

**City Manager's Weekly Report**  
**For the week ending December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

**1. Meeting Notes**

The next regular City Council meeting is Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. It will begin with a Closed Session at 5:00 PM, followed by Redevelopment Agency items at 6:00 PM, and then the regular Council agenda at 7:00 PM. As you recall, Councilmembers were asked to reserve Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> as your next regular meeting date, with the thought that this meeting could be cancelled (due to the busy holiday season) if there were no agenda items for this meeting. At this point, it appears that there may be agenda items for a regular City Council meeting on Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, so please continue to reserve this date.

**2. Design Review Board Consideration of Chevron Project is Cancelled**

As you know, a notice was posted indicating that Chevron's energy and hydrogen renewal project application would be reviewed by the Design Review Board at its next regular meeting, which is Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Chevron was unable to complete and submit all of the project information that was required by City staff for this hearing based on the City's Design Review ordinance. As a result, the Design Review Board hearing on the Chevron energy and hydrogen renewal project application that was scheduled for this coming Wednesday is cancelled. Chevron anticipates that it will complete all of the submittal requirements shortly, with the projection that the application would then be reviewed by the Board at its January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**3. Upstream Point Molate Option Payment**

In accordance with the City's Land Disposition Agreement, the City has received notice from Upstream Point Molate of their intent to make their scheduled January 2008 option payment, which is in the amount of \$4 million.

**4. Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS) Activities**

The Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS) continues to actively develop its Street Outreach strategy. The recruitment for the Neighborhood Change Agent (NCA) and Peace Keeper positions (outreach workers) has been extended one week and will close on Friday December 14, 2007 at 5:00 PM. The position remains listed on the City's jobs website ([www.ci.richmond.ca.us/jobs.asp](http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/jobs.asp)).

Among the key activities involving potential collaborative strategies for the ONS this past week were:

- Convened meetings with Contra Costa County Mental Health in an effort to create and sustain a coordinated and collective response to street violence and better meet the mental health needs of those impacted by street violence.

- Began the creation of a community-based service provider network to advance effective prevention and intervention measures specifically focused on addressing/responding to street violence and supporting current street level interventions advanced by current community-based leadership.
- Met with the Richmond Code Enforcement Department to begin to identify and establish opportunities for integrating Street Outreach activity with neighborhood response and revitalization activities of the Department.
- Held meetings with various City leaders to discuss the development of strategies to strengthen and expand economic/job development opportunities on behalf of those individuals identified and reached by the City's street outreach activities.
- Briefed the Richmond Chamber of Commerce and the Richmond Workforce Investment Board on the status, activities and priorities of the ONS.

We will continue to keep you informed of these activities.

#### 5. **CDBG Funds Leveraged for Child Care**

The Redevelopment Agency, the United Way of the Bay Area, and the Richmond Children's Foundation recently collaborated to address child care availability in light of the Contra Costa Child Care Council identifying a service and funding gap for child care subsidies for families who have open Child Protection Services cases. \$54,000 of Richmond's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds have been allocated for January 2008 thru December 2008 to address this problem and, through this collaboration, the United Way of the Bay Area is committing matching funds of additional \$54,000. The combined budget of \$108,000 will preserve child care slots served by the Richmond Children's Foundation, specifically reserved for children from Child Protection Services.

#### 6. **Update on GRIP**

The City Council recently allocated \$50,000 to support the program of services delivered by the Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP). After conducting a meeting with representatives from the City of Richmond, Contra Costa County, Private Foundations and the GRIP Board of Directors, the participants determined that a comprehensive program assessment of GRIP was crucial for program survival. The Redevelopment Agency's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) unit developed a comprehensive Strategic Action Plan for GRIP. This Plan includes the retention of a facilitator to assess organizational capacity and the creation of a viable business plan. Staff identified and secured the services of "The Walkeryee Group" to complete the business plan in collaboration with City and County staff and GRIP.

7. **General Plan Advisory Committee Update**

On Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, the General Plan Advisory Committee met to hear an update on the status of the jointly sponsored El Cerrito/Richmond – San Pablo Avenue specific plan. The GPAC also discussed the draft Noise, Public Safety and Transportation elements of the General Plan. The next meeting will be held in January.

8. **Neighborhood Design Standards**

This past Monday, a meeting was scheduled to receive input on draft neighborhood design standards. Because of light attendance at this meeting, additional outreach meetings will be scheduled for January. In the meantime, draft design standards for Richmond’s heritage homes have been posted to the Planning Department WEB site, with Spanish Revival, Richmond Bungalow, Craftsman and Tudor styles on display. Design standards for the post war “gable L” style are still in development. Representatives from Opticos, the City’s consultant on this project, recently toured the Pullman, Coronado and Santa Fe neighborhoods in order to identify any additional architectural styles. Opticos is also preparing guidelines that will help residents match fence styles with Architecture types in Richmond’s ‘Heritage’ neighborhoods.

9. **Kaiser Permanente Application Submitted**

On Friday, Kaiser Permanente submitted an application to construct a parking structure with a small retail component on Macdonald Avenue between 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Streets on the former J.C. Penney parcel. The proposed project will also include modular administrative offices that will support the expanding medical facility.

10. **Richmond Becoming International Role Model for Innovative Community Planning and Urban Design**

Dr. Richard Kreutzer, Branch Chief of the Environmental Health Investigations Branch of the California Department of Public Health, is presenting “Public Health in Community Planning and Urban Design: Sharing the Experience of Updating the Richmond, California, General Plan” at an international forum for public health sponsored by the Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Health and the Shanghai Center for Disease Control on December 11-14, 2007. Dr. Kreutzer is a member of Richmond’s Community Health and Wellness Element Technical Advisory Group.

The Health and Wellness Element of the City’s General Plan, a grant funded part of the current General Plan update, recognizes that the health of a city is not simply about ensuring adequate hospitals and doctors; it is a foundational element of a community. For example, city design that encourages people to depend on their cars to access goods and services leads to increases in obesity, diabetes, heart disease and stroke rates, as well as injuries and pollution-related respiratory illnesses. Designing traffic calming features and interconnected pedestrian and bike paths, along with activating underused city streets, encourages people to walk again.

The City's General Plan Health Element is perceived as a breakthrough concept that's fundamentally changing the way cities plan for the future, and will now be featured internationally in a presentation in Shanghai, China.

#### **11. Recreation Department Activities**

The following are some of the key activities in progress or completed by the Recreation Department this past November:

- The Youth Sports group completed a cooperative agreement with the West County School District's Bright Futures Program for provision of after school activities;
- Youth Sports collaborated with PAL, the YMCA, and the recently elected Little League Board and Committee, to conduct the first Little League Registration on December 1, 2007.
- The Recreation Spring/Summer Activities Guide is scheduled to be distributed by February 2008, with the listing of program activities increasing to 32 pages.
- The Recreation Department applied for a grant through the office of Boating and Waterways to seek funding for water safety, outdoor recreation and kayaking programs. We will keep you informed as to our success in securing these funds.
- Planning and coordinating of the 55<sup>th</sup> annual Snowball and Senior Winter Ball dances are nearly complete with the events being held on December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, respectively, at the crane-way section of the Ford Building.
- The City of Richmond 1<sup>st</sup> annual citywide Youth Chess Tournament has been scheduled for December 8<sup>th</sup> at the Recreation Complex from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
- Staff at the MLK, Parchester and Shields/Reid community centers hosted Thanksgiving meals for their communities.

#### **12. Safe School Zone -- Gun Free & Drug Free Signs**

Based on City Council direction, the Public Works Department will start the installation of Safe School Zone – Gun and Drug Free Signs at Nystrom Elementary School on Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 AM.

#### **13. Public Works Department Activities**

The Public Works Department reports the following significant issues for the upcoming week:

- During the next week, the Department will participate in a partnership with CALTRANS and the Police Department in a joint clean up operation including graffiti removal, tree trimming, weed abatement, and illegal dumping on Bay View Avenue South, and Columbia Ave. and San Joaquin Street.
- On Tuesday, the Department will work in partnership with the Union Pacific Railroad to complete graffiti removal along the railroad tracks on Carlson Boulevard.

- Paving work will continue on 29<sup>th</sup> Street between Garvin and Esmond Avenues, and pothole repair will take place in the Park Plaza area.
- In-field work at Judge Carrol Park will be continuing.
- Tree trimming will take place along Valley View Road from Fleetwood Drive to May Road.

14. **Richmond Successfully Hosts the Mayors' Conference**

*Salute's* did their usual outstanding job in assisting the City of Richmond to host the Mayors' Conference last night, and I received a number of compliments from Conference attendees. My thanks to all staff members from various departments who did great work in helping to organize this event.