

City Manager's Weekly Report

This is the weekly report for the week ending March 27th, 2009.

1. **Meeting Notes**

There is no City Council meeting on the fifth Tuesday this coming March 31st. The next regular City Council meeting is Tuesday, April 7th. Enjoy the one week hiatus.

2. **City of Richmond Receives CalGrip Grant**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today announced the awarding of more than \$9.2 million in competitive grants to provide local assistance funding to 17 cities and 13 community-based organizations in areas with heavy concentrations of gangs. As part of this program, the City of Richmond Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS), in partnership with a select group of local community based organizations (the Richmond Community Wellness Collaborative [RCWC]), has been awarded \$400,000 over two years to expand outreach activities and services to youth and young adults most likely to be perpetrators or victims of gun violence.

With this opportunity, the RCWC will expand the current partnership of the ONS, Neighborhood House of North Richmond, City of Richmond Employment and Training Department, Bay Area Peacekeepers and Straight Talk on Prisons to include the Richmond community based Employment Collaborative, Community Housing Development Corporation and the North Richmond Young Adult Empowerment Center.

The CalGRIP Initiative grant will be overseen by ONS and will provide funding for expanding street outreach service opportunities in North and South Richmond, and for providing gang intervention, life skills, pre-employment training, entrepreneurship and employment placement for extremely difficult to serve youth and young adult populations, as a means of addressing violence in their community.

3. **Richmond Employment & Training Receives FBI Award**

On March 20th, Employment and Training (E & T) Director, Sal Vaca, along with Program Manager, Fred Lucero, and Case Managers Candra Mohammed and Nicholas Alexander, attended the first-of-its-kind ceremony at the FBI National Headquarters in Washington, D.C. to receive the **FBI Director's Community Leadership Award** recognizing and honoring Richmond BUILD for the program's "extraordinary efforts in the area of ... violence education and prevention." FBI Director, Robert S. Mueller, presented the award and stated that "Richmond BUILD serves as a national model for an effective public/private focused on green collar job training.

Congratulations to all of those who have worked on and participated in this outstanding program!

4. **PAL Dedicates Gymnasium and Honors Information Technology Director Sue Hartman as Volunteer of the Year**

The annual Police Activities League (PAL) luncheon was held this past Thursday at which the Hal Holt Memorial Gymnasium was dedicated at the new PAL one-stop youth center. The lunch was well-attended and served to both describe PAL activities during the past year and honor the contributions made by the many donors and volunteers.

Among those receiving special recognition as one of the Volunteers of the Year was the City of Richmond's own Information Technology Director Sue Hartman. Among Sue's many contributions as a volunteer to the PAL program this past year was related to her passion for gardening, and, especially her expertise in growing large pumpkins. Not only did Sue help PAL kids start a pumpkin patch at the PAL center this past year, she also arranged for a field trip to a large pumpkin patch in the Napa area for many PAL youth.

As PAL Executive Director Larry Lewis described Sue Hartman's contribution, I was reminded of the Cinderella fairy tale, in which a fairy godmother transports Cinderella to the ball in a fine carriage that she has magically transformed from a pumpkin. In this case, Sue transformed a few pumpkin seeds into a carriage that transported these PAL youth on a wonderful agricultural adventure.

Congratulations to Sue Hartman!

5. **Joint Management Meeting with School District**

This past Monday, several of the City of Richmond's department managers (Police Chief Chris Magnus, Finance Director Jim Goins, Library and Cultural Services Director Monique le Conge, Recreation Director Keith Jabari, Housing Authority Director Tim Jones, and Police Captain Allwyn Brown) and I met with School Superintendent Bruce Harter's "cabinet" (key managers) in what was, hopefully, the first of many meetings to increase the collaborative relationship between the City of Richmond and the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

Among the topics discussed, or to be discussed at future meetings, were: WCCUSD finances, truancy reduction, shared use agreements (school sites for recreation/community use, after school programs, library and literacy programs, Intellectual capital (technology, etc.), School Resource Officers, Safe Campus program (Councilmembers Bates' initiative) with Contra Costa College and cooperation from Local 1, role of other organizations (County, Community Colleges, Non-Profits, Community Organizations, Corporations and Small Business, etc.) in collaborative efforts, and a school services agreement (level of service agreement).

We will keep you informed as these discussions move forward.

6. **Community Service for Illegal Dumpers**

Last week, the City was successful in securing a court conviction for illegal dumping. The sentence for the individual convicted that was requested and received by the City was:

- 2 years probation;
- \$250 fine;
- \$750 restitution to the City; and
- 40 hours community service picking up garbage/trash in Richmond, which must be completed within 90 days of March 19th.

7. **City Receives Energy Efficiency Block Grant**

The City of Richmond has been awarded \$955,100 under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program, funded by stimulus dollars.

The funding can support energy audits and energy efficiency retrofits in residential and commercial buildings, the development and implementation of advanced building codes and inspections, and the creation of financial incentive programs for energy efficiency improvements. Other activities eligible for use of grant funds include transportation programs that conserve energy, projects to reduce and capture greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy installations on government buildings, energy efficient traffic signals and street lights, deployment of Combined Heat and Power and district heating and cooling systems, and others. (More information on this program can be found at <http://www.eecbq.energy.gov/#le1>.) Staff will prepare program options for this grant funding for the City Council to review in the very near future.

Up to \$455 million is planned to be made available under a separate competitive solicitation for local energy efficiency projects. That solicitation will be released at a later date.

8. **More Stimulus News from the League of California Cities**

The League of California Cities reports that this past Thursday, the Assembly passed a bill establishing the process, through the state's Surface Transportation Program (STP), by which highway funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) will be distributed in California. This process has several benefits to cities including increasing the funding available to cities and providing more flexibility in using the funds. The bill also states the Legislature's intention that at least 40 percent of funding allocated to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) be allocated to cities and counties.

California is receiving a total of \$2.57 billion in highway funds through the ARRA. Using STP formulas, CalTrans will receive \$963.7 million (37.5 percent), and MPOs will receive \$1.6 billion (62.5 percent). The Assembly legislative intent is that at least 40 percent of the regional funding (totaling \$642.5 million) go to cities and

counties. If cities and counties don't obligate the funding, the funds will revert back to the region to be reallocated within that region.

9. **Richmond YouthWorks Update**

Richmond YouthWORKS has closed the application period for the Richmond Summer Youth Employment Program with 510 applications received for the 'in-house' training and placement portion of the program (an additional 200 applications are expected from the community collaborator portion of the program in April).

The program has kicked off the first two of the six required workshops and over half the youth have participated in a career assessment with YouthWORKS staff, and a sexual harassment training session provided by educator Robin Mills. Remaining workshop sessions for the program are an Academic Assessment over spring break, Financial Literacy/Money Management provided by volunteers from Mechanics Bank in April/May, Soft Skills training provided by Independent Living Skills Program trainers, Tim Hamp and Don Graves, and Resume Writing provided by YouthWORKS staff. The latter two will occur in the May/June period.

It is hoped that this will be the largest summer ever for the Richmond Summer Youth Employment Program.

10. **Richmond Beverage Distributor Gets 100% of Electricity from Rooftop Solar**

[Bay Area Beverage Company](#), the largest distributor of branded beverages in Alameda and Contra Costa counties in California, has completed the installation of a 500-kW solar power system, one of the largest in the region. The Richmond, California-based company now generates 100 percent of its electricity from solar power. Designed by San Francisco-based [Sunlight Electric](#), the solar power system consists of 2,756 modules and is large enough to power 85 homes. The system was financed through loans and incentives, including approximately \$2.9 million in tax credits and state subsidies over the next six years.

The solar company estimates that the system will save the beverage distributor \$171,000 in electricity costs annually. It also is expected to reduce the distributor's carbon footprint by more than 905,924 pounds of CO₂ per year. Complete details about the solar installation, including a real-time display of power generation and environmental benefits, can be found on the company's solar [Web site](#).

11. **Meeting with City Businesses on Measure T**

On Wednesday, March 18th, Finance staff, along with the City's outside counsel, met with representatives of the Council of Industries and representatives of several Richmond businesses, including Galaxy Desserts, US Sasol, General Chemical and Chevron, to discuss the implementation of Measure T. These representatives raised a number of questions regarding the new ordinance, including those related to definition of a manufacturer, how the tax is calculated, and various other interpretations of terms contained in the new ordinance.

Invoices representing the changes to the Business License ordinance will go out in the next few days and will include the new, lowered rates for many businesses, and the applicable credit each business will receive as part of the conversion to a calendar year license period.

12. **Recreation Highlights**

The following are highlights from the Recreation Department for the current week:

- **Treasure Hunt**: The Recreation Department will host a City Wide “Treasure Hunt” on Saturday, March 28, 2009 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Memorial Auditorium Civic Center parking lot. Community members are invited to reserve a space for selling items or to come and shop at the market-style event.
- **Shields-Reid**: The Recreation Department Shields-Reid community center after-school program continues to grow as over 40 children participated this past week.
- **Futsal**: The Recreation Department hosted the United States Futsal Federation for the California North Regional State Cup Tournament Friday through Sunday, March 20-22. Ultimately, fifty-four teams from Northern California, ages 8 to adult, competed at the Richmond Recreation Complex, the Memorial Auditorium and the Richmond Pal Gymnasium. Although it was the first year competing, Richmond had three teams in various divisions finish as runner-ups in the final competitions. Approximately 1,500 spectators were present throughout the weekend.



In memory of Oakland Police Officer John Hege, Sergeant Mark Dunakin, Sergeant Ervin Romans, and Sergeant Daniel Sakai