services agreements were to be paid for by the developer pursuant to the City of Richmond's agreements with the developer.

***H-7.** Approved the minutes of the April 27 and May 4, 2021, regular meetings, and May 10 and 11, 2021, special meetings of the City Council.

***H-8.** Received the City of Richmond's Investment and Cash Balance Report for the month of April 2021.

***H-9.** Proclamation declaring June 2021 as Diversity Celebration Month in the City of Richmond.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

I-1. Continued to the June 8, 2021, City Council meeting the matter to adopt a resolution approving the Engineer's Report and ordering the levy and collection of assessments in the Hilltop Landscape Maintenance District for the Fiscal Year 2021-22 providing for a three percent increase in annual assessments.

I-2. Continued to the June 8, 2021, City Council meeting the matter to adopt a resolution approving the Engineer's Report and ordering the levy and collection of assessments in the Marina Bay Landscaping and Lighting Maintenance District for the Fiscal Year 2021-22, providing for a three percent increase in annual assessments.

COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

J-1. Continued to the June 8, 2021, City Council meeting the matter to direct the City of Richmond staff members to solicit feedback and engage in comprehensive community outreach to draft a city-wide community benefits policy to be completed by October 2021. Before the final presentation to City Council, allow the public and City Council to provide input during two City Council Study Sessions; and issue a Request for Qualifications for professional services consultants with experience developing community benefits agreements to be brought to City Council next month.

J-2. Continued to the June 8, 2021, City Council meeting the matter to provide a status update of the efforts to address the amount of vegetation growing on Cutting and Carlson Boulevards and other areas throughout the City of Richmond. Also, to provide a status update of the efforts to remove the

homeless individuals that occupied the front door of the Nevin Senior Citizen Center.

J-3. The matter to incorporate \$5.58 million into the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 budget to fund much needed programs and direct staff to continue working with the Reimagining Public Safety Community (RPSC) Task Force on various program options and more detailed implementation plans, returning to the City Council at a future date with any recommendations for program or funding modifications, was introduced by City Manager Laura Snideman. Interim Project Manager Jim Nantell, Director Library Community Services LaShonda White, Interim Fire Chief Michael Smith, and Community Development Director Lina Velasco presented a Powerpoint that highlighted the following: background; staff FY 2021-22 budget recommendations for YouthWORKS, Office of Neighborhood Safety, Community Crisis Response Team (CCRT), and homeless and unhoused intervention; and overall funding recommendation. Police Chief Bisa French presented the Richmond Police Department (RPD) impacts; strategy to achieve budget reduction; police staffing; community impacts; and recommendation. Discussion ensued. The following individuals gave comments via teleconference: Elsa Stevens, Jason Flaum, Janet S. Johnson, Randy Joseph, Judy Weatherly, Linda Delgado-Pelton, Mark Wassberg, Nancy Burke, Steve Bishoff, Helene Burks, Sara Cantor, Eli Moore, Tarnel Abbott, Floy Andrews, Jamie McBean, Leisa Johnson, Oscar Garcia, Luis Chacon, Naomi Williams, Alix Mazuet, Jan Mignone, Shiva Mishek, Emily Ross, Katrinka Ruk, Marisol Cantu, Shirley Leslie, Keri Contreras, Elliott Alomar, Jovanka Beckles, Lisa Cody, Sadie Egan, Graham Perrett, Michael Gliksohn, Shawn Dunning, Peggy Chow, David Sharples, Ross Harris, Marian Williams, Jane Courant, Luis Padilla, Everth Fuentes, Eddy Chacon, Raul Vasquez, Edith Pastrano, Marco Lemus, Daniel Tinajero, Flora (last name unknown), Ben Therriault, Corinna Espino, Monica Diaz, Thomas Phelps, Jordan King, Douglas Pelton, Roxana Benavides (Clara), Gary Kurt, and Quan Nguyen. *(At approximately 10:58 p.m., a motion made by Councilmember Jimenez, seconded by Councilmember Martinez, extended the meeting to 11:30 p.m. or until the discussion for item J-3 was finished by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmembers Bates, Jimenez, Martinez, McLaughlin, Willis, and Vice Mayor Johnson III. Noes: Mayor Butt. Abstained: None. Absent: None).* Further discussion ensued. The council requested staff to report back to the council with responses to the following two questions: (1) *Does the city staff have recommendations for how community-based support can be integrated with RPD?* (2) *How does RPD plan to improve how neighborhood "stewards" might help to sustain the management of our public infrastructure, when such consistent management is non-existent?* The council requested the following: An itemized RPD budget that determined the impacts that were highlighted in Mrs. French's presentation. Additional information on the City of Richmond's coordination with Contra Costa County's services. Staff to seek ongoing funding and resources for the proposed programs and provide a detailed budget that showed ongoing funding, specifically for the CCRT and homeless services proposal. Additional data for how an approximately \$10 million decrease to the RPD's budget translated to impacts to staffing and contract services. The council recommended the City of Richmond work harder to ensure that Contra Costa County spent more on homeless and mental health programs and that the City of Richmond received its fair share. The council also requested a detailed budget for how the

recommendations would be implemented. A motion was made by Councilmember McLaughlin directing staff to continue working with the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force and return to the council with a more detailed implementation plan; a detailed budget that provided ongoing funding for the CCRT (even if it was a placeholder) and ongoing funding for Safe Organized Spaces (SOS) (the ground plan for helping the unhoused); and how the RPD could fund those programs (whether it was freezing some vacant positions or some programs or contracts not moving forward). Councilmember McLaughlin's **restated shortened motion**, seconded by Councilmember Jimenez, directing staff to work with the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force; return to the council with an implementation plan and a detailed budget that included the CCRT and SOS to see how the RPD could fund the programs ongoing passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Jimenez, Martinez, McLaughlin, Willis, and Vice Mayor Johnson III. **Noes:** Councilmember Bates and Mayor Butt. **Abstained:** None. **Absent:** None.

(At approximately 12:53 a.m., a motion made by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember McLaughlin, to extend the meeting to discuss item H-6 failed by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmembers Jimenez, McLaughlin, Willis, and Mayor Butt. Noes: Councilmembers Bates, Martinez, and Vice Mayor Johnson III. Abstained: None. Absent: None).

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

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:56 a.m., to meet again on Tuesday, June 8, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor

From: [Cordell Hindler](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments- Open Forum
Date: Thursday, May 27, 2021 3:28:16 PM

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

1. My Projects are coming along exquisitely and I will keep the council informed on the Progress
2. Also I have a Future Agenda Request, Is to have a Rep from EBMUD to provide an update on the proposed sewer Rates

Sincerely
Cordell

From: [Cordell Hindler](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments - J-1 Council as a whole
Date: Sunday, May 30, 2021 3:39:34 PM

good Evening Mayor Butt, Council members and City Staff, I have come up with a Consultant that Specializes in Community Benefits Agreement

HTA Consulting in Berkeley

I hope that the Council and Staff look into having HTA Consulting at the Table

here is the contact

510-559-3193

Sincerely
Cordell

From: [Nicole Goehring](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public comments - Agenda Item #J-1
Date: Tuesday, June 01, 2021 10:03:37 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Mayor Butt and Richmond City Council:

ABC NorCal represents nearly 500 companies, both large and small, across Northern California and in Contra Costa County who employ essential workers. We are the working construction professionals in your community, building your community on time, on budget and safely for over 45 years. ABC NorCal is committed to helping people earn, learn and build construction careers in their communities. In addition to providing work opportunities in the industry, we ensure folks are trained, safe and delivering the highest quality product possible.

ABC NorCal is a provider of state and federally approved apprenticeship programs in carpentry, construction craft laborer, electrical, painting and plumbing that connects students, women, those in underserved communities, reentering citizens, and veterans, among many others with rewarding careers in construction.

We respectfully request you include us in the stakeholder process for the development of the Community Benefits Agreement.

Thank you.

Nicole Goehring

V.P. Government and Community Affairs

ABC NorCal

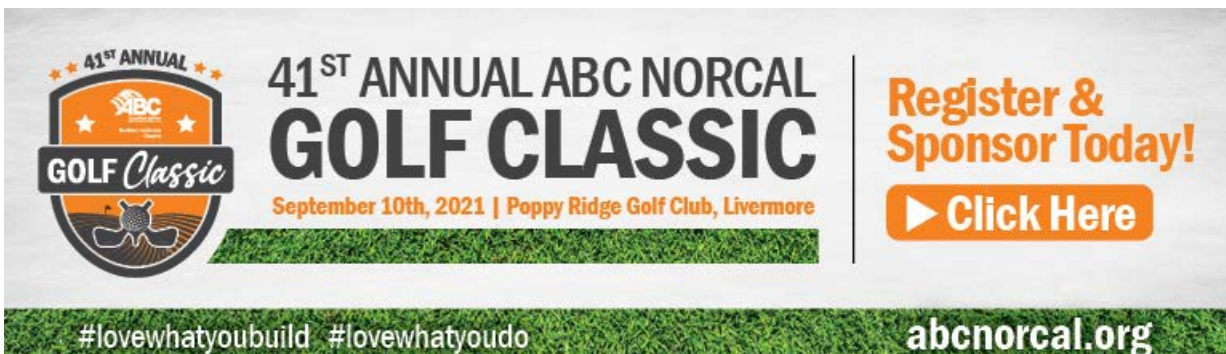
4577 Las Positas Road, Unit C, Livermore, CA 94551

nicole@abcnorcal.org | (c) 209.482.1697 | (p) 925.960.8513 | (f) 925.474.1310

abcnorcal.org

Founded on the merit shop philosophy, ABC helps members develop people, win work and deliver that work safely, ethically, profitably and for the betterment of the communities in which ABC and its members work

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The banner features a logo on the left with a golf ball and the text "41ST ANNUAL ABC NORCAL GOLF CLASSIC". To the right, it says "41ST ANNUAL ABC NORCAL GOLF CLASSIC" in large bold letters, followed by "September 10th, 2021 | Poppy Ridge Golf Club, Livermore". On the far right, there is a call to action: "Register & Sponsor Today!" with a "Click Here" button. At the bottom, the hashtags "#lovewhatyoubuild #lovewhatyoudo" and the website "abcnorcal.org" are displayed.

From: [Andrea Mullarkey](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Support for item J-3
Date: Monday, May 31, 2021 10:04:37 PM

The work of the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force has been extraordinary. As a Richmond resident and homeowner I whole-heartedly support the direction of funds toward the kinds of work that build true public safety. Mental health services, jobs programs for youth, outreach to our unhoused neighbors, literacy and library services are all the kinds of things that build long-term stability for individuals and our whole community. And they are incredibly cost-effective ways to do so. Allocating resources to good, union jobs in these parts of our budget is far more cost-effective than asking sworn police officers to do this same work.

The City Manager must work the community task force which has deep knowledge and expertise in these areas to build implementation plans. Please direct her to do so and use whatever tools you have at your disposal to ensure that these programs are fully funded and implemented for the benefit of our whole community.

Andrea Mullarkey

From: [Annie Pennell](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Cc: [Claudia Jimenez](#)
Subject: Public Comments Agenda Item # J-3
Date: Tuesday, June 01, 2021 12:59:33 PM

I am a resident of Richmond and strongly support the adoption of the Reimagine Public Safety Community Task Force's proposals. We must invest in creating a safer city for all, rather than masking crime and violence through police response *after* the harm has been done. We didn't respond to the Covid-19 pandemic by building more morgues or relying on increasing the ventilator supply to stem the spread of the virus--we stayed home when possible, wore masks, and focused efforts on community vaccination so that we could *prevent* as many folks as possible from being put on a ventilator and dying.

We must approach public safety in the same way we have handled the Covid pandemic. We have an opportunity now to change this city, to invest in our citizens and our youth, so that we don't need as many police. I am not concerned about 35 police officers losing their jobs when it means even more jobs than that will be created for others, in many cases changing the trajectory of lives away from being criminalized and institutionalized. When the many matters that don't need to be handled by the police are addressed by professionals who *are* trained for those situations, the police are freed up to attend to real police matters.

I am upset by the racialized fear-mongering that Mayor Butt uses his platform to spread and it is my hope that the other stewards of our city can rise above that and service its residents.

Thank you,
Annie Pennell
Resident, Richmond, District 6

From: [Carmen D. Melendez](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public comment on Item J-3
Date: Tuesday, June 01, 2021 12:17:06 PM

Many people fret over “defunding police” as a malicious conspiracy by which suddenly some mysterious floodgates will open and the criminals will be released like locusts onto the population.

The truth is that we have been foisting millions on the policing/carceral system for decades and crime big and small is still plaguing many of our communities. Instead of throwing money at the problem in the same ways, why not work smarter and try to address the root of the violence, mental illness and socioeconomic problems that cause crime?

I want to know that my taxpayer money is being spent in a smart and humane way that actually can make a difference. The definition of insanity is doing the same over and over and expect a different result. Enough.

Carmen D. Meléndez-Lugo
Pitipua62@gmail.com

From: [Christa Edwards](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item # J-3
Date: Tuesday, June 01, 2021 11:56:21 AM

Dear Richmond City Council Members,

Please allocate additional funding to the Reimagine Richmond proposal! We need greater investment in early childhood education, mental health services, and strong community supports to allow Richmond residents to feel safe and supported at all levels of income, all health statuses, all genders, all races, and all neurological makeups.

It is going to take investment and commitment to create a safer Richmond and to decrease our reliance on police and incarceration as our solutions to the myriad issues humans face here in our city. Please make that investment and commitment and we will follow up in our neighborhoods to do our best to support our neighbors as well!

Thank you very much for your time and consideration,
Christa Edwards

From: [Christine Evelyn Volker](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments Agenda Item #J-3
Date: Tuesday, June 01, 2021 11:56:09 AM

Dear Mayor Butt and City Council,

I urge you to VOTE AGAINST defunding the police by means of the proposed \$5.58 million coming out of the police department budget for FY 2021-2022.

What is proposed is a large experiment that will slash the number of police in a city with relatively high crime rates, and will have the immediate effect of diminishing the public's safety. I don't know how you can take this severe an action with a clear conscience.

Further, slashing the number of police positions encourages the most experienced cops to find jobs in other cities, and avoid the alternative of remaining so as to be increasingly overworked by necessary overtime, and in a city, frankly, that appears to not appreciate them putting themselves on the line every day by cutting their budget into the bone. These departures ensure the diminishing quality of the department.

Contrary to what some may believe, it is difficult to predict when a person will turn violent. So instead of "saving" one paid position, when a mental health staffer (replacing the position of a cop) goes to "talk down" someone with mental illness/issues, the "reimagining" will end up doubling the expenses for each episode since the staffer will need police protection.

This is not to say that the proposed programs do not have merit. They do. What I support would be finding funds through other means to start up/increase these programs, or commence "reimagining" with a markedly smaller budget, with strict performance criteria, and in a year measure the efforts to see how successful they have been, and if more funds are merited. We do ask the police to perform too many functions, but we need a smoother way to delegate some of them, and with more community input.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christine Volker

From: [CINDY VALENTINE](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Fwd: defunding police Agenda Item #3
Date: Tuesday, June 01, 2021 2:09:37 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: CINDY VALENTINE <cvtoyou@aol.com>
Date: June 1, 2021 at 2:07:40 PM PDT
To: cityclerkdept@ci.richmond.ca.us
Subject: **defunding police**

I ABSOLUTELY OPPOSE diminishing funding of police. More social programs would be great but cutting back on much needed police is not an acceptable trade-off.
Cindy Valentine
Tax Paying Citizen of Richmond

Sent from my iPhone

From: [David Creighton](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item # J-3
Date: Tuesday, June 01, 2021 3:01:34 PM

I am opposed to the diversion of funds from the Police Department. I support more funding for positive community program but the police department budget is not the appropriate place to take funds from.

David Creighton

From: [Doreen Leighton](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Cc: reimaginerichmond510@gmail.com
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item #J3
Date: Tuesday, June 01, 2021 11:31:36 AM

As physician at San Quentin, I am all too aware of the sad and expensive results of trying to "arrest our way to safety."

I strongly support modifying the public safety budget to include appropriate response to mental health crises, and creating real opportunities for disadvantaged youth.

This will create a safer, happier community for all of us, including the police.

From: [Doug Smith](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Cc: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Nat Bates](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Trina Jackson](#); [Melvin Willis](#); [Demnlus Johnson](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Ellen Pechman](#)
Subject: Fw: Supporting our Police and a health and safety emergency force
Date: Tuesday, June 01, 2021 1:39:31 PM

Honorable Richmond City Council Members,

As a citizen of Richmond, I fully endorse this email from citizen Ellen Pechman. As citizens we are all responsible for creating new possibilities as we build a better today.

Let us support and adequately fund

1. our police force and
2. a health and safety emergency force, trained and prepared to address calls from our neighbors who are seeking mental health, emergency, and housing assistance.

These two goals are not mutually exclusive.

Respectfully,

Douglas B. Smith, Ph.D.

Marina Bay

Richmond, CA

From: Ellen Pechman <ellenpechman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 1:05 PM
To: cityclerkdept@ci.richmond.ca.us <cityclerkdept@ci.richmond.ca.us>
Cc: natbates@comcast.net <natbates@comcast.net>; eduardo_martinez@ci.richmond.ca.us <eduardo_martinez@ci.richmond.ca.us>; Gayle_McLaughlin@ci.richmond.ca.us <Gayle_McLaughlin@ci.richmond.ca.us>; trina_jackson@ci.richmond.ca.us <trina_jackson@ci.richmond.ca.us>; melvin_willis@ci.richmond.ca.us <melvin_willis@ci.richmond.ca.us>; demnlus_johnson@ci.richmond.ca.us <demnlus_johnson@ci.richmond.ca.us>; Claudia Jimenez <Claudia_Jimenez@ci.richmond.ca.us>
Subject: This is NOT a choice between Policy and Safety: Put Budget Resources Where the Needs are

Mayor Butt's contentious misrepresentation of facts, and his PAID distortions of the anti-social media featured on Facebook and Next Door ,is deleterious to our community's safety and health.

The Richmond Community in which I live - on Marina Bay - enthusiastically endorses BOTH a strong Police force AND STRONG HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES, contrary to Mayor Butt's claims.

In November 2020, Richmond Voters gave a landside victory to the

**Council Members who are leading the effort to REIMAGINE
THE POSSIBILITIES FOR RICHMOND'S HEALTH AND SAFETY.**

With nearly 40 percent of calls to the Richmond Police Force requiring mental health or family services — and less than a 3 percent budget that to support public health and safety services -- it is long over due that the services we need are funded.

Richmond needs a fully funded health and safety emergency force, trained and prepared to address calls from our neighbors who are seeking mental health, emergency, and housing assistance.

Tonight's Council meeting will continue the discussion of affordable, practical strategies for funding the evidenced-based recommendations of the Reimagine Task Force. Keep Richmond SAFE and in the forefront of of communities standing for long over-due social justice and health-centric innovations.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

**Take the lead on Reimagining Public Safety in Richmond.
Cast your budget vote with the community members who brought you into office.
REIMAGINE PUBLIC SAFETY AND SERVICES in the new fiscal year.**

Thank you.

**Ellen Pechman
Bayfront Community - Marina Bay
Richmond**

From: [Eddy Chacon](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments Agenda Item J-3
Date: Tuesday, June 01, 2021 7:11:59 PM

Good evening City Council Members,

My name is Eddy Chacon, i am a Taskforce member as well as a community member in full support of the recommendations that were proposed by the rest of the taskforce. Richmond is very unique in the way that its increased the safety of the community through ONS, RYSE, the Re-entry success center, and this is what has made Richmond safer! If we do not address the root causes of crime then we wont have safety that lasts. We cannot continue arresting our way to safety, it has damaged many lives. We need a budget that reflects our values of support prevention, intervention, education, and investment in the most harmed communities, not just on policing.

From: [Erin Meggyesy](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item # J-3
Date: Tuesday, June 01, 2021 2:43:58 PM

I'm writing in support of the proposals put forward by the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force, and asking that they be fully funded with the reallocation of \$10.3M from the Richmond Police Department budget. Making a supportive, rather than punitive, investment in youth, unhoused people, and the marginalized members of our community improves the lives of everyone, and has been proven to reduce crime by preventing it from happening in the first place. A true investment in these programs is needed to fulfill their promise, and given that currently 40% of the Richmond General Fund currently goes to police, compared to 2.8% to community services, it is essential that the funds be reallocated to create a budget that invests in and reflects the values of the community.

Thank you,
Erin Meggyesy

From: [Gabe Torney](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item # J-3
Date: Tuesday, June 01, 2021 12:50:30 PM

I don't understand why this is even a debate. We need to allocate the most money possible to help those who need it. Americans have been suffering for far too long, especially black, brown, and indigenous people. We have the power to create a better, more equitable future, so why hesitate?

From: [Jacqueline Thalberg](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item # J-3
Date: Tuesday, June 01, 2021 12:56:25 PM

Dear Members of the Richmond City Council,

A few weeks ago I witnessed an untenable example of wasted time and effort in the deployment of RPD: An EMT ambulance was parked in front of a neighbor's house because the wife, who is schizophrenic, was experiencing a crisis and needed medics to convince her to take her medication. During the entire time of this "intervention", which was solved by the medics checking her out in the ambulance and then helping her back into the house, there were two RPD cars parked behind the ambulance and two officers standing idly by, probably just because they are automatically dispatched in a "mental health" case. The presence of RPD was clearly unnecessary and actually alarmed people more than the presence of the ambulance.

62% of calls are low priority (!) and there are NO community responders - the Proposals of the Reimagine Richmond Task Force will change that and let RPD Officers focus on necessary interventions, Investigations and Follow-Ups.

While 40% of Richmond's General Fund Budget goes toward RPD, necessary social services are either non-existent or woefully underfunded. The proactive proposals of the Reimagine Richmond Task Force are a starting point for reallocating some of the funds which now go towards a bloated RPD bureaucracy into essential services which are preventative in nature. Organisations like RYSE, ONS, Ceasefire and Re-entry Success have a track record of success in helping people and thereby reducing crime.

This is not about "Defunding" but about a necessary change: from a ham-handed punitive approach to one of positive help. When people get the social services EVERY community needs, crime is reduced. While many other cities have adopted similar models already, Richmond is still at the beginning of the discussion about it. Our City Budget must at some point reflect our values rather than the reactivity of a few.

The counter-Proposals of the City Clerk are inadequate. They continue the idea that Policing comes before Social Services by allocating fractions of the necessary funds to the different projects and organisations.

Respectfully,
Jacqueline Thalberg
654 32nd Street
Richmond 94804

From: [James Madden](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item #J-3
Date: Tuesday, June 01, 2021 2:15:02 PM

Hello,

I am writing in support of reallocating over ten million dollars away from the police department and instead to community services.

Thank you,
James Madden

2761 MLK Jr Avenue
Richmond, California 94804

Sabrina Lundy

From: Katrinka Ruk <kpruk@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2021 12:30 PM
To: City Clerk Dept User
Cc: Tom Butt - external; Demnlus Johnson; Nat Bates; claudia jimenez; Eduardo Martinez; Gayle McLaughlin; Melvin Willis; Laura Snideman
Subject: Public Comments agenda item #J-3 INCORPORATE \$5.58 million into the Fiscal Year 2021-22 budget to fund much needed programs and DIRECT staff to continue working with the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force on various program options and more...
Attachments: 06.01.21 ReimaginePublicSafety COI ltr.docx

COUNCIL OF INDUSTRIES

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

(510)215-9325

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

June 1, 2021

/email to:

To: City Clerk

Cc: Richmond City Council, City Manager

Item: J-3 [INCORPORATE \\$5.58 million into the Fiscal Year 2021-22 budget to fund much needed programs and DIRECT staff to continue working with the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force on various program options and more detailed implementation plans, returning to the City Council at a future date with any recommendations for program or funding modifications - City Manager's Office \(Laura Snideman 620-6512\).](#)

On behalf of the Council of Business and Industries (COI) we are submitting these comments for your review. We want to thank the Task Force for the time spent on issues that impact our neighbor and businesses' health and safety. Putting more funding towards mental health and our homeless is laudable, however, we support the City taking a measured approach with pilot programs financed through outside funding. Further downsizing an already depleted police department is not the answer. We fear that the loss of 35 sworn police officers as well as contracts such as shotspotter, RPAL, DA,

school support – to name a few, and no response to alarms, suspicious persons, drug usage, etc. will create an open environment to increase crimes – against our neighbors, businesses and those who are homeless

While we welcome discussion and debate of reasonable ideas, we do not agree that there has been sufficient outreach, education and involvement of all citizens of Richmond nor has the impact of these alternative programs been studied.

We suggest the following:

1. Implementation of the May Valley Neighborhood Council's recommendations;
2. Implementation of the recommendations that have been budgeted for to improve services – for example, those from the Accountability Subcommittee;
3. Conduct a more aggressive outreach to the community including meetings with the Neighborhood Councils, RNCC, community groups and businesses to obtain their feedback on the services that would be cutback;
4. Provide answers to staff questions posed in the Agenda Report and those submitted by the COI at the April 21st meeting of the Reimagining Public Safety Committee (attachment);
5. Include an assessment by the Police Department on what services would be eliminated with a \$2.3 million cut in their FY2021-22budget, and assuming that the department will receive the additional \$3.28 million from other funding sources.
6. Survey the Police Department to assesses their recommendations for improving public safety;
7. Assess the additional monies that the City is slated to receive to determine what money can be earmarked for pilot programs such as the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), County funding for homelessness, etc.;
8. Investigate a phased-in pilot program(s) to address these social concerns based on input from the community at large;

9. Some recommendations are not realistic following the impact of COVID19 on local businesses and need to be reassessed, for example – businesses have laid off individuals and cut back hours- suggesting 1000 youth would receive jobs is not realistic. The Youth Summer Employment Program in the past has been successful as City staff developed a strong relationship with local businesses with a maximum of students employed of approximately 300+.

The Task Force and City staff reports delve into a great deal of recommendations. To ensure proper time to assess the success of programs, focus should be on establishing a few pilot programs and monitoring outcomes. Once it can be determined that the pilot program(s) is effective in reducing crime then a larger implementation can be considered and funding sources determined. Successful programs implemented at other local cities should be reviewed as to their applicability to Richmond, for example, adding a mental health professional to assist on mental health calls to determine if this intervention would decrease escalation.

Taking away 35 sworn officers is not the way to go. In fact, in Oakland they just funded their police department another \$10M since the murder rate tripled. San Francisco followed suit.

Overall, we urge you to hold public hearings and offer more information, education and ability for citizens to weigh in before you take such a radical approach that will affect the entire city.

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

From: [Kimberly Berger](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item # J-3
Date: Tuesday, June 01, 2021 11:14:35 AM

Dear City Council Members,

Please approve the 10.3 million dollar reallocation request from the Reimagine Public Safety Community Task Force. These funds are crucial for supporting our community members. We need to operate from a place of compassion and care, not punishment and fear. This task force has done extensive reviewing and the programs they recommend address the root causes of crime and will prevent the RPD from needing such an expansive presence.

Thank you,
Kimberly Berger

From: [Marie Walcek](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item # J-3
Date: Tuesday, June 01, 2021 11:42:19 AM

I'm writing to express my deepest support for reimagining public safety in Richmond in a way that addresses the root causes of crime. Richmond has already taken a bold stance in this area with projects like ONS that have proven how a little investment in our community can drastically reduce crime. Dollar for dollar, money spent on personnel and programs that support our residents does far more to reduce crime and promote safety than does money spent punishing people for crimes already committed. I know that our proud Richmond police officers share in a deep desire to promote public safety, and hope we can therefore work together in our community to allocate resources in ways we know will work toward that shared goal.

As a Richmond resident, I take pride in the bold and innovative ways we have come together to solve complex problems — this would not be the first time Richmond led the way on progressive programs and reforms that yield real results, and I hope we can continue to be an example to other surrounding cities on how to think outside the box, break through the fear mongering and obstinance of systems that are not working for the people, and reimagine public safety toward a shared vision of the beloved community.

Thank you and I look forward to working with all stakeholders in this project that will undoubtedly be arduous and trying, but ultimately so worth all our efforts and courage. Lives literally depend on it.

- Marie Villavicek (Walcek)

From: [Maya Kosover](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item # J-3
Date: Tuesday, June 01, 2021 12:09:35 PM

I urge you to commit to the full \$10.3M reallocation of RPD funds back into the community. As we've all come to learn, police don't serve us or the vision of community we aspire to be. The time to make a change is now. The time to show our city how we value our people is now. The time for Richmond to become the city that sets an example for the rest of the country to follow is now. The time to listen to our community task force members and their proposals is now. Strengthen the programs that uplift our community and youth, release the ones that no longer serve us.

From: [Melissa Carey](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item # J-3
Date: Tuesday, June 01, 2021 11:17:37 AM

I cannot stress the importance of alternatives to police/ incarceration for mental health and drug addiction public safety issues. Having worked for a program in Fairfax county 1999-2001, that responded to person's under the influence in public. We offered resources rather than have police involved, Freeing up the police for more important things.. like sidershows, robberies, ECT. Criminalizing public safety issues is wrong. we need, education and resources for those struggling. Prison is not treatment, locking people up with mental health and addiction is not treatment.

I support J3-we need to help our brothers and sisters not criminalize them.

Thank you

Melissa Carey- home and small business owner residing in Richmond 94806

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Nathan Fariss](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments Agenda # J-3
Date: Tuesday, June 01, 2021 11:51:55 AM

Dear Richmond City Council Members,

As a proud resident and homeowner in Richmond, I was disturbed to find out that 40% of our city budget goes to policing the city and only a tiny amount goes to community services. We need to address the root causes of crime by funding community services, like helping our community members get housing, jobs and help with issues like mental health and addiction, which will ultimately keep us all safer and reduce the need for police. We've tried policing our way to safety and it hasn't worked - it's time to try work to prevent crime and I believe that the task force proposals are our best shot to improve Richmond for all of us.

Sincerely,
Nathan Fariss

From: [Sara Sunstein](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comment Agenda item #J-3
Date: Tuesday, June 01, 2021 12:45:48 PM

Re: City Manager's has suggested \$5.58 M for FY 2021-22 budget to fund recommendations made by Reimagining Public Safety Task Force. and that the task force continue meeting. This is a start—but only a start.

The RPSTF has been validated by its being directed to continue meeting and deepening/assessing recommendations. So it makes sense that their baseline estimate for funding their recommendations be met, or at least attempted to be met. That would be \$10.3 M.

We all know that underfunding—in this case almost by 1/2—is a sure way to have programs fail, rather than succeed.

I urge Council to fully fund those much needed programs and recommendations made by Reimagining Public Safety Task Force.

Sara Sunstein
District 5

From: [Sheryl Yates](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: public comments – Open Session prior to Closed Session;
Date: Saturday, May 29, 2021 9:15:08 AM

Hi am writing to register my opposition to cutting the RPD budget and cutting officers. I think a mental health response unit and other services will be great additions, but we need to find other funding sources. I have been a resident since 1989 and this is my first time expressing my view to the counsel, but this is so important. Let's add to the policing not replace it.

Thank you,
Sheryl Yates