

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, June 22, 2021

The Richmond City Council Evening Open Session was called to order at 4:00 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/KCRRTV>.

*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 22, 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, Gayle McLaughlin, Vice Mayor Demnlus Johnson III, and Mayor Thomas K. Butt. **Absent:** Councilmembers Nathaniel Bates, Eduardo Martinez, 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):

Richmond Shoreline Alliance, SPRAWLDEF, Citizens for East Shore Parks, Sunflower Alliance, and GreenAction for Health and Environmental Justice v. City of Richmond

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (Significant threat of litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of Subdivision (d) and paragraph (3) of Subdivision (e) of Government Code Section 54956.9): One case.

Pursuant to the California Court of Appeal decision in Fowler v. City of Lafayette, attached to this agenda is a notice from the Department of Fair Employment and Housing which constitutes the threat of litigation.

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 EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
(Government Code Section 54957):

Titles: Former City Attorney and
Former Interim City Manager

PUBLIC COMMENT BEFORE CLOSED SESSION

The following individuals gave comments regarding labor negotiations via teleconference: Kevin Tisdell, Amanda LeGaux, and Fidencio Morales.

The Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 4:07 p.m.
Closed Session adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 7:24 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.

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Councilmember Bates stated that he was announcing a potential conflict of interest under the Open Forum.

AGENDA REVIEW

Items I-1, I-4, and I-10 were removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion at the end of the agenda. Item I-9 was withdrawn from the agenda. Item K-2 was moved for discussion immediately following the Open Forum.

**PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND
COMMENDATIONS**

D-1. Councilmember McLaughlin read a proclamation recognizing Ms. Mary Selva for her years of service to the Richmond Annex Neighborhood Council. Councilmember McLaughlin announced that a Richmond Annex Neighborhood Council meeting in memory of Ms. Selva and Jerry Yoshida was scheduled on June 24, 2021, at the Bayview Eagles Hall in El Cerrito. Councilmember McLaughlin advised that the proclamation would be posted in the Richmond Annex Senior

Center. The council suggested honoring Mr. Yoshida with a proclamation in the future. Henry Powell gave comments.

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: Richmond branch libraries were resuming walk-in, in-person services starting on June 22, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Electric bicycles were available in Richmond in partnership with Gotcha Mobility and various other agencies. More information was available at the following website: <https://ridegotcha.com/locations/richmond>.

CRIME REPORT FROM POLICE CHIEF

None.

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals gave the following comments via teleconference:

Ms. Dandie gave comments regarding the shooting that occurred on Dunn Avenue on June 20, 2021. Ms. Dandie expressed concerns that members of the community were unaware of proposed public safety changes in Richmond.

Linda Whitmore expressed concerns regarding professional decorum at City Council meetings. Ms. Whitmore suggested muting disrespectful public speakers. Ms. Whitmore reminded the council that professional behavior was important for its audience.

Hulan Barnett expressed concerns regarding proposed budget reductions to the Police Department. Mr. Barnett reported traffic safety issues throughout Richmond and recommended holding drivers accountable.

Carole Johnson gave comments regarding her perception of the Police Department's lack of integrity and accountability. Ms. Johnson suggested that the police were not the only resource for help.

Cynthia Black gave comments in support of reallocating funds from the Police Department to help Richmond youth. Ms. Black requested police accountability.

Pam Stello announced that the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) voted to postpone actions regarding the Bay Plan Amendment process concerning Point Molate. Ms. Stello gave comments regarding alleged misrepresented facts given at the BCDC hearing.

Mark Wassberg gave comments regarding homicides statistics during Gaye McLaughlin's term as the mayor of Richmond. Mr. Wassberg gave comments regarding mental health.

Muang Saeturn advised the council of the extra duties taken on by City of Richmond employees due to staff shortages. Ms. Saeturn urged the council to give the employees a cost of living increase.

Katrinka Ruk raised questions concerning the votes and motions made for the budget session items at the June 21, 2021, Special City Council Meeting.

Yenny Garcia invited the council and community to the Latina Center's virtual Women's Health and Leadership Program graduation celebration scheduled on July 30, 2021.

Leisa Johnson expressed concerns regarding the council's decorum and potential Brown Act violations at its June 21, 2021, Special City Council Meeting. Ms. Johnson called for a censorship resolution.

Jan Mignone urged the implementation team for the Reimagining Public Safety (RPS) Task Force proposals to reach out to the neighborhood councils for information.

Kevin Tisdell gave comments in support of the budget proposals made by the RPS Task Force. Mr. Tisdell urged the council to support frontline service workers. Mr. Tisdell gave closing remarks in honor of those that survived the COVID-19 pandemic.

Karla Perez suggested the council needed to act more professionally. Ms. Perez gave comments in support of police services. Ms. Perez expressed concerns regarding the lack of cleanup services in Richmond.

Mike Parker commended the RPS Task Force for its work developing proposals for community services. Mr. Parker gave comments regarding the funding for the task force's proposals.

Kabir Kapur announced that Juneteenth was recently made a federal holiday. Mr. Kapur gave comments regarding disorderly conduct at the June 21, 2021, Special City Council Meeting.

Lisa Cody gave comments in support of the RPS Task Force's proposals. Ms. Cody also gave comments regarding the funding for the proposals and the Police Department's budget.

Marisol Cantu provided an update on the RPS Task Force and invited the community to its meeting scheduled on July 23, 2021. Ms. Cantu urged the community to contact City of Richmond Community Service Department employees, Stephanie Ny or Jim Nantell, for meeting updates. Ms. Cantu applauded Councilmember Jimenez for her leadership.

Randy Joseph thanked the supporters of the Richmond Juneteenth celebration held on June 19, 2021. Mr. Joseph gave comments against the rhetoric used throughout the RPS Task Force proposals process.

Naomi Williams thanked the participants and donors for celebrating Richmond Juneteenth on June 19, 2021. Ms. Williams gave comments in support of police services.

Shawn Dunning made a call for an approach to democracy that was representative and participatory.

Oscar Garcia expressed concerns regarding proposed reductions to the Police Department's budget and the safety of the children and elderly in the community.

Nathaniel Bates announced his recusal from Item K-2 due to a potential conflict of interest. Mr. Bates urged his fellow councilmembers to act professionally and respectfully to one another.

CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

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

I-1. The matter to adopt a resolution authorizing the placement of liens and special assessments for unpaid garbage collection service fees on Contra Costa County property tax records was introduced by Accounting Manager Antonio Banuelos. Mr. Banuelos and Janna Coverston of Republic Services presented a Powerpoint that highlighted background information, the levy process, and current collection. Discussion ensued. On motion of Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember Bates, adopted **Resolution No. 73-21** by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

***I-2.** Approved an agreement with Hyland to continue to provide maintenance services, and data transfer services onto eSCRIBE, the new City Council meeting agenda management and video service streaming system, in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 for the term of July 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021.

***I-3.** Approved the minutes of the May 1, 2021, Special Meeting of the City Council.

I-4. The matter to approve a contract with Management Partners, Inc. to assist staff in developing and implementing the Measure U Gross Receipts Tax for a contract amount of \$94,900, and a contingency amount of \$14,235, for a total not to exceed \$109,135, with a term of contract from June 23, 2021, to June 30, 2022, was introduced by Accounting Manager Antonio Banuelos. The council recommended unions and organizations that worked to pass Measure U were included in the process; and the implementation of fair rates for small and large businesses. Discussion ensued. On motion of Councilmember McLaughlin, seconded by Councilmember Jimenez, approved said contract and directed staff to bring the unions and organizations involved in working to pass Measure U to the table, by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

***I-5.** Approved Amendment No. 1 to provide a payment-limit increase to the contract with Psychological Resources Inc., dba Wolf Consulting, to continue to provide psychological screenings and services to the Police Department, as required by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.

***I-6.** Approved an appointment to the Economic Development Commission: appointed Kerby Lynch, new appointment, seat #10, term expiration date March 30, 2024.

***I-7.** Approved appointments to the Design Review Board: appointed Macy Leung, re-appointment, seat #2, term expiration date March 17, 2023, and Jessica Fine, re-appointment, seat #5, term expiration date March 17, 2023.

***I-8.** Approved and appropriated the transfer of funds in the amount of \$303,275 from the City Manager's Office, Economic Development account (01362765 400201 2GI01) allocated for Waste Prevention, into the Capital Improvement Project account for the Waxie Bigbelly stations (20131031 400701 13002).

I-9. Withdrew from the agenda, the matter to approve a construction agreement with NBC Construction & Engineering, Inc. to provide fencing and related improvements at the Point Potrero Marine Terminal for a total not to exceed the value of \$34,158.

I-10. The matter to approve a first amendment to the contract with SCI Consulting Group amending the service plan, related to a potential vacant parcel tax, to develop an implementation plan, engagement, and proposed ordinance, increasing the payment limit by \$55,270 to a new total limit of \$65,270, and extending the term of the contract to June 30, 2022, was introduced by Deputy City Manager Economic Development Shasa Curl. Leisa Johnson gave comments via teleconference. Discussion ensued. On motion of Mayor Butt, seconded by Councilmember Willis, approved said contract amendment by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Jimenez, Martinez, McLaughlin, Willis, Vice Mayor Johnson III, and Mayor Butt. **Noes:** Councilmember Bates. **Abstained:** None. **Absent:** None.

***I-11.** Approved a three-year contract with Rahul Maharaj to maintain the required quality assurance of medical calls in the Communications Center and provide the mandatory training, in the amount not to exceed 59,400, for a term from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2024.

***I-12.** Approved a legal services agreement in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 with the law firm of Goldfarb & Lipman, LLP for services rendered from June 1, 2021, through June 30, 2023, to represent the City of Richmond in litigation relating to the Denham, LLC; Nikta, LLC; and Manning - Nextbay Venture, LLC v. City of Richmond lawsuit.

***I-13.** Approved a first amendment to increase by \$300,000 the not to exceed amount under the legal services agreement with the law firm of Goldfarb & Lipman, LLP for services rendered from June 1, 2021, through June 30, 2023, to represent the City of Richmond in litigation relating to the development at Campus Bay and to provide legal services related to the Development Agreement with funding provided by the developer pursuant to the Development Agreement.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

J-1. The city clerk announced that it was time, pursuant to public notice, to adopt an urgency ordinance amending Sections 9.40.010 and 9.40.015 and adding a new Section 9.40.018 "Safe Parking Sites Pilot Program" to the Richmond Municipal Code to allow private property owners to host up to four vehicle households for a limited duration, was introduced by Community Development Director Lina Velasco. Planner Emily Carroll presented a Powerpoint that highlighted the following: proposed urgency ordinance; summary of the pilot program; and objective standards. Discussion ensued. The council recommended the inclusion of a funding allocation for the essential Streets Team work. Mayor Butt declared the public hearing opened. Mark Wassberg and Randy Joseph gave comments via teleconference. Mayor Butt closed the public hearing. Further discussion ensued. On motion of Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember McLaughlin, adopted urgency **Ordinance No. 10-21 N.S.** by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Jimenez, Martinez, McLaughlin, Willis, Vice Mayor Johnson III, and Mayor Butt. **Noes:** None. **Abstained:** Councilmember Bates. **Absent:** None.

COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

K-1. The matter to receive a presentation from HR&A Advisors on the Short-Term Local Business Recovery Action Plan (STLB RAP) and receive a written update to address the recommendations made in item "Small Business Support" from the May 4, 2021, Richmond City Council Meeting, was introduced by Deputy City Manager Economic Development Shasa Curl. HR&A Advisors Partner Judith Taylor presented a Powerpoint that highlighted the following: project overview and status; COVID-19 impacts; and recovery needs and guiding principles. Discussion ensued. The council suggested that more small business representatives and owners were needed in the working groups for the plan. The council requested staff to invite Cooperation Richmond, Rich City Rides, Urban Tilthe, and other organizations to get involved. Alicia Gallo gave comments via teleconference. The Council requested staff to collect data on which Richmond small businesses received Paycheck Protection Program loans.

K-2. The matter to receive a presentation and direct staff to analyze and return to the council with recommendations on the draft Racial Equity Action Plan and introduction of the Reparations, Equity and Inclusion Initiatives, was introduced by Vice Mayor Johnson III. Richmond Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) team members Trina Jackson, Johann Fragd, LaShonda White, Bruce Soublet, and Vice Mayor Johnson III presented a Powerpoint that highlighted the following: goals; race equity 101; the spectrum of community engagement to ownership; Literacy Empowerment Action Project's Y-Plan Resident Engagement Project; race and equity officer; proposed reparations,

equity and inclusion initiatives; and next steps. Discussion ensued. The following individuals gave comments via teleconference: Mark Wassberg, Randy Joseph, Ms. Dandie, Kabir Kapur, and Linda Whitmore. On motion of Vice Mayor Johnson III, seconded by Councilmember Jimenez, accepted the GARE team's recommendations, and allowed staff to look further into the Reparations, Equity, and Inclusion Plan by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Jimenez, Martinez, McLaughlin, Willis, Vice Mayor Johnson III, and Mayor Butt. **Noes:** None. **Abstained:** None. **Absent:** Councilmember Bates (recused).

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

Councilmember Willis reported that he attended the Contra Costa County (CCC) Board of Supervisors meeting on June 22, 2021, and the board was considering extending the evictions moratorium. Councilmember Willis advised that the CCC Health Department reported on COVID-19, vaccination rates, and a spike in COVID-19 related deaths in the CCC African American community. Councilmember Willis encouraged community members to coordinate mobile vaccination clinics with the CCC Health Department for groups of five or more people.

Mayor Butt announced that he received information that the CCC Board of Supervisors extended the moratorium on certain residential rent increases and continued a temporary eviction moratorium for certain commercial tenants through September 30, 2021.

City Clerk Pamela Christian announced the first redistricting public hearing was scheduled for July 7, 2021.

City Manager Laura Snideman announced that the CCC Measure X Advisory Committee meeting regarding crisis response was scheduled for July 8, 2021.

Councilmember McLaughlin thanked everyone that was involved with organizing the Richmond Juneteenth celebration held on June 19, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:59 p.m., to meet again on Tuesday, June 29, 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- Closed Session for 6-22-2021
Date: Thursday, June 17, 2021 3:37:09 PM

good afternoon Mayor Butt, Council Members and City Staff, I have some comments for the record

1. I think that Rachel Sommovilla and Steven Falk has done an outstanding job in these roles while the new employers come on board.

I am asking that the council consider this matter

Sincerely
Cordell

From: [Cordell Hindler](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments D-1 Presentations, Proclamations and Commendations
Date: Thursday, June 17, 2021 3:42:40 PM

good Evening Mayor Butt, Council Members and City Staff, I have some comments relating to this Proclamation

I have been Knowing Mary Selva for about a couple of years, and when I had Heard about her Passing. It was devastating to the community.

So I am so glad that the Richmond Annex Council is taking on this role

Sincerely
Cordell

From: [Cordell Hindler](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments- Open Forum
Date: Thursday, June 17, 2021 3:51:58 PM

good Evening Mayor Butt, Council Members and City Staff, I have a Couple of Comments for the record

1. it is unacceptable that the Public has used such vulgar Language over the Phone
2. Also I am in Support of I-6 to fill the vacancy on the Economic Development Commission

Sincerely
Cordell

From: [Leisa Johnson](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Cc: [Leisa Johnson](#)
Subject: Open Forum Comments, June 22, 2021
Date: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 7:49:37 PM

Dear City Clerk,

Can you please include these written open forum comments in the formal supplementary meeting materials?

Thank you,
Leisa

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, Council and Staff:

The unprofessional behavior and decorum on this council has devolved over the past year. It is sad & embarrassing for this City, especially the behavior that we witnessed last night from Vice Mayor Johnson. His behavior was so over the top that it often appeared staged, making many wonder if he was doing this to generate sound & video bits to support his future campaign.

1: Earlier today, I lodged a formal Brown Act Violation inquiry into Vice Mayor Johnson's repeated use of **"voting by chat"** when he was **not** having technical issues with his microphone.

The chat function on the Council's Zoom calls is disabled to the Public so you cannot see their votes.

This type of behavior and "blind" voting is inexcusable. It is also very disrespectful to the City Clerk who is trying to record votes.

Thus, I would like clarification on whether or not the votes pertaining to Item F-1 last night need to be repeated so that they are conducted in accordance with the law.

2: Last night, Vice Mayor Johnson was upset with the Mayor, again, calling out "real white power" and then saying he was drunk. He proceeded to stop speaking altogether at one point, and then pulled a Marjorie Taylor Green move by donning a face mask as a means to protest what he perceived as the Mayor silencing him.

After the 1st item concluded & a 5 minute recess occurred in the hope of restoring professional decorum, Vice Mayor Johnson called the Mayor racist for all to hear.

A. The Vice Mayor needs to be held accountable for his actions, and owes the Mayor and Public a formal apology from the dais. And this should be done tonight.

B. I am also calling for this City Council to draft and pass a resolution that would allow them

to appropriately censure their fellow councilmembers. This behavior must stop and you need to hold your peers accountable.

3. Lastly, I and many others in the Public have noticed that some of our councilmembers, including Vice Mayor Johnson, have been campaigning from the dais. Please stop as this is in direct conflict to your civic duties & oath of office.

Richmond is at a critical point right now, fueled in part by the ideology and divisive rhetoric on display by some Councilmembers at the expense of the Community at large.

Councilmember Martinez - Last week, you compared yourself to Martin Luther King, not once but four times, while simultaneously saying you would vote based on emotion and in opposition to the majority of your constituents.

Councilmember McLaughlin - I don't understand why you felt it was appropriate for you to read the entire Juneteenth Proclamation instead of one of your two black colleagues, Vice Mayor Johnson and Councilmember Willis, who co-sponsored the item.

Please respect your oath of office and treat your colleagues, City Staff, and constituents with respect.

Thank you.

Respectfully,
Leisa Johnson
21-year Richmond resident

From: cydweli@sonic.net
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments - Open Forum
Date: Monday, June 21, 2021 4:06:26 PM

Dear Mr. Mayor and Richmond City Council members,

I am writing in **support of the anti-harassment ordinance** to protect Richmond CA renters. I have been a Richmond resident for many years and for about the last decade have resided in a senior citizen complex where harassment of elderly tenants and violations of landlord tenant laws are the norm and are rampant. I never imagined when moving here that I would find landlord harassment in a senior complex, let alone how frequently and to the degree to which it takes place. Many of the tenants are living in constant fear and trying to find other places to move to because of this.

Short list of examples of management harassment:

- Failing to make repairs - Regularly delaying or not responding at all to requests for needed repairs, including ongoing electrical problems with stoves, electrical outlets, malfunctioning toilets, etc., some of which continue to have problems months and literally years after being reported; Often not finishing repairs that were started.

- Being taken advantage of financially and in other ways (i.e., raising some tenants' rents before their lease expires, refusing to return deposits; not cashing tenants' checks; not providing receipts for tenants' rental payments, etc.).

- Refusing to accommodate residents' disabilities in violation of ADA laws, and lying to tenants about their rights (i.e., refusing to install handlebars or raised toilet seats in disabled tenants' bathrooms or assign them parking closer to their units as a reasonable accommodation, refusing to replace moldy and unsafe carpeting causing some tenants to trip and be harmed; denying transfers to more accessible units, delays in repairing elevators causing seniors to be trapped on the upper floors or trip trying to use the stairs; among many other violations...).

- Taking advantage of seniors' lack of knowledge of the laws regarding tenant rights and landlords' responsibilities. Frequently lying to tenants, giving them wrong information or conflicting information and trying to

confuse them. Gaslighting tenants is common.

- Bullying and verbal abuse by management resulting in many tenants feeling threatened and afraid to approach management, including to request work orders for repairs.

- Threats to evict tenants and frightening them by issuing 3-day notices for things they didn't do (i.e., after turning in a 30-day notice to move, being late to fill out paperwork that they needed help filling out, posting 'notices to evict' on the doors of tenants who they say didn't pay their rents when they have proof of paying their rent, etc.).

- Being issued bogus lease violations for things tenants did not do. Conversely, not issuing lease violations for infractions of the lease when it suits the management's purposes.

- Inadequate or total lack of communicating important information to tenants or giving us inaccurate or conflicting information: (i.e., Recently not informing tenants that our key fobs to get into the buildings' doors were changed resulting in tenants' not being able to get into their buildings; Not informing tenants that the remotes for the parking gates were being changed which resulted in elderly and disabled tenants being locked out of the parking lots for 3 days; repeatedly giving out wrong information on how to use the key fobs; not notifying some residents that they needed to move their cars from the parking lots for resurfacing, or that they needed to RE-register their cars with the office - which caused some tenants' cars to be towed and others threatened to be towed. This is "affordable" housing, and most tenants are unable to afford the costs of retrieving their cars if they are towed., Other tenants had notices slapped on their car windows telling them they didn't belong here and to remove their cars from their assigned parking spaces or they would be towed (for no reason). They not only were long term tenants, but had the required stickers on their windows to prove they were legitimately parked there; etc.)

- Regularly and blatantly illegally entering tenants' homes and allowing visiting workers to do the same, without providing any notice and/or providing inadequate notice. When they do provide notice, they don't always show up and don't always inform tenants that they won't be there, nor do they reschedule the appointment. When they do come

into a tenant's unit to make a repair when the tenant isn't home, they never leave notice of having been there. Repairs are also sometimes left unfinished.

These are just a few of the many incidents of harassment that occur here.

For as long as I have lived here, the tenants have been trying to organize to try to get help with these problems and more. It is near impossible when you are elderly or disabled and on a fixed income to get adequate help with these types of landlord violations. Many of the tenants, either due to age, health issues, or lack of knowledge, do not have the where-with-all to know that they are being taken advantage and are unable to get help on their own if they do. This is common. They are also afraid of retaliation and eviction if they try to assert their rights. The tenants have tried multiple times over many years to try to get help with these problems, and despite the attempts of outside persons and organizations to try to help, the violations and harassment have not only persisted, but some have gotten worse. The management just continues to repeat their abuse of power over vulnerable seniors non-stop.

I am hoping that an ordinance that increases the penalties for the management's/landlords' violations of the laws might help to convince them to behave legally and treat us with at least a modicum of decency.

Please vote yes for the anti-harassment ordinance.

Thank you.

City of Richmond Senior Tenant

From: [Katrinka Ruk](#)
To: [Shasa Curl](#); [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comment: 6/21/21 Consent Calendar tem I-10 First amendment to contract with SCI Consulting Group amending service plan related to potential vacant parcel tax...
Date: Monday, June 21, 2021 1:00:49 PM
Attachments: [06.22.21 Item I-10 potential vacant parcel tax increase.docx](#)

COI



<!--[if !vml]-->

<!--[endif]-->

COUNCIL OF INDUSTRIES

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

(510)215-9325

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

June 21, 2021

/email/

To: City Manager's Office/ Shasa Curl

To: City Clerk

To: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council, City Manager

Re: 06/22/21 City Council; Item I-10 First amendment to contract with SCI Consulting Group amending service plan related to potential vacant parcel tax...

I am requesting this item be pulled from the consent calendar to allow for public comment and discussion. We believe that this item should be agenized as a study session item. By putting this on the consent calendar, it assumes that the city is supporting doing a study to increase the tax without any discussion as to why this should be considered.

On behalf of the Council of Business and Industries (COI) the following comments are being submitted:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->1) <!--[endif]-->The fact that staff is considering an increase in a business tax will require a tax ballot measure, this alone requires full transparency with the neighborhood and business community including discussion as to the reasons why this is being considered by staff; therefore, it should be agenized as a study session item.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->2) <!--[endif]-->If there is a concern that the vacant properties are not being cared for, then focus should be on supporting our code enforcement department to follow-up with businesses.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->3) <!--[endif]-->If there is concern that project are not moving forward, then the city should continue to work with the developers to assist with exploration into plausible projects.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->4) <!--[endif]-->Businesses are still reeling from the impact that the pandemic has had on their businesses; we still do not know how Measure U / Business License Tax will impact the business community as the city is slow to work with the COI/Chamber/23rd Street Merchants to set up meetings with the business community who are still waiting on responses from questions submitted.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->5) <!--[endif]-->This vacancy tax proposes to address issues such as blight, abatement, & code enforcement. The staff recommendation of ARPA funds includes allotting funding to address these issues. This appears to be a duplication of funds.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->6) <!--[endif]-->We have a code enforcement program in place whose responsibility it is to focus on these issues. If there is a question of not enough individuals to accomplish this, the city should focus the ARPA funds on ensuring a proper staffing of code enforcement.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->7) <!--[endif]-->The recommendation provides for a substantial 18% increase on this tax when businesses are trying to get back to some normalcy after pandemic, this is unreasonable.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->8) <!--[endif]-->This City has one of the strictest eviction moratorium policies in the nation, with many small mom and pop housing providers not having received rental income for months. We're also still in the midst of a pandemic with much uncertainty ahead and inflation setting in. The cost of building materials & labor alone has skyrocketed over the past 1-2 years.

Putting this on the consent calendar without initial discussion with council and commentary by the business community is not the way to go in support of full transparency. The Public deserves to participate in a full discussion around taxes.

Instead of a tax, has city staff thought of proposing ways to positively incentivize and work with residential & commercial property owners rather than penalize them?

This needs to be properly agenzized as a study session item, not a consent calendar item.

Katrinka Ruk

Executive Director

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

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From: [Cordell Hindler](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments K-2 Council as a whole
Date: Thursday, June 17, 2021 4:04:53 PM

good Evening Mayor Butt, Council Members and City Staff, I do Have some comments for the Record

1. Thank you to Vice Mayor Johnson for the presentation
2. My Concern is that the idea of having another division in the City Manager's office is not a good idea

Sincerely
Cordell