

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, June 8, 2021

The Richmond City Council Special Evening Open Session was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Thomas K. Butt via teleconference.

Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Contra Costa County and Governor Gavin Newsom issued multiple orders requiring sheltering in place, social distancing, and reduction of person-to-person contact. 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 8, 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, Claudia Jimenez, Eduardo Martinez, Gayle McLaughlin, Vice Mayor Demnlus Johnson III, and Mayor Thomas K. Butt. **Absent:** Councilmember Melvin Willis arrived after the roll was called.

CITY COUNCIL

City Attorney Teresa Stricker and Interim Deputy City Manager Internal Services Anil Camelo announced their recusals from one of the labor negotiations items due to a potential conflict of interest.

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 –
LIMITED TO ITEMS ON THE SPECIAL CLOSED
SESSION AGENDA ONLY**

Kevin Tisdell and Amanda LeGaux gave comments via teleconference regarding labor negotiations.

The Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 5:06 p.m. Closed Session adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

The Special Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 6:57 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 I-2 because her former law partner was mentioned in the staff report.

AGENDA REVIEW

Item I-1 was moved for discussion immediately following the Report from the City Manager.

Mayor Butt proposed to continue item G-1 for one week due to incompleteness and inconsistencies. A motion made by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember Jimenez, overruled the mayor to hear item G-1 as agendized 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.

**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 announced that the deadline to submit applications for the Community Services Department Mini-Grant program was at 5:00 p.m. on June 11, 2021. Ms. Snideman advised that wildland firefighter training was in progress in the Wildcat Canyon area.

BUDGET SESSION

G-1. The matter to receive the proposed operating budget for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022 and direct staff to update the budget documents in preparation for final City Council adoption on June 22, 2021, was introduced by City Manager Laura Snideman. Ms. Snideman announced that upcoming City Council

budget meetings were scheduled for June 8, 15, and 22, 2021. Interim Deputy City Manager Internal Services Anil Camelo, Accounting Manager Antonio Banuelos, and Regional Government Services Advisor Tracy Fuller presented a Powerpoint that highlighted the following: Long view; FY 2020-2021 excess causes and allocation; changes in budget preparation; FY 2021-2022 proposed budget; proposed FY 2021-22 revenues and expenditures; FY 2021-2022 budget inclusions and items not included; and General Fund reserves. Discussion ensued. The council requested the following: Additional information concerning the Housing Authority debt write-off. Departmental detailed budget with future presentations. Clarification for discrepancies found in the percentage of benefits to salary calculations. Additional information regarding unassigned funds that could have potentially been transferred to the General Fund, the types of restrictions on the funds, and the ordinance(s) and resolution(s) that deemed the funds restricted. A full analysis of the cost recovery accounts showing transfers made in and out within the last five years. The council recommended the following: Staff to improve communication with councilmembers by ascertaining their questions before the meeting. Utilize American Rescue Plan Act funds to clean up Richmond, increase code enforcement, and improve parks and streets landscape maintenance. The following individuals gave comments via teleconference: Ahmad Anderson, Jan Mignone, Oscar Garcia, Janie Holland, Linda Whitmore, Naomi Williams, Larry Lewis, Luis Padilla, Madeline Law, Debi McIntyre, Myrtle Braxton, Susan Rattray, Leisa Johnson, Katrinka Ruk, Mark Wassberg, Steve Bishoff, Shawn Dunning, Courtney Cummings, Lisa Cody, Mary Savoie-Stephens, Randy Joseph, James Lee, Garland Ellis, Sadie Egan, Barbara Chase, Andre Shumake, Sr., Emily Ross, Michael Gerhardt, Shiva Mishek, Joseph Garcia, Sean Stalbaum, Joe Fisher, and Christina Retze. Further discussion ensued. A motion was made by Councilmember Jimenez, seconded by Councilmember McLaughlin, to give direction to staff to not have layoffs, including the Police Department, and no increase in positions for the Police Department. Further discussion ensued. Police Chief Bisa French gave a brief overview of the recent crime in Richmond. Further discussion ensued. The motion 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 10:30 p.m., a motion made by Councilmember Willis to adjourn the meeting failed for the lack of a second).

PUBLIC HEARINGS

H-1. The city clerk announced that it was time, pursuant to public notice, to hold a public hearing 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. Public Works Director Joe Leach presented a Powerpoint that highlighted the district, area map, and proposed action. Discussion ensued. Mayor Butt declared the public hearing opened. There were no public comments via teleconference. Mayor Butt closed the public hearing. On motion of Vice Mayor Johnson III, seconded by Councilmember McLaughlin, adopted **Resolution No. 65-21** by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Bates, Martinez, McLaughlin, Vice Mayor Johnson III, and Mayor Butt. **Noes:** Councilmember Jimenez. **Abstained:** Councilmember Willis. **Absent:** None.

H-2. The city clerk announced that it was time, pursuant to public notice, to hold a public hearing 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. Public Works Director Joe Leach presented a Powerpoint that highlighted the district, area map, and proposed action. Discussion ensued. Mayor Butt declared the public hearing opened. There were no public comments via teleconference. Mayor Butt closed the public hearing. On motion of Councilmember McLaughlin, seconded by Mayor Butt, adopted **Resolution No. 66-21** by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

I-1. 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 was introduced by City Attorney Teresa Stricker. 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. Discussion ensued. The council requested the following: The city attorney to verify that the proposed contract amounts were "up to" \$500,000 and \$100,000 and allocations were made as the work was done. A financial report every three weeks showing funds spent, work completed, and what was planned for the next round of payments. The following individuals gave comments via teleconference: Pam Stello, Sally Tobin, Jim Hanson, Jeanne Kortz, and Paul Carman. Further discussion ensued. A motion made by Councilmember McLaughlin, seconded by Councilmember Willis, to approve said amendments to the legal services agreements up to \$500,000 and up to \$100,000 and direct staff to provide the council a report every three weeks with a list of what was done and what was being planned for the immediate future to make sure it was in line with the council's direction, passed by the unanimous vote of the City Council. (*Councilmember Bates was absent during the vote and requested later during the meeting to record his vote as "yes"*).

I-2. The matter to direct the city 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; allow the public and City Council to provide input during two City Council study sessions before the final presentation to City Council; and issue a Request for Qualifications for professional services consultants with experience developing Community Benefits Agreements to be brought to City Council in July 2021, was introduced by Councilmembers Jimenez and Martinez. Discussion ensued. A motion was made by Councilmember Jimenez, seconded by Councilmember Martinez, to approve the staff recommendation

and direct staff to include in the proposed policy the hiring of local and minority contractors for all major contracts that were \$500,000 or more. *(At approximately 10:58 p.m., on motion of Councilmember Jimenez, seconded by Councilmember Martinez, extended the meeting to discuss items I-2 and I-3 by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmembers Bates, Jimenez, Martinez, McLaughlin, and Willis. Noes: Vice Mayor Johnson III and Mayor Butt. Abstained: None. Absent: None).* The following individuals gave comments via teleconference: Scott Littlehale, Eric Christen, Mark Wassberg, Shawn Dunning, and Leisa Johnson. Further discussion ensued. The motion passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Bates, Jimenez, Martinez, McLaughlin, and Willis. **Noes:** Mayor Butt. **Abstained:** Vice Mayor Johnson III. **Absent:** None.

I-3. The matter to provide a status update of the efforts to address the amount of vegetation that was growing on Cutting and Carlson Boulevards and other areas throughout the City of Richmond; and to provide a status update of the efforts to remove the homeless individuals that occupied the front door of the Nevin Senior Citizen Center, was introduced by Councilmember Bates. Public Works Director Joe Leach provided a brief update. Discussion ensued. The council encouraged staff to utilize funding to work with non-profit organizations to employ youth to help clean up Richmond. The council advised that there was overgrown vegetation on Carlson Boulevard near the Richmond Greenway, and the medians on Barrett Avenue and across Richmond. The council recommended staff to network with the Moving Forward for Our Future organization to host cleanup events utilizing the City of Richmond's tool lending library. Mark Wassberg and Leisa Johnson gave comments via teleconference.

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

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:25 p.m., in memory of Sadie Tatum, to meet again on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor

From: [Brendan Boland](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments-OPEN FORUM
Date: Tuesday, June 08, 2021 1:53:15 PM

Hello,

My name is Brendan Boland. I am a resident of Richmond and a former High School teacher in Contra Costa County.

I fully support the proposals to reallocate 10.3 million dollars from RPD to fund the four proposals brought forth by the Reimagine Public Safety Community Task Force.

During my four years teaching in the district, I saw the impact of the RYSE center. The programs gave students and families a safe space to navigate trauma, take workshops to empower their passions and sense of self, and for many acted as the loving community they were not finding within their school or their community at large. We need to expand these programs to allow for all students of culture to have a place to heal and grow.

We need a budget that reflects our values of support, prevention, intervention, education, and investment in the most harmed communities, not just on policing. 40% of the Richmond General Fund goes to the police, compared to 2.8% to community services. Rather than resource officers in our schools or patrols in our streets, we need peace workers in our communities to provide care and compassionate response for all community members, especially those who may be experiencing a health crisis.

These proposals represent a direct response to the demands of our community members who have suffered harm and act as a means of disrupting the over-criminalization and marginalization of our black, brown, and housing insecure community members. Youth jobs, community health, and wellness workers. And the opportunity to create a thriving city empowered by our own citizens.

My thanks to the City Council for moving forward with these important initiatives.

~Brendan Boland

From: [Caitlin Trahan](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: public comments - agenda item #G-1 BUDGET SESSION
Date: Tuesday, June 08, 2021 9:16:00 AM

Hello,

Please allocate funding to the Reimagine Richmond proposal and reduce numbers of our police force. We need greater investment in early childhood education, mental health services, and stronger community support to allow Richmond residents to feel safe regardless of income, health, gender, and race. It is going to take investment and commitment to create a safer Richmond by decreasing our reliance on police and incarceration as our solutions. Please make that investment and commitment.

Caitlin Trahan

From: [Cordell Hindler](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comment G-1 Budget Session
Date: Saturday, June 05, 2021 4:07:53 PM

good evening Mayor Butt, Council Members and City Staff, In my opinion I think that staff has done an amazing job on the draft budget, and I hope that the council will provide feedback

Sincerely
Cordell

From: [Katrinka Ruk](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Cc: [Tom Butt - external](#); [Demnlus Johnson III](#); [Nat Bates](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#)
Subject: Public Comments- Agenda Item G-1. RECEIVE the proposed operating budget for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022
Date: Tuesday, June 08, 2021 12:30:33 PM
Attachments: [06.08.21 G-1, FY21-22proposed budget, COI comments.pdf](#)



COUNCIL OF INDUSTRIES

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

(510)215-9325

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

June 8, 2021

/email/

To: City Clerk

To: Mayor Butt, Councilmembers, City Manager Snideman

ITEM G-1 [RECEIVE the proposed operating budget for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and direct staff to update the budget documents in preparation for final City Council adoption on June 22, 2021 - City Manager's Office//Finance Department \(Laura Snideman 620-6512/Anil Comelo 620-6740\).](#)

On behalf of the Council of Business and Industries (COI) we are submitting these comments for your review. It is commendable that staff has determined that there will be a surplus of funds for FY21-22 with \$1.3 million devoted to “Reimagining Public Safety”, however, we do not support any reduction of the police department budget that will reduce the number of officers or services everyone in Richmond deserves.

We fear that the loss of 35 sworn police officers as well as contracts such as shotspotter, RPAL, District Attorney support, CCTV supervision and repair – 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.

The city has a fiscal responsibility to ensure that funding is adequate to support the needs of the community, residents and businesses in regards to public safety. Our police and fire account for only 20% of the city funding – any further reductions will

result in a negative impact on our community. Twenty percent is lower than other adjacent cities (Antioch 62%, Pittsburg 63.68%, San Pablo 41%, Fremont 43%) and aligned closer to Vallejo at 21% - a city which has a crime rate that is one of the highest in the U.S., compared to communities of all sizes. Vallejo is a good example of how lack of funding results in loss of sworn officer personnel and an increase in crime.

The police department has previously experienced reduced funding and a job freeze almost two years ago. This will add to the deterioration of our blue-ribbon community-based public safety program – one lauded by President Obama and copied across the nation.

Without the response of our officers to public safety issues at businesses – alarms, suspicious people/cars, and delayed response to break-ins, in conjunction with the increase in the business license tax, the city is creating an environment where businesses are not supported nor are they being protected. One has to question what would be the incentive to remain.

We know the impact of a reduced public safety budget – look to San Francisco and Oakland who after reducing and redirecting police funding to other programs, are now increasing the funding for public safety. Look to Vallejo with their increased crime rates and minimal public safety budget.

Budgeting \$1.3 million towards “reimagining public safety” is laudable, however, there is no information as to how this will be distributed, what programs will be supported, nor how success be monitored.

The city needs to take a measured approach in supporting social programs with pilot programs financed through outside funding and slowly phased in based on meeting benchmarks. Further downsizing an already depleted police department is not the answer.

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

From: [Leisa Johnson](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Pamela Christian](#)
Cc: [Leisa Johnson](#)
Subject: Written Public Comments, Item G-1, June 8th, 2021
Date: Tuesday, June 08, 2021 9:37:28 PM

Dear City Clerk,

Can you please include these public comments in the supplementary material to the minutes?

Thank you,
Leisa

Good evening Mayor, City Councilmembers, and Staff:

As I've previously stated, Richmond was an exception because the City didn't furlough or layoff a single full time employee, many of whom didn't work for several months, yet every state employee, including the governor, had a mandated 10% pay reduction, and other cities appropriately enacted furloughs and layoffs.

Given Richmond's long-term financial risk, ranking 1st in the state for financial risk due to unfunded pension liabilities and 5th for overall financial risk, Staff & Council should respect taxpayers & clarify if employees who were paid in full, despite not working for months, are going to qualify for an increase in compensation, and if so, why?

Regarding the Reimagining Public Safety effort, this could have been a truly collaborative process with an honest effort to enhance public safety for everyone as well as continuing to build upon our community policing model to further strengthen training, accountability and transparency.

But this can & will only happen if the 5 RPA councilmembers listen to and respect the entire community.

There have been 4 community polls done on social media because this Council refused to conduct one. These 4 polls surveyed a far greater number & representation of the community than those participating in any task force, NC or City Council meeting. Importantly, they all strongly indicated that a vast majority of the community do not support defunding RPD, with 73%, 81%, 88% and 90% opposed.

In Oakland, 78% of respondents similarly opposed defunding OPD.

Importantly, RPD accounts for 17% of Richmond's \$400M Operating Expenditure Budget for 2021, not the 40% that we have been hearing from task force members and Councilmember McLaughlin. They have stated that 40% is just too big but have intentionally avoid stating what an appropriate number should be & how they arrived at such a conclusion.

Again, Richmond is at 17%. In Oakland, Mayor Schaff proposed an increase to OPD's budget for each of the next 2 years, with OPD accounting for 18% of Oakland's operational budget.

For other cities, Antioch is 62%, Pittsburg 64%, San Pablo 41%, Fremont 43% and Vallejo 21% and Mayor Schaff is proposing 18%.

Thus, Councilmember McLaughlin please tell the community how overfunded RPD is and why.

Let's also not forget that RPD has already been defunded. Last year you froze over 35 RPD positions.

The current draft budget has ceded \$3M of RPD's budget, which eliminates a further 12 vacant officer positions. Why since the vast majority of the community does not support this?

Chief French also stated last week that several additional officers will resign or retire. Let that soak in as another 20+ officers may be gone because of what the RPA 5 and majority task force have been demanding devoid of a majority of the community being in support.

Please be honest with the community. This is not a structurally balanced budget and services are not fully restored. The 5 RPA councilmembers are choosing a personal agenda over the vast majority of this community since you refuse to utilize the appropriate funding sources from the county, state & feds, including Measure X and Richmond's Kids First Initiative. This should be delayed until all of this has been fully vetted and appropriate funding sources ID'd and secured.

This is not an either or question. People are generally very supportive of these new & enhanced programs, but they should be funded elsewhere.

These programs should also be fully vetted, implemented in a phased approach as pilot programs, where appropriate, with appropriate benchmarks and metrics of success (and failure).

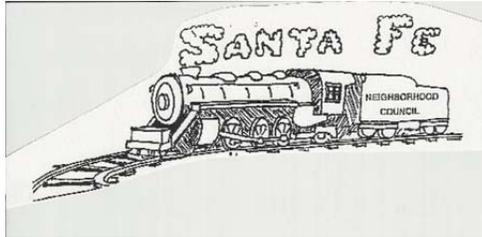
If those programs are successful, then and only then should you even consider further reducing an already depleted force while not compromising the public's safety and a nationally acclaimed community policing model.

Respectfully,
Leisa Johnson
Richmond Resident for 20+ years

From: [MYRTLE BRAXTON](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Cc: [Linda](#); [Madalyn Law](#); [Naomi Williams](#); [J.C. Farr](#); [Tim Walker](#); [Jan Mignone](#)
Subject: Agenda item G
Date: Tuesday, June 08, 2021 12:45:42 PM

Do not reduce the Police Department budget. The Police Department budget was already reduced during the last budget review. All residents should have been contacted to ascertain if they want fewer police patrolling their neighborhood. Police patrols in neighborhoods PREVENT crime. I don't believe that a group of handpicked individuals, some who will not suffer the decrease in police patrols because they are not residents of Richmond. They will be safe in their cities. A DECISION OF THIS MAGNITUDE THAT AFFECTS THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE RESIDENTS SHOULD SURVEY THE "RESIDENTS" BEFORE SUCH A DRASTIC DECISION IS MADE. Please give this major decision more time to allow RESIDENTS to make their wishes regarding their quality of life known to seven (7) people who make decisions for the more than 100 thousand residents of Richmond.

Sent from my iPad



To: Richmond Mayor Tom Butt, members of the City Council

We as Presidents of Richmond Neighborhood Councils are requesting the following:

Do not remove funding from the budget of the Richmond Department which would result in the elimination of up to 35 sworn Police Officers.

Our neighborhoods have benefited from the implementation of the Community Policing Policies that have built trust and established rapport with our beat officers. Having officers attend our monthly/bi-monthly neighborhood council meetings have been essential to knowing exactly what security and crime issues our neighbors should be aware of. Working together with our officers have been beneficial in improving the quality of life in our community.

Due to the current cuts, my source of crime statistics for May came in a monthly report from my Ring Door report. We pay our taxes and as Naomi Williams, President of Pulman stated, 'taxation with out representation is not fair.'

We are also concerned that the Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council nor our network of Neighborhood Councils were not part of the Reimaging Taskforce, however, people from outside of Richmond were. Our voices are vital, due to the fact we have intimate relations and expertise working with people we represent.

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE FUNDING FROM THE RICHMOND POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET.

Best Regards,

Vernon Whitmore

Neighborhood Council Presidents listed below:

Myrtle Braxton, Laurel Park

Joe Fisher, Coronada

Oscar Garcia, Iron Triangle

Madelaine Law, Park Plaza

Naomi Williams, Pulman

Vernon Whitmore, Santa Fe

From: [Cordell Hindler](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments 1-2 Council as a whole
Date: Saturday, June 05, 2021 4:13:18 PM

good Evening Mayor Butt, council Members and City Staff, let me reiterate the comments from last week

the Reason that HTA consulting should be considered is because they have worked with the Department of Children and youth on the Community Needs Assessment,

I think the council should Consider working with HTA consulting

Sincerely
Cordell