

CITY OF RICHMOND  
**Youth Council SPECIAL Meeting**

Tuesday, July 13, 2021  
2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

**Members:**

Omar Huerta, Chair  
Chandra Davies, Vice  
Chair  
Jocelyn  
Khansouvang, Public  
Relations Director  
Sebastian Dalvand,  
Finance Director  
Kashaf Iqbal  
Mian Shah  
Sofia Pereda-Zanni

**City Council  
Liaison:**

Demnlus Johnson III,  
Councilmember

**Staff Liaison:**

Trina Jackson  
(510) 620-6581

**AGENDA**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82740213400?pwd=S05rR2YxOHV1RmNtSjdZLzlaUWpDdz09>

Meeting ID: 827 4021 3400

Passcode: 04222021

A. Call to Order

- 2:14pm by Ozmar
- No quorum yet

*Until further notice, meetings will be held remotely. Please contact Trina Jackson for additional information at 510-620-6581 or [trina\\_jackson@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:trina_jackson@ci.richmond.ca.us)*

B. Roll Call

- Present: Ozmar, Chandra, Mian,
- Absent: Jocelyn, Kashaf, Sofia, Sebastian
- Jocelyn joined at 2:31pm

C. Open Forum (3 minutes per speaker)

- Mr. Soto: next Wednesday 7/21 at 8:30 BAAQMD board is having their meeting but it is a continuation of a public hearing on rule 6-5
  - 6-5 has been mandated by state law AB617
    - One provision requires that local air districts impose on oil refineries (on catalytic cracker units [where they heat up crude oil]) “best available retrofit control tech”
    - Recommend to adopt the strictest standard of microns
    - The meeting will allow public comments only” from new speakers in under 30 seconds to say “Yes” or “no” to supporting the strongest restriction
    - Most significant in a generation
    - Find the meeting on their webpage, agenda will be posted on Monday on the BAAQMD webpage
      - Look at the board of directors to find agendas and upcoming meetings

D. Discussion with Andres Soto, Community for a Better Environment on the History of air pollution in Richmond

- There are diverse sources of pollution in Richmond
  - Has continued to develop the burden
  - Most disproportionately affected
- Two categories as defined by the government:
  - Particulate matter: hard to filter, enters the bloodstream, disrupts autoimmune systems → cancer, asthma, psoriasis, cardiovascular disease (like the local fallout)
  - Greenhouse gas: trigger climate change
- Also separate by source
  - Stationary (industries refineries, focus for today)

- Mobile (cars, trucks, planes, ships, etc.)
- Mr. Soto asks RYC to each share what they know about Chevron
- Mr. Soto fills in the gaps
- Chevron was a.k.a. Standard Oil of CA
  - The Richmond Standard is named after it and sponsored by them
  - There's a railroad with Richmond as its western end
  - Southern Pacific also passed through but ended in Oakland
  - August MacDonald
    - Owned a port/wharf in S. Richmond
    - Local farmers ship produce to SF and Oak from his wharf
  - The Huichin Ohlone lived here for at least 5000 yrs ad when the Spanish first arrived and created the mission, presidio, their weapon of colonization and conquest: church and military
    - They enslaved indigenous people and forced conversion
      - When they were “broken”, they established rancheria
      - San Pablo
      - Like 1810
      - About 10 yrs later, Mexico fought Spain for independence
        - Rewarded soldiers who fought with land grants
        - WCCC was given to Fransisco Castro
        - Lots is named after him
      - Juan Alvarado, his son, became governor when it was Mexico
      - Mexican - American war
      - Then gold was discovered in 1849
      - 1850 CA becomes a state even though disconnected from other states
      - How Castro lost his name except for El Sobrante
  - Under American period became agricultural
  - Macdonald comes in
    - Lots of rock blasted out
    - Why? To fill the island between the mainland and point Richmond
    - This becomes railway
      - First refinery built here
      - Second in LA, el secundo
    - CA is a petrostate
      - We extract, refine, distribute, and consume it
  - Needed a government for the growing community
    - 1905 start incorporating as a city
    - 1907 incorporated
    - Corporations started worrying about local government because:
      - In SF and Oak the rise of the working class joining socialist parties and demanding change
    - It shifts power

- Richmond was a laboratory
      - Charter change gets rid of strong government and district elections.
      - Becomes a city manager form of government
      - Sued bc latinos were underrepresented
      - Mayor is essentially just chairperson
        - Only has the power to appoint ppl to boards and commissions, with the consent of city council
- The automobile became invented in the late 1910s
  - Ford motor set up shop on S. Richmond, crane way pavilion
  - Shut down in the late 50s and moved to Fremont
  - Became Nissan and now Tesla
- Lots of people emigrating to Richmond from the midwest, and immigrants
- Italians -> garbage industry, brickyards, cannery
  - Serbians, Croatians, Portuguese (as whalers)
  - Richmond high and Salesian used to be land to belonging to a Portuguese family
  - Big political power bc dairy
- WWII
  - Kaiser came in, built shipyards
  - Refinery went into hyper-production
  - Pipelines went over the hill to Pt. Molate into the wharf
    - Supply oil to ships through to Vietnam war
- In the 1980s, started decommissioning military facilities
  - including Point Molate fuel depot
  - With the wealth from WWII, we saw expansion of the interstate highway system → suburbs
    - Walnut creek, concord, lafayette, Orinda
    - El Sobrante, pinole
    - Hercules
    - Chevron benefited from all of this
      - People were getting cars and wealth
    - In late 1940s, unions tried to organize in the refineries
    - RPD battled them. Much violence on the Pickett lines
    - The last real skirmish was in the late 1970s
- There were no pollution controls until Nixon, who created the EPA, and the clean air act was passed
  - Deputized states to create on EPA and air pollution standards
  - CA air resources board
    - Deputize local air districts to create regulations within the regions
    - BAAQMD
    - The board of directors are all elected
    - A portion based on the population of the county

- 4 rep from CCC 4 from Alameda 4 from Santa clara, 3 from San Mateo, 3 from SF, 2 from Solano, 2 from Sonoma, 1 from Marin and 1 from Napa
- These people make policy decisions
- Staff makes rules and rule proposals
- We interact with them, advocate for rules that would improve health
- Richmond became one of the first to articulate environmental justice
  - Racial was spearheaded by Black people (Whitney Dodson, Ethel, Bobby Bowens, Fred Jackson) leaders in articulating “in addition to racial discrimination, and redlining, it’s no surprise, in fact it’s a plan, that the poorest people live closest to these actors (Chevron, Levon cole terminal, Simms Metals, cement plant)
- Motion at 3:01 to extend meeting time until 3:30 Ozmar
- Seconded by Chandra
- Yes votes: passes unanimously
- Petroleum coke results when oil is superheated and infused with chemicals, it’s the residue that is left over. Illegal to burn except for some places
  - So it’s shipped over to Asia and Mexico where rules are less strict
  - But of course, it goes into the same atmosphere as everyone else
- Levin terminal in the port of Richmond
  - Comes from rodeo and gets sent out
  - Coal comes by uncovered train cars from Utah
  - They lose 10-20% of coal volume just by transport
- Federal EPA created something to clean up superfund sites
  - AstraZeneca refuse to clean it up
  - Richmond said if its gonna get cleaned or built on:
    - Option 1: collect all toxic and put in landfill... but ours is full so it went to Utah
  - DTFC is one of the most industry compliant divisions of the whole state government
  - At one point a new not-RPA-majority voted to weaken regulations so someone could put in 4000 housing units, BUT
    - Plants can’t grow in the ground
    - Health compromised people can't be exposed to it for 8+ hours
    - No schools or daycare centers can go on those grounds
    - Council members Butt, Bates, Choi, Johnson all voted for this
- RPA
  - An outgrowth of the 2002 Richmond PD Cinco de mayo

riot

- Attacked Mr. Soto and his sons for asking a question
  - They started organizing, got 12 plaintiffs for a case
  - Kicked out the police chief of the time
- “Until we change the city council in a way that’s gonna have a lasting progressive impact, nothing would change”
- Juan Reardan, Marilyn Langlois, Gayle McLaughlin
- Mr. Soto and McLaughlin were the first 2 RPA candidates
  - Mr. Soto was attacked by RPD
- Claudia Jimenez, Melvin Willis, Eduardo Martinez
  - Will all be a redistricting process probably in September
- Many RPA people in the last 6 months have been looking to do Environmental work and social justice
  - Voted for strongest of 6-5 rule
- They are volunteers, no corporate money
- Chamber of commerce in Richmond supports big industry
  - Attack dogs for this power structure
  - Richmond is the first in 30 years to push for rent control
  - But opposition used Police and Fire as attack dogs
    - Their unions bleed the city dry with pensions and salaries
- CBE campaign: end toxic relationship with chevron
  - Working with Jimenez, Martinez, and McLaughlin to strategize decommissioning the refinery
    - When it closes, who cleans what’s left behind?
    - Go to [csb.gov](http://csb.gov) >> search “Richmond Chevron refinery”; there's a video to explain it
  - See in Philadelphia: LLC files for bankruptcy, not the corporation
  - So how do we get chevron to pay now for the clean up when they go out of business
    - Largest private-sector employer, but only 5% come from Richmond, and those are mostly white
    - Highest taxpayer through property tax
    - But lawyers always try to get them out of stuff
    - Prop 13 in 1975 froze property taxes
    - Utility user taxes instead
      - The city’s largest taxpayer can establish its own tax rate
      - In 2010 Tom Butt and Jeff Ritterman cut a deal where Chevron agreed to pay \$115 million in taxes over 15 years
      - Richmond just adopted a new tax
      - When the moratorium is lifted, Chevron will have a lot more to pay with that
- Cooptation
  - Project battle

- Chevron realized their name was now toxic among voters; every candidate they backed lost
  - Soft psychological tactic
    - Giving money to groups, neighborhood councils, Latina center, NAACP
    - Richmond Standard
    - Dr. Henry Clark
- Ozmar: where do we go from here? It sounds like it takes a lot of time and paradigm shifts
- Mr. Soto: combination of things
  - In aftermath of the 2012 fire, CBE and APEN got together w Urban tilth, ACE, rich city rides, etc to begin to work on a paradigm shift
    - To be part of the club, you can't accept money from Chevron
  - End public subsidies that keep combustion engine
    - False solution bc it requires vegetable oil
    - They will deforest in Amazon for soybean
    - More corn production in the midwest
    - This will deplete Ogallala Aquifer
  - Refinery and railroad filled with tanker cars, ethanol alcohol, highly flammable, corn mix, on top of the landfills on the Hayward fault
    - During earthquakes, things on landfills will collapse
  - What can Richmond do with land use authority
    - When someone has a land-use permit they can operate and continue to unless amendment comes
  - The market is the real driver. Convert rapidly to electrical vehicles which will require an expansion of renewable energy
    - Rooftop solar on all the buildings
    - But we are mostly renters which would only benefit tenants who have to pay the electrical bill
- Jocelyn: who can we support or reach out to
- Mr. Soto: myself [andres@cbeval.org](mailto:andres@cbeval.org), and [zolboo@cbeval.org](mailto:zolboo@cbeval.org)
  - RPA get to know and join
    - There is a vetting process
  - Study the city of Richmond agenda, make comments, get engaged
- Chevron's been here for 120yrs, but they will probably be gone in 15-20yrs
- Please consider me a resource, I have colleagues who would like to speak with you as well
- Call on ACE to speak for housing
- Urban tilth for food insecurities
- Safe return for criminal justice
- Ozmar: how can we collaborate in an official way?
- Mr. Soto: coordinator of Richmond Our Power: Katt Ramos [katherineramos@ourpowerinrichmond.org](mailto:katherineramos@ourpowerinrichmond.org)
- Ozmar: steps that you directly believe are gonna be necessary for groundwork
- Mr. Soto: consistent political organization

- Where getting involved in an org is critical
- Need to know power analysis, swot analysis, power mapping of Richmond
  - Who's with you, who's not, and who's in the middle
- "Dont turn your back on richmond"

#### E. Status of Proposed Grassroots Fair

- Location: Nicholl park
  - Don't need a permit for the park
  - Civic center parking lot
  - Or Richmond high?
  - Leaning toward nicholl park
- Program: August 14
- Potential Vendors: 20-35 orgs we would like, will share list with members
- Outreach: template is ready, will start reaching out to everyone today or tomorrow
- Motion by Ozmar to acknowledge that in going over time in our meeting we extended our meeting to 4:10pm to cover all agenda items
- Seconded by Chandra
- Votes yes: passes unanimously

#### F. Announcements and Adjournment

- Adjourn at 4:10pm