

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, October 5, 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 Assembly Bill 361 that allowed cities to hold public meetings via teleconferencing.

DUE TO THE SHELTER IN PLACE ORDERS, attendance at the City of Richmond City Council meeting was limited to commissioners, 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 Assembly Bill 361, 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/KCRRTTV>.

*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 October 5, 2021, were put into the record and considered before council action. Written comments received after 1:00 p.m. and up until the public comment period on the relevant agenda item closed, were also put into the record. **Attached herewith all written public comments received.***

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Claudia Jimenez, Eduardo Martinez, Gayle McLaughlin, Melvin Willis, Vice Mayor Demnlus Johnson III, and Mayor Thomas K. Butt. **Absent:** Councilmember Nathaniel Bates 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):

Levin Richmond Terminal Corp v. City of RRichmond (Two cases)

Wolverine Fuels Sales LLC v. City of Richmond (One case)

Phillips 66 Co. v. City of Richmond (Two cases)

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 6:46 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 7:53 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

None.

AGENDA REVIEW

Items I-2, I-3, I-5, I-7, I-11, and I-13 were removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion at the end of the agenda. Item I-9 was continued to the October 19, 2021, City Council meeting.

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 Community Service Department's Healthy Lunches for Seniors Program was providing meals by calling (510) 307-8085. The Community Survey was available online by visiting <https://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/1871/Community-Surveys>. The Council requested a report on updates from the Reimaging Public Safety Task Force be placed on the City Council agenda for the third Tuesday of every month. Hulan Barnett and Norma (last name not stated) gave comments via teleconference.

RECENT CRIME REPORT FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief of Police Bisa French reported the following Richmond police incidents that occurred within the last week: one homicide, four shootings, three robberies, six felony domestic assaults, and the recovery of six firearms. Discussion ensued. The Council recommended staff review the City of Fairfield's ordinance regarding fining sideshow spectators to develop a similar ordinance for Richmond. The following individuals gave comments via teleconference: Leisa Johnson, Michael Parker, Hulan Barnett, and Ali Estrada.

ABATEMENT REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Public Works Director Joe Leach reported on the abatement and cleanup events at the following locations: Richmore Village/Metro neighborhood; Interstate-80/Central Avenue underpass encampments and alleys; Esmond Avenue alley; and illegal dumping and graffiti in various locations. Mr. Leach acknowledged the Public Work Department's abatement team, Richmond Police Department, and the Police Activities League for assistance with abatement. Discussion ensued. The Council requested staff to address the cleanup issues under the overpass entering Richmond and the vacant lot located at Carlson Boulevard and Florida Avenue. The Council recommended hiring youth and utilizing the American Rescue Plan Act funds for cleanup. The following individuals gave comments via teleconference: Leisa Johnson, Karla Perez, Jessi Taran, Hulan Barnett, and Michael Parker.

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals gave comments via teleconference:

Joey Schlemmer gave comments regarding the Richmond Police Department's emergency dispatching center and how calls were handled. Mr. Schlemmer expressed concerns regarding the future handling of fire and medical dispatching currently provided in Richmond.

Karla Perez and Leisa Johnson recommended the resignation or removal of Richmond Reimagining Public Safety Task Force member, Tamisha Walker, due to a recently publicized incident.

Tarnel Abbott, Roxanne Garza, and Michael Littleton gave comments regarding Item I-9. Ms. Abbott expressed support for hiring a credentialed library director through a nationwide search, full staffing, and reinstatement of open hours at the library. Ms. Garza raised questions concerning the proposed community engagement director position and the implementation of the Racial Equity Action Plan presented at the June 22, 2021, City Council meeting. Mr. Littleton expressed support for the current deputy city manager.

Jessi Taran expressed concerns regarding the new site management for the unhoused individuals on Rydin Road and the lack of options for relocation. Ms. Taran recommended utilizing vacant lots in Richmond for housing.

Rodney Brown gave comments in support of Item I-17. Mr. Brown invited the Council and community to attend the Soulful Softball Sunday tournament scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on October 17, 2021, at Nicholl Park.

Melvin Willis invited the community to email him at melvinforrichmond@gmail.com to move issues to the forefront. Mr. Willis encouraged the community to reach out to him and staff regarding the RecycleMore Joint Powers Authority (JPA) and announced that the next JPA meeting was scheduled for October 14, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom teleconference to discuss dumping and solid waste issues. Mr. Willis expressed support for

the reports from the city manager, police chief, and public works director made during the meeting and advised that he may introduce rule changes to receive the information without speaking to the issues.

CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

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

***I-1.** Approved contract amendment No. 1 with Larry Walker Associates in the amount of \$320,000, for a total amount not to exceed \$520,000 to assist with the Environmental Compliance Program Inspections, Sampling, and the City of Richmond's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and Stormwater Municipal Regional Permit.

I-2. The matter to adopt a resolution authorizing the issuance of a task authorization to Veolia Water to manage (on behalf of the City of Richmond) subcontracts with W.R. Forde and Associates, VW Housen, and Questa Engineers to replace and/or rehabilitate specific sanitary sewer pipelines in an amount not to exceed \$474,274.50 was introduced by Public Works Project Manager Mary Phelps. W.R. Forde and Associates project cost of \$317,000 plus 16.5 percent mark-up of \$52,305, plus 15 percent contingency of \$47,550 plus 9 percent mark-up of \$4,279.50; VW Housen project cost of \$25,000, plus 16.5 percent mark-up of \$4,125, plus 15 percent contingency of \$3,750, plus 9 percent mark-up of \$337.50; and Questa Engineers project cost of \$15,000, plus 16.5 percent mark-up of \$2,475, plus 15 percent contingency of \$2,250, plus 9 percent mark-up of \$202.50. Leisa Johnson gave comments via teleconference. Discussion ensued. On motion of Vice Mayor Johnson III, seconded by Councilmember Willis, adopted **Resolution No. 115-21** by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Bates, McLaughlin, Willis, Vice Mayor Johnson III, and Mayor Butt. **Noes:** None. **Abstained:** Councilmembers Jimenez and Martinez. **Absent:** None.

I-3. The matter to adopt a resolution to appropriate budget from the 2019A Wastewater Bonds proceeds for the unanticipated work; and approve contract amendment No. 1 for Bay Hawk Inc., in the amount of \$224,750 for the sewer pipeline repairs as listed in the 2018/2019 Risk Assessment Analysis Clean-up Proposal Project list for a total contract amount not to exceed \$598,750 was introduced by Public Works Project Manager Mary Phelps. Leisa Johnson gave comments via teleconference. Discussion ensued. On motion of Vice Mayor Johnson III, seconded by Councilmember Willis, adopted **Resolution No. 116-21** by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Bates, McLaughlin, Willis, Vice Mayor Johnson III, and Mayor Butt. **Noes:** None. **Abstained:** Councilmembers Jimenez and Martinez. **Absent:** None.

***I-4.** Approved a contract with Pisor Fence Division, Inc., for replacing the existing damaged fence at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (601 Canal Boulevard) with a new 1,120 linear foot of 8-foot height fence filled with Green Vinyl Strips, in an amount not to exceed \$128,070 (project cost of \$121,393 plus 5.5 percent contingency of \$6,677).

I-5. On motion of Vice Mayor Johnson III, seconded by Councilmember Willis, adopted **Resolution No. 117-21** authorizing the issuance of a task authorization to Veolia Water to manage (on behalf of the City of Richmond) subcontracts with: D'Arcy and Harty Construction, Inc., VW Housen, and Questa Engineers to replace and/or rehabilitate specific sanitary sewer pipelines in an amount not to exceed \$956,440 by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Bates, McLaughlin, Willis, Vice Mayor Johnson III, and Mayor Butt. **Noes:** None. **Abstained:** Councilmembers Jimenez and Martinez. **Absent:** None. D'Arcy and Harty project cost of \$680,000 plus 16.5 percent mark-up of \$112,200, plus 15 percent contingency of \$102,000 plus 9 percent mark-up of \$9,100; VW Housen project cost of \$25,000, plus 16.5 percent mark-up of \$4,125, plus 15 percent contingency of \$3,750, plus 9 percent mark-up of \$337.50; and Questa Engineers project cost of \$15,000, plus 16.5 percent mark-up of \$2,475, plus 15 percent contingency of \$2,250, plus 9 percent mark-up of \$202.50.

***I-6.** Adopted **Resolution No. 118-21** authorizing the city manager or designee to enter into a Maintenance Agreement with Caltrans. The City of Richmond will be responsible for maintaining the signage and striping improvements that were installed at the intersection of Harbour Way South and Hoffman Boulevard.

I-7. The matter to approve contracts with: (1) Avery and Associates; (2) The Byers Group; (3) Cooperative Personnel Services; (4) Koff and Associates; and (5) Management Partners each for \$75,000 for executive recruitment services over a three-year period from September 28, 2021, to September 27, 2024, was introduced by Interim Human Resources Director Marc Fox. Discussion ensued. A motion was made by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Vice Mayor Johnson III, to approve said contracts. A substitute motion made by Councilmember Martinez, seconded by Councilmember Bates, lowered the authorized contracts amounts from \$75,000 to \$50,000 by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Bates, Jimenez, Martinez, McLaughlin, Willis, and Vice Mayor Johnson III. **Noes:** Mayor Butt. **Abstained:** None. **Absent:** None.

***I-8.** Adopted **Resolution No. 119-21** amending the salary schedule to acknowledge the Richmond Fire Management Association executing the option to move a differential pay into base salary.

I-9. **Withdrawn from the agenda,** the matter to approve the Fiscal Year 2021-22 multi-year comparative position listing and amend the salary schedule to implement the city manager's reorganization of specific city departments.

***I-10.** Approved two legal services agreements, first amendments to five legal services agreements, and two second amendments to existing legal services agreements with: (1) Liebert, Cassidy Whitmore; (2) Sloan Sakai Yeung & Wong LLP; (3) Maloney Employment Law; (4) Orbach, Huff, Suarez & Henderson; (5) McNamara, Ney, Beatty, Slattery, Borges & Ambacher; (6) Newdorf Legal; and (7) Allen Glaessner Hazelwood & Werth to represent the City of Richmond in pending and future employment, dangerous condition, police/tort defense and other municipal law litigation in state and federal court.

I-11. The matter to adopt a resolution authorizing the city manager to execute a professional services agreement for Municipal Advisor services for land-secured financing districts if and when needed with any of the following firms (listed alphabetically): KNN Public Finance, LLC; NHA Advisors, LLC; Public Resources Advisory Group, Inc. was introduced by Public Works Director Joe Leach. Professional services agreements for as-needed services were for individual amounts not to exceed \$100,000 over a three-year period, with an option to extend the contract for two years. Total authority was limited to \$300,000 maximum, with no single contract exceeding \$100,000. The list and limits may be revised, amended, or canceled by the action of the City Council, including by resolution for the issuance of bonds. Regional Government Services Advisor Tracy Fuller provided an oral report. Discussion ensued. A motion was made by Councilmember Martinez to exclude landscaping and lighting districts, community facility districts, and tax-exempting financial mechanisms. Further discussion ensued. Sally Tobin and Jim Hanson gave comments via teleconference. An amended motion made by Councilmember McLaughlin, seconded by Councilmember Martinez, adopted **Resolution No. 120-21** with an additional whereas clause after the tenth whereas clause stating, “...and; *WHEREAS, the City Council shall review the benefits and risks of any proposed land-secured financing district prior to initiation of Municipal Advisor consulting services and may approve, disapprove, revise, amend or cancel the nature and scope of work*”, passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Bates, Jimenez, Martinez, McLaughlin, Willis, and Vice Mayor Johnson III. **Noes:** Mayor Butt. **Abstained:** None. **Absent:** None.

***I-12.** Approved and authorized the Police Department to spend up to \$50,000 per vendor over the next three (3) years. The four vendors were chosen based upon their ability to source and provide, at a reasonable cost, the ammunition sizes utilized by the department. The four vendors were: Dooley, LC Action, San Diego Police Supply, and Ammo.com.

I-13. The matter to approve a sole-source agreement with the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office for the continued and dedicated services of a deputy district attorney specifically assigned as Richmond's Community Based Prosecutor, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, was introduced by Chief of Police Bisa French. Discussion ensued. The Council requested a report for how many other cities were paying for district attorney services including the services provided to Richmond compared to other cities. On motion of Vice Mayor Johnson III, seconded by Councilmember McLaughlin, approved said agreement by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Jimenez, Martinez, McLaughlin, Willis, Vice Mayor Johnson III, and Mayor Butt. **Noes:** Councilmember Bates. **Abstained:** None. **Absent:** None.

(At approximately 11:00 p.m., on motion of Vice Mayor Johnson III, seconded by Mayor Butt, extended the meeting to complete the discussion for Item I-13 by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmembers Bates, Jimenez, Martinez, McLaughlin, Vice Mayor Johnson III, and Mayor Butt. Noes: Councilmember Willis. Abstained: None. Absent: None).

***I-14.** Approved a three-year contract with the Richmond Rod & Gun Club in an amount not to exceed \$35,000 for ongoing training and practice.

***I-15.** Authorized the city manager or designee to execute a grant agreement with the State Department of Parks and Recreation for a \$25,000 Certified Local Government (CLG) grant and appropriated the \$25,000 CLG grant in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget.

***I-16.** Approved a sole-source contract with PES Environmental, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$70,000 for environmental consulting services related to the Miraflores property, through June 30, 2023, to be paid for by funding from the Successor Agency to the Richmond Community Redevelopment Agency.

***I-17.** Approved a request to waive the rental fees in the amount of \$873.50 for the 2021 Soulful Softball Sunday games and activities scheduled for October 17, 2021, at Nicholl Park.

***I-18.** Proclamation declaring October 16, 2021, as Arbor Day in the City of Richmond.

***I-19.** Proclamation declaring October 6, 2021, as California Clean Air Day in the City of Richmond.

COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

J-1. The matter to direct staff to complete negotiations with: (a) City National Bank ("CNB") with respect to a Loan Agreement to refinance the 2005 Bonds and Swaps and (b) Royal Bank of Canada ("RBC") with respect to amending the Swaps and, if concluded satisfactorily, to bring an authorizing resolution and associated documents to the City Council for adoption as soon as feasible, optimally in fewer than 75 days was introduced by City Manager Laura Snideman. Joe Mortenson of the Public Resources Advisory Group, George Majors of the Majors Group, and Bond Counsel John Palmer of Orrick presented a Powerpoint that highlighted the following: Pension obligation bonds problems to solve and challenges; overview of alternatives, estimated costs, and alternatives not analyzed; risks, advantages, and sole sourcing of a CNB loan structure; recommendations; and next steps. Discussion ensued. A motion was made by Councilmember McLaughlin, seconded by Councilmember Jimenez, to move forward with finding a firm to conduct a peer review, by sole-source or emergency procurement if either of those categories moved the process faster, and bring back the analysis to the Council for a final decision. Norma (last name not stated) and Lisa Cody gave comments via teleconference. The motion passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Jimenez, Martinez, McLaughlin, and Willis. **Noes:** Mayor Butt. **Abstained:** Councilmember Bates and Vice Mayor Johnson III. **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 11:07 p.m., in memory of James Prothro and Mary Elaine Billups, to meet again on Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor

From: [Deborah Bayer](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Closed Session November 2, 2021, Conference with Legal Counsel
Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 12:57:30 PM

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I would like to thank Council Members McLaughlin, Willis, Martinez and Jimenez for their vote on Point Molate. The City should never have moved on this controversial plan without the support of the people of Richmond. The "public process" was a sham, the backdoor dealing did not comply with the Brown Act, and privatizing our public shoreline was never a good idea. I can only think of "Waist Deep in the Big Muddy." Mayor Butt and his cronies had a vision that was not shared by the community and did not benefit the community. Each step of the way, by refusing to stand up to Jim Levine and Upstream in court and instead negotiating a bad settlement, and then by signing an unpopular contract with SunCal, Richmond was going further and further into the swamp, until it seemed impossible to back out. But as Martin Luther King said, "The time is always right to do right." Please stick to your decision and don't get intimidated.

Sincerely,
Debbie Bayer

From: [Doria Mueller-Beilschmidt](#)
To: [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Melvin Willis](#); [Tom Butt](#); [Nat Bates](#); [Demnlus Johnson](#)
Cc: [Laura Snideman](#); [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: CLOSED SESSION NOVEMBER 2, 2021: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION AND CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 9:59:14 AM

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Dear Richmond City Council Members and Mayor,

Thank you, Melvin Willis, Claudia Jimenez, Eduardo Martinez and Gayle McLaughlin, for leading our City with a clear healthy vision for the future of Richmond by voting in support of the Community Plan for Point Molate as supported by Point Molate Alliance and many other Richmond/Bay Area organizations, and especially the Ohlone People.

Respectfully,

Doria Muller-Beilschmidt
(Giuseppe & Matteo Salvato)
Richmond residents

From: [Dorothy Gilbert](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Melvin Willis](#)
Subject: CLOSED SESSION NOVEMBER 2, 2021: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL- EXISTING LITIGATION AND CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 12:47:21 PM

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Dear City Council Members McLaughlin, Willis, Martinez and Jimenez:

I write with heartfelt thanks to you, and to commend your courage, for your votes instructing the City Attorney to file an appeal in the federal appeals court in support of the Point Molate Alliance and other community groups. Please do not yield to pressure to change your votes; I suspect pressure will be heavy, but stand your ground! Point Molate is public land and should remain in public hands; do not allow it to be privatized! Its best use is as a world-class park for this community and as a site where historic artifacts--some sacred to native peoples--and natural resources important to science are protected and cherished.

Again, many [thanks.to](#) you and to the City Clerk for her assistance.

Dorothy Gilbert

Richmond resident 23 years

Former Member, Point Molate Community Advisory Committee, 6 years

From: [Jin Zhu](#)
To: [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#); claudia@claudiajimenezforrichmond.com
Cc: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: CLOSED SESSION NOVEMBER 2, 2021:CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION AND CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 8:13:05 AM

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Council Members,

Thank you for your votes instructing the City Attorney to file a brief in the federal appeals court in support of the Point Molate Alliance. Your brave votes to support the Alliance allows public land and should remain in public hands. I support this course of action and I know that many concerned Richmond residents do too!

Thank you,
Jin

From: [Larissa Kelly](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Nat Bates](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Demnlus Johnson](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [RichCityServant@gmail.com](#); [Melvin Willis](#); [Lina Velasco](#); [Laura Snideman](#); [Teresa Stricker](#); [Tom Butt - external](#)
Subject: 1) Public comments – Open Session prior to Closed Session; 2) Public comments – Open Forum
Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 12:59:46 PM

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Hi all,

Just wanted to comment that I was disappointed by the City Council's recent decision to side with the anti-housing groups suing Richmond over the prospective development at Point Molate. By instructing the City Attorney to go along with the plaintiffs' dubious claims, the Council may have caused Richmond to violate contractual obligations, and exposed the city to further costly litigation. I'm concerned by the potential repercussions of this risky move.

Beyond the legal issues, I hope that the RPA members on the City Council will reconsider what often seems like reflexive opposition to increasing the city's housing supply. It's been very heartening to see progressive politics in the Bay Area moving away from the Marin-style, anti-development models of the '60s and '70s, to a new framework that emphasizes the social, environmental, and economic benefits to be gained from creating dense housing across the region. I urge the Council to work towards a future in which Point Molate provides homes for thousands of new neighbors, while also offering green space and recreation to the community.

Sincerely,
Larissa Kelly
District 6

From: [Cordell Hindler](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments- Open Forum
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 4:16:13 PM

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good evening Mayor Butt, council members and city staff, I have a couple of comments

1. I would like to Request that the council invite Ken Kirkey to provide a presentation on the Housing element for Homelessness
2. also to consider inviting DR Hurst to provide an update on the school district

Sincerely
Cordell

From: [Leisa Johnson](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Cc: [Pamela Christian](#); [Leisa Johnson](#)
Subject: Public Comment - Open Forum, City Council meeting 11/2/2021
Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 8:25:19 PM

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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:

On September 15, 2021, the governor signed into law AB 361, an urgency measure which largely continues the executive orders allowing for remote meetings. The Governor subsequently issued an order making the provisions of AB 361 effective beginning **October 1, 2021**.

AB 361 contains several requirements in order to continue the use of remote meetings, including that the Council must reconsider the factors to continue remote meetings **every 30 days**.

Last week, on October 26th, the City Council voted for the **first time** to extend their ability to continue remote meetings for 30 days, which as I would understand it would have covered the month of October.

We are now into November. As such, I would like for the City Attorney to clarify for the public why there is not another new vote tonight to cover the next 30 days proactively, as all other public bodies in the Bay Area are doing.

Importantly, the community wants to see this council go to a hybrid format whereby the Council and key staff are present at City Hall and the community and other participants can participate remotely via Zoom (as several other public bodies are doing).

As I have stated several times, the community is tired of council members shutting off their videos for the vast majority of the meeting and believe this is in violation of the Brown Act.

Indeed, the Mayor uses the camera views to state at the beginning of the city council meeting that it looks like a quorum has been met so that the meeting can begin. Having cameras live is the only way for the Public to know whether or not quorum has been met and is being maintained throughout the course of the meeting.

Moreover, we are tired of watching certain councilmembers talk to their spouses or be on their phones or computers throughout the course

None of these actions are allowed when you are on the dais at city hall and they should not be allowed on Zoom.

The best way to respect the Public and bring decorum back to the dais is to commence hybrid meetings, and this should happen ASAP just as with other public boards.

Thank you.

Respectfully,
Leisa Johnson

From: [K SANDE](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments - Agenda Item I-6
Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 2:34:40 PM

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City Clerk:

This is being written in support of agenda item I-6 on today's Consent Calendar.

Firstly, my thanks to council member Eduardo Martinez for proposing this resolution. I am a senior who has lived in Richmond for over 40 years. I am a staunch proponent of public education and specifically of the older adult program as offered in the adult school. I attended many adult school programs and paid the requisite fees as a younger person while I was still employed. Since my retirement, I have been an avid participant in the older adult program.

I've been participating in the Strong Bodies Stay Young program since its inception more than 10 or 15 years ago. In addition to the physical benefits, I have enjoyed meeting many other seniors who live in Richmond and surrounding cities. Some of us have become friends and gotten together for activities outside of the classes we were attending. This has really helped to me to feel connected to my community and to other retirees who live close by.

And then came the pandemic. Suffice it to say that we have all experienced loss during this period. We have grieved the loss of family and friends as well as suffered the loneliness of not being able to socialize together.

While it's still not clear how we're going to get back to some form of normal or when, it's pretty clear to me that imposing a fee for the older adult program classes will ensure that many of us not return. Which would be just another loss for us.

I urge you to support this resolution and do all you can to ensure that the classes offered in the older adult program remain free of charge to us.

Thank you,

Kokoye Sande

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Cordell Hindler](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments- M-1 Council as a whole
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 4:25:42 PM

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good evening Mayor Butt, council Members and staff, I will let the record reflect that I was responsible for the Proposed Reorg chart

, I would go with option 1. retain one Deputy City Manager in addition to the Assistant city manager.

so I am asking that the council to approve the 21-22 listing as presented

Sincerely
Cordell