

**RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, January 27,
2009**

The Special Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 5:37 p.m. by Mayor Gayle McLaughlin.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Bates, Butt, Ritterman, Rogers, and Mayor McLaughlin.
Absent: Councilmembers Lopez and Viramontes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The acting city clerk announced that the purpose of the Open Session was for the City Council to hear public comments on the following items to be discussed in Closed Session:

CITY COUNCIL

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (Initiation of litigation pursuant to Subdivision (c) of Section 54956.9): One case.

There were no public speakers.

The Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 5:38 p.m. The Closed Session adjourned at 5:58 p.m. The Special Meeting of the City Council was reconvened at 7:02 p.m. by Mayor Gayle McLaughlin who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Bates, Butt, Lopez, Ritterman, Rogers, Viramontes, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Absent:** None.

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Councilmember Butt stated a conflict of interest with Item H-1 and stated he would recuse himself from discussions.

AGENDA REVIEW

None.

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Mayor McLaughlin delivered the State of the City Address.

“Good Evening. I am honored to share with you tonight the State of the City address in 2009 here in our city of Richmond California.

To begin with, I want to honor the joy, pride, and the willingness to act that was felt in Richmond with the inauguration of President Barack Obama. The election of our first African-American president, while serving all Americans, represents the significant contributions and advances that African-Americans have made in our country over centuries. It represents the advances that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and so many before and after him have dreamt about and acted to achieve.

We are living in a new era of responsibility, as President Obama has profoundly stated, and we are also on a new journey of discovery. We are on a magnificent and exciting journey to discover the true essence of our humanity - our true human connection to one another. Yes we can find it throughout the world and yes we can find it right here in Richmond!

The State of our City in 2009 remains sound. We have emerged from a roller coaster of a year. 2008 had its share of ups and downs, but we most definitely ended the year with transformational accomplishments.

First let's look at some of the overall challenges.

In Richmond we are unfortunately seeing homes foreclosed upon and boarded up. Many of our neighborhoods are struggling to keep their integrity.

The cost of putting food on our tables has increased and paychecks have decreased.

California is struggling with its budget and slashing basic services while our tax dollars are flowing into financial institutions and our schools are being threatened with closure.

Too many of our soldiers are dying in Iraq and Afghanistan, and billions of tax dollars go to fund these illegal wars we should not be involved in. Countless lives were lost most recently by the horrific violence in Gaza and many more were wounded and traumatized.

We also know that global warming threatens our very survival on the planet if we fail to find solutions swiftly and effectively.

This is the context of the world in which we find ourselves. We have a choice of whether to be passively impacted by the problems around us, or to actively implement solutions.

We are indeed living in a historic era. Although fraught with new and on-going difficulties, our journey to better lives is one that must be built on the grassroots efforts of community organizing and community development.

2008 was a landmark year in this regard.

I believe 2008 will be remembered as the Year of Environmental Justice in Richmond. We saw some of the strongest and most profound community mobilizations that Richmond has ever experienced. Our local environmental justice community mobilized like never before, making it clear that they will not sit on the sidelines while decisions get made for them in terms of our air quality and our public health. Phrases like “cap the crude” became household terms for Richmond residents. While the oil refining industry pushed with its interests, community groups like the Richmond Alliance for Environmental Justice, Communities for a Better Environment, West County Toxics Coalition, and the Asian Pacific Environmental Network pushed back, letting it be known that decades of pollution must be turned around in Richmond, demanding that their voices be heard and that strict and verifiable regulations be set up in terms of proposed oil refining projects. This mobilizing effort is far from over. The environmental justice community knows it has raised the issue of justice for Richmond to a new level of consciousness. We have turned a corner, a great corner, for Richmond and there is no reversing course. A healthier Richmond most definitely remains the expectation of our communities.

2008 was also an election year. While we saw some of the worst of Richmond politics in action with moneyed interests leading the way, we also saw some of the best of Richmond politics in play, raising new ideas and vision and concluding in some phenomenal victories. We enter 2009 with a new and smaller city council, welcoming back Councilmembers Tom Butt and Nat Bates, and we are honored to have seated our new Councilmember Jeff Ritterman. I believe our current City Council will present positive opportunities for us all and I look forward to working with each and every councilmember.

We have also emerged from our local elections with the momentous passage of Measure T. Measure T will bring millions of dollars of new revenue into the city annually for services, programs and better opportunities for our youth.

Measure T, more than anything else, is a pathway to recovery. While our nation is clearly in the midst of difficult economic times, we must see our challenges as opportunities, and in Richmond we have the opportunity to show what a real recovery effort is all about. I consider it a privilege and a responsibility to make sure that we put resources not only into better services for today, but that we look to the future of our city, by investing in our youth and by creating a city based on principles of economic justice. Because our challenges have persisted for so long...and because we understand better than many cities what economic distress is all about, we can and must

model to other cities what a city in recovery looks like. We must be determined to reverse the enormous economic disparity in Richmond. Residents have given me input for the use of Measure T funds that includes helping our schools, creating green jobs, job training, youth programs such as teen programs at the library, and the ever-popular, urgent request to provide funds to complete restoration of The Plunge, making it the greenest public swimming pool in the nation. And these are just a few of the great ideas people have been suggesting. The City Council will make the final decisions on this year's measure T funds during our 2009/10 budget hearings in May and June. I invite all residents to weigh in on the discussion for best use of these funds.

In addition to collecting Measure T funds, we need to emphasize the importance that the city receives all the taxes due, be it from Measure T, from the utility users tax, from property or any other tax. We have seen how giants of industry in Richmond have repeatedly tried to shirk their responsibility of tax payment. This is not acceptable. We, the people of Richmond, expect large taxpayers to pay their taxes the same as our working families pay theirs.

So... here we are entering 2009 with social, environmental, and economic justice lighting our way and with great momentum from our local work in 2008.

PATHWAYS TO PEACE

Our first and highest priority of this year continues to be creating PATHWAYS TO PEACE. It is my pleasure and privilege to announce that we have experienced a positive change in our overall crime rate. Homicides, in particular, were down over 40% in 2008, compared to the year before. While we will never be satisfied until we eliminate all violence in Richmond, this is a significant movement in the right direction. The entire community—dozens of organizations, businesses, and non-profits, thousands of caring residents and all city staff—can and should take credit for this welcome result. At the same time, I attribute the reduction in violence to some specific efforts and initiatives: the day to day operations of our Police Department, the Office of Neighborhood Safety's street outreach and peacekeeping program launched last April, and to the many community and neighborhood groups and teams that have spread the message of peace, alternatives to violence, and crime prevention throughout our city. In addition, the significant job training efforts, especially our green jobs program, and downtown revitalization projects have played an important role.

We must continue the momentum, however, and not let up. Sadly, last Friday, January 23, Richmond had its first fatal shooting of the year when 15-year old Cameron Russell fell victim, allegedly at the hands of a 16-year old, though it has not yet been determined if it was deliberate. Yesterday another teenager, 16-year old Aaron Beltran, was found shot to death. The perpetrator is unknown. Such tragic and senseless acts of children being

killed in our city must be stopped. I will close the Council meeting tonight in memory of Cameron Russell and Aaron Beltran and my heart goes out to their friends and families.

Although violent crime is down overall, it is important to note that one type of crime that increased slightly in 2008 was rape. Recently, we experienced a horrendous sexual assault hate crime in Richmond. The victim was a young woman in our community who thankfully had the courage to report the crime and the Police have apprehended all four suspects. It is significant to mention that the community has rallied strongly in support of this victim, making it clear that we in Richmond stand together to state that hate crimes and sexual assault are unacceptable in our city, and that we welcome people of all races, creed, cultures, and sexual orientation.

I also want to inform the community that efforts are underway for creating neighborhood-based support groups for families who have been impacted by local violence. My office is involved in this effort and is working with Mothers Against Senseless Killing (MASK), Frontline Richmond and the county to train facilitators to lead these Healing Circles of Hope support groups. It is essential that we heal as a community. Families who have suffered losses from local violence are eager to support and empower one another and turn their pain to power so as to spread the message of non-retaliation and peace to others throughout the community.

As we move into this new year, we have opportunities to expand the services of the Office of Neighborhood Safety thanks to some new grant funding. In addition to increasing the scope of its street outreach teams, ONS will be focusing its efforts strongly in 2009 on re-entry services for those returning to the community from incarceration. ONS will continue its fruitful collaboration with local organizations engaged in street outreach, such as Bay Area Peacekeepers, the Street Peace Ambassadors program of Neighborhood House of North Richmond, and Dr. Joseph Marshall's Alive and Free initiative with the Omega Boys Club of San Francisco. As a newly funded project for 2009, ONS is working out terms of a partnership with local hospitals to gain access to gunshot victims in order to deter as swiftly as possible the impulse for retaliation.

As I've already mentioned, in order to continue our crime reduction we need to focus on jobs. Through our Employment and Training Department, our Richmond Build program in partnership with Solar Richmond and other non-profits has shown itself to be a model of solar installation training and has received many awards of recognition as well as national and international publicity. This training is providing new horizons to many who have emerged from challenging backgrounds and are turning their lives around.

Finding ways to expand youth jobs in particular is important for violence prevention. Our Richmond Summer Youth Employment Program will be providing

hundreds of youth with work experience once again this summer, and I have plans to meet with Employment and Training staff to identify ways to further guide the energies and tap into the interest of young people with public service jobs year-round.

GREENING OUR CITY

I'd like now to talk a bit about our ongoing process of "greening our city."

Our city staff Green Team with representation from my office has recommendations for the Council to consider which include a Styrofoam ban; efforts to make sure Richmond Sanitary Service cooperates as effectively as possible with waste management and recycling services; and the creation of a new preferential purchasing policy for the city.

As of a couple years ago, we had no staff working exclusively on environmental matters. We now have two fulltime staff members working exclusively on environmental matters, along with an intern, in the City Manager's office. I want to thank this small, but effective environmental staff. With the efforts of the City of Richmond Environmental Sustainability Team and the Green Team, the city is making great strides. We are most definitely en route to eventually have a Richmond Department of the Environment to overcome the decades of environmental degradation to which our environment and our communities have been subjected.

It's also significant that this year we will be finishing our updated GENERAL PLAN with its emphasis on health, sustainability, climate change, smart growth, and equity. It is important that we watch every development proposal that comes forward to make sure that it advances this vision.

I want to also thank my Environmental Justice and Health Task Force for the ongoing advisory role it plays in helping me sort through the myriad of challenges that we face environmentally. We look forward to another great year of both brainstorming ideas and bringing educational speakers to our meetings to dive further into exploring our challenges and their solutions.

In addition to our city efforts, one of the great efforts underway is the regional greening effort of which Richmond is a part, the East Bay Green Corridor Partnership. While 2008 was the year of conceptualizing for the Corridor, 2009 is slated to be the year that begins the implementation of joint projects. Many ideas regarding how to market the corridor have emerged from the planning process, highlighting that one of Richmond's greatest assets is available land for new and expanding green businesses. Included in these plans is the idea of sharing model pilot programs. For example, Richmond is offering the solar thermal rebate program, which was passed last week by the City Council to promote the installation of solar thermal equipment for heating water in homes and businesses, and which also requires at least

one graduate from our solar training program be employed in each installation.

I've recently met with Mayor Bates of Berkeley and Mayor Dellums of Oakland, and there is much excitement about our collaborative planning for 2009. An upcoming gathering of all the corridor principals and key staff is scheduled for early February to chart our course going forward. I'll look forward to updating the Council and the community as plans come together and as we further the effort to make the East Bay the economic engine of the burgeoning green economy.

On the LOCAL green business front, we have a couple of efforts underway.

1. We are working on the idea of a Green Expo in Richmond to promote and expand green business development in our city.
2. We are working with a non-profit to set up Green Bus Tours of Richmond to showcase our green businesses, our solar training program, as well as solar installations and green buildings throughout the city.

Of course Greening Our City also means grassroots volunteer efforts and that includes those committed volunteers and advocates for the Bay Trail, the Greenway, community gardens and local food coalition efforts. This past MLK Service day turned out hundreds of volunteers at our incredible Richmond Greenway who participated in the growing of produce, herbs, and native plants. Soon we will be entering Phase 2 construction of the Greenway extending this pedestrian and bike pathway providing more opportunities for recreation and healthy living.

I want to also make note of the many non-profits that are teaming up with City staff to work on the Groundwork Richmond project. This is a project that is helping bring funds and organizational framework to grow and expand grassroots sustainability projects throughout Richmond. Ideas are unfolding and include planting an urban forest to help sustain our planet and employ our youth.

UNITY

Earlier in this address, I referred to 2008 as the Year of Environmental Justice. Now let me say that I believe 2009 will be the Year of Unity.

There are so many ways we can and are building on our unity, while respecting and honoring our diversity.

Standing together to save our West County schools has unified school communities and cities. I encourage everyone to continue to join together to find solutions and bring forward the needed pressure on the state to make sure our schools are not shuttered.

Another way of advancing unity is through our city festivals, which become more important than ever in these difficult times. Juneteenth, Cinco de Mayo, and the

Homefront Festival help us build community pride and joy as we learn from historic struggles and efforts.

Our community unity is enriched and inspired by Arts and Culture projects and events--the creation of the beautiful mural on Macdonald and 8th Street is a great example.

My office, as always, will be organizing events as well in 2009. We are currently working with numerous local organizations to plan the 2nd annual Richmond International Women's Day event on March 7 at DeJean Middle School. Later in the spring, we will be holding our 2nd annual Youth event, and more details will be forthcoming about that as they firm up. This year's youth theme will be social justice and unity, as we continue to carve out a place for youth leadership to help steer our city and our society to a better place.

In building our unity, we stand firmly for the rights of immigrants in Richmond. We continue to oppose ICE raids and reaffirm the commitment of the City of Richmond to not cooperate with ICE. My office continues work within a regional coalition to bring Municipal IDs to Richmond so that everyone can access essential services within our city. We are all made stronger by inclusion. Unifying in our diversity enriches us all.

CITY PROJECTS to better serve our community

Coming together as a community is further enhanced by the many City projects that are unfolding to better serve the community, and we have some key City projects coming into fruition this year. In March the move back to our historic Civic Center in the heart of the city will begin --- by June both City Hall and the City Council Chambers will be back in our historic home between Macdonald and Barrett at 27th Street. A grand re-opening celebration is being planned for September once we're all settled in and operating fully in our renovated historic Civic Center.

There are many other accomplishments and ongoing efforts that deserve recognition as we enter this new year.

For example:

-- Our beautiful Macdonald Ave. downtown area continues to be restored and revitalized.

-- Nevin Park has been rejuvenated and there will be a grand opening on Jan 31st, this coming Saturday. I hope to see all of you there!

-- A beautiful senior housing development--Trinity Plaza--was completed across from Nevin Park. This is an example of a model collaboration between the City's Redevelopment Agency and the Richmond Labor and Love Community Development Corporation, a partnership initiated by leaders in the faith community.

--We are collaborating with partners on the NURVE project seeking out creative ways to help shape this

incredible vision of a sustainable smart growth and shared use development project near transportation.

--Efforts to clean up our city continue to press forward. Our anti-graffiti program and One Block at a Time program, through the City Manager's office, have yielded welcome results and more volunteers are encouraged and needed. Code enforcement has been stepped up throughout the city, making sure that vacant buildings, owned by banks and businesses, either clean up their properties or face high fines.

--City staff and non-profits are working hard to help homeowners hold on to their homes and avoid foreclosures through informational workshops and mediated efforts with lenders.

--The RYSE youth center near Macdonald and 41st Street is in operation, giving our young people a safe place to explore ideas, learn, create projects and hold events in our city.

--And after over a year of research and deliberation by an ad hoc committee coordinated through my office with participation from dedicated volunteers of the Richmond Responsible Antenna Placement committee, the City Council is soon to be voting on a revised Wireless Communication Facilities Ordinance ensuring an open and transparent public process with clear guidelines for the placement of cell towers and wireless facilities. This ordinance is likely to be a model for other cities as well.

So many positive steps have been taken in 2008.....so many more will be taken in 2009.

With that, I want to conclude this state of the city address with some final reflections on our future.

We have entered a new era with an awakened hope throughout our nation. It is in that spirit of hope that we continue our work on a local level creating local solutions for our cherished city of Richmond.

**This is the time to turn division into dedicated unity
To turn our pain into collective healing
To turn our fear into unwavering strength**

This is the time to stand and implement all our values.

Let us bring health, prosperity, and well-being to Richmond, not only in word but in deed. For those not familiar with our Richmond, let us give visitors and newcomers a fresh understanding of what we, the people of Richmond, are all about.

Let us continue to live life in Richmond as the beautiful miracle that it truly is. Let us be each others' compasses in finding our way to brighter and brighter days. And let us give to ourselves and each other strength, love, and mutual support.

I remain honored to continue to serve as mayor to all the residents of our city. As always on Fridays, at the Whittlesey Community Room, between 5:30 and 6:30 I hold weekly Meet with the Mayor sessions and invite all to attend and share your ideas and concerns to help further our collective journey.

In the context of a changing world a united Richmond can light up the way to transforming the urban experience...if only we hold high our burning passion for change with pride and joy in each and every step we take!

I want to deeply thank you for continuing to make Richmond the city that it is, a city of unlimited possibilities!!”

**PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS,
AND COMMENDATIONS**

Mayor McLaughlin read a proclamation and presented 2009 Martin Luther King, Jr. Richmond Community Leadership and Service Awards to Dr. Henry Clark, West County Toxic Coalition; Jessica Guadalupe Tovar, Communities for a Better Environment; Torm Nompraseurt, Laotian Organizing Project of the Asian Pacific Environmental Network; Sherry Padgett, Richmond South East Shoreline Advisory Group; Whitney Dotson, North Richmond Shoreline Open Space Alliance (Mr. Dotson was not able to attend); and Robin Carpenter and Andrew Omstead, Richmond Responsible Antenna Placement Committee. Many additional active members of these organizations and departments came up to the front of the chambers and were acknowledged as well.

Mayor McLaughlin thanked City Manager Bill Lindsay for his work in reducing crime in the City of Richmond. Councilmember Viramontes thanked the city manager and Police Chief Chris Magnus for their work in reducing crime in the City of Richmond and for their work in reorganizing work hours for the Police Department. Mayor McLaughlin read a proclamation acknowledging the reduction of violent crime in Richmond in 2008. Proclamations were presented to: Police Department, Chief Magnus; Crime Prevention Neighborhood Watch Groups, Michelle Milam; Community Economics Development and Redevelopment, Steve Duran (Mr. Duran was unavailable to attend – Mayor McLaughlin will forward the proclamation to his department); Employment & Training, Sal Vaca; Solar Richmond, Michele McGeoy (Nedar Bey received the proclamation for Ms. McGeoy); Office of Neighborhood Safety, Devone Boggan (Deborah Dias received the proclamation for Mr. Boggan); Bay Area Peacekeepers, Gonzalo Rucobo; Street Peace Ambassadors of Neighborhood House of North Richmond, Cedric Winston (Fred Jackson received the proclamation for Cedric Winston); John Gioia’s Office, John Gioia; Youth Together, Linda Salinas; RYSE Center, Kanwarpal Dhaliwal; Southeast Asian Young Leaders (SEAYL), John Abella;

Richmond Labor and Love Community Development Corporation, Reverend Raymond Landry (Patrick Foster received the proclamation for Reverend Landry); Richmond Police Activities League, Larry Lewis (Officer Jackson, PAL volunteer, received the proclamation for Larry Lewis); Tent City Peace Movement, Cashinda Wilson (Wilma Miller received the proclamation for Ms. Wilson); Not Today, Reverend William Coleman; and Social Progress Inc., Eleanor Thompson. Many additional active members of these organizations and departments came up to the front of the chambers and were acknowledged as well.

Mayor McLaughlin read a proclamation acknowledging the Red Cross Blood Donor Drive and presented the proclamation to Lisa Eversol. Ms. Eversol thanked Mayor McLaughlin, the City Council, and the citizens of Richmond for their donations. For further information on the becoming a donor call 1(800) GIVE LIF, (1800) 448-5433 or visit www.beadonor.com.

A presentation to approve the donation of one surplus fire engine (1991 Pierce Dash Pumper) to the Managua, Nicaragua Volunteer Fire Department (Benemerito Cuerpo de Bomberos de Managua) was presented. Fire Chief Michael Banks gave an overview and introduced Fire Captain Elizabeth de Dios who gave a presentation which included a PowerPoint Presentation. Yadar Bermudez spoke on this item. On motion of Vice Mayor Lopez, seconded by Councilmember Ritterman approved the donation by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Butt, Ritterman, Rogers, Vice Mayor Lopez, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Noes:** None. **Abstentions:** None. **Absent:** Councilmember Bates and Viramontes. John Marquez spoke on this item.

The Council received a presentation by Evelyn Creer, member of the Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury, of the duties and purpose of the Jury and to encourage Richmond residents to apply to participate on the Grand Jury. The Grand Jury is charged with examining city and county government, special districts, and other recipients of tax dollars to ensure they are conducting business in a lawful manner. They are also mandated to inspect and investigate the County's correctional facilities and their conditions to make sure that they meet state and federal standards. Other responsibilities of the Grand Jury include investigating malfeasance by elect office or employees. In March of each year, applications are accepted. In April of each year, a team of superior court judges select applicants for personal interviews. Service is for one year from June to June. For more information, contact Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office, Civil Unit, 920 Mellus St., Martinez, California 94553, (925) 313-4200.

**REPORT FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY OF
FINAL DECISIONS MADE AND NON-
CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSIONS HELD
DURING CLOSED SESSION**

City Attorney, Randy Riddle, reported the following:

CITY COUNCIL

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (Initiation of litigation pursuant to Subdivision (c) of Section 54956.9): One case. *(Direction was given by the Council to initiate an action. Once the action is formally commenced, the specifics about the action, defendants, and other particulars can be obtained by the public).*

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Jackie Thompson thanked Richmond Police and Code Enforcement for their help with health and safety issues she brought forward.

Corky Booze thanked Bill Lindsay, Leslie Knight, and Police Chief Chris Magnus in helping stop the violence in Richmond. He also asked for a report on the updating of the PA system at the Richmond Auditorium.

Simms Thompson stated the City of Richmond needs activities put in place to benefit the citizens of Richmond.

Tom Waller stated he appreciated the City of Richmond for their recognition of the public and he also appreciated the State of the City Address by the mayor. He stated that he sees a solution in the school problem; however, some schools must be closed in order to move forward. He also stated that he supports the good intention of the merger of the Planning and Design Review Boards, but he does not see any benefit in combining the two.

Alicia Jackson spoke about an incident with Officer Delon Jackson. She distributed an incident report to the Council and administrative staff.

Jovanka Beckles thanked the mayor for her leadership.

Eleanor Thompson thanked the mayor for recognizing the small companies. She also suggested the City set aside funds for citizens reentering society from jail.

COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

In the matter to affirm a local funding commitment for construction of the "Long Wharf" segment of the Bay Trail, in partnership with the East Bay Regional Parks District, in a combined amount of \$3.0 million, as part of a comprehensive funding plan for the trail segment that includes contributions by Chevron and Caltrans. **Councilmember Butt recused himself on this item and left the Chambers.** City Manager Bill Lindsay gave an overview of the item. A motion was made by Councilmember Ritterman, seconded by Councilmember Rogers to approve the item. Discussion began and Councilmember Bates offered a friendly amendment to add a condition that the item moves forward only if other agencies provide additional funding. Speakers were: Bill Pinkham, Nancy Strauch, and Tony Sustak. The city manager restated the amendment as "this funding would be conditioned to be part of an otherwise fully funded project that achieves construction of this segment of the bay trail". The amendment was accepted. Discussion continued. A friendly amendment was offered by Councilmember Rogers to "pass our motion and specifically tying our money into the State Land's Commission getting Chevron to get the five million". Councilmember Rogers withdrew his requested amendment. The motion, restated by Councilmember Ritterman was "for the City of Richmond to commit along with East Bay Regional Park District to a \$3 million dollar contribution for completing that segment of the Bay Trail with an understanding that this would be one part of a contribution and that if the complete contribution is made, the money will be there, if the project cannot go forward because of incomplete funding, the City maintains the right to withdraw its share". The motion passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Bates, Ritterman, Rogers, Vice Mayor Lopez, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Noes:** None. **Abstentions:** None. **Absent:** Councilmembers Butt and Viramontes.

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

Councilmember Bates announced that he would report on his trip to Washington, D.C. at the February 3, 2009, Council Meeting. He asked the city manager to create a list of high priority projects that may be funded by the forthcoming stimulus package and requested the city manager schedule a study session to address the list.

Councilmember Butt stated he spent the Martin Luther King Day on the Richmond Greenway with at least 500 residents of Richmond. He stated it was successful. He also stated that the Presidential Inauguration was very special. He attended a Smart Growth Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Councilmember Rogers requested a study session be scheduled at the February 3, 2008, Council Meeting. He also attended the Smart Growth Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Vice Mayor Lopez attended the California Leagues of Cities Revenue and Taxation Policy Committee in Sacramento on Thursday, January 22, 2008, and heard updates on the States Budget status.

Mayor McLaughlin also attended the Smart Growth Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She invited everyone to come out to the Nevin Park Grand Opening on Saturday, January 31, 2009, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:56 p.m. in memory of Cameron Beltran and Aaron Russell, and two young women that died in a fire near Richmond BART, to meet again on Tuesday, February 3, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.

City Clerk

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor