

**RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, March 22,
2011**

The Richmond City Council Evening
Open Session was called to order at 5:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Bates,
Beckles, – (arrived @ 5:06 p.m.), Ritterman,
Rogers, Vice Mayor Butt, and Mayor
McLaughlin. **Absent:** Councilmember Booze.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The city clerk announced that the purpose
of the Evening 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 - EXISTING LITIGATION
(Subdivision [a] of Government Code Section
54956.9):** Astro Construction vs. City of Richmond

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL
COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
(Initiation of litigation pursuant to Subdivision (c)
of Government Code Section 54956.9):** One Case

There were no public speakers.

The Evening Open Session adjourned to
Closed Session at 5:04 p.m. The Closed Session
adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

The Special Meeting of the Richmond Housing
Authority was called to order at 5:37 p.m. by Mayor
McLaughlin. (*See HA 11Mar22*)

The Special Meeting of the Richmond City
Council was called to order at 6:39 p.m. by Mayor
McLaughlin.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Bates –
(*arrived at 6:39 p.m.*), Beckles, Boozé, Ritterman,
Rogers, Vice Mayor Butt, and Mayor
McLaughlin. **Absent:** None.

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Texanita Bluitt stated that some of the streets in the City are in bad condition.

Tom Waller stated that it is important for the Point Molate Casino Project to be approved.

Sims Thompson stated that the City Council does not seem to represent the people of the City, but seem to care for there special interests only.

Cordell White stated that the soccer field at Nicholl Park upgraded so that the soccer players have an adequate soccer field to play on.

Debra McIntyre asked that the Park Plaza Street Light Replacement Program be completed as soon as possible.

Jessica Montiel stated that the voters voted against a casino at Point Molate. For more information, contact: www.richmondprogressivealliance.net or call the Richmond Progressive Alliance at 510-595-4661.

Richard Poe stated that it would be a very positive situation for the City if the Lawrence Livermore Lab were to come to Richmond.

Eleanor Thompson stated that contractors doing work in the City should hire a larger percentage of Richmond residents.

AGENDA REVIEW

None.

PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND COMMENDATIONS

Mayor McLaughlin read and presented a proclamation honoring the 75th Anniversary of the Richmond Art Center to members of the Richmond Art Center Board. Cordell White gave comments.

Mayor McLaughlin read a proclamation declaring March 2011 American Red Cross Month. There was not a representative present to receive the award.

Councilmember Bates introduced and welcomed six youth ambassadors and one teacher from Shimada, Japan who are visiting Richmond as part of the Richmond-Shimada Sister City Friendship Program. Trina Jackson, Staff to the City Council, introduced the visitors. It is the 50th Anniversary of the

Shimada, Japan-Richmond, California sister city relationship. Cordell White gave comments.

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

Attorney Scott Dickey reported that there was a unanimous vote by the City Council regarding a settlement in the amount of \$61,500 in the matter of Astro Construction vs. City of Richmond, with the condition that Astro Construction not challenge any determination of non-responsibility as a prime contractor on a bid for 12 months following the execution of the settlement. Item A-2 was not considered. Attorney Dickey also stated that those councilmembers that recused themselves from voting and discussion on Item F-1 from the Housing Authority agenda should state the nature of their conflict. Councilmembers Rogers, Boozé, and Bates stated that they recused themselves due to having received in excess of \$250 in campaign contributions from DP Security.

STUDY SESSION

The City Council received a presentation by the Commission on Aging by Eli Williams, Chair of the Commission on Aging. Mr. Williams introduced the commission members and presented a PowerPoint regarding the commission's activities and accomplishments.

The City Council received a video presentation welcoming the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory second campus to Richmond and acknowledged the staff that assisted in preparing the city's response. Kinshasa Curl, Senior Development Project Manager, gave an overview of the project and thanked those involved. Sims Thompson and Garland Ellis gave comments.

The City Council received a presentation addressing community and American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) concerns for protection of art mural creations and an update on developing a new community-based public art ordinance. Phil Mehas, ACLU, gave an overview. Chief Chris Magnus gave comments. The following individuals gave comments: Amahra Hicks, Sims Thompson, Gretchen Bors, Jose Lopez, Tomas Riley, Latoya, David Meza, Alan Garcia, Naomi Williams, Michael Beer, Kate Sibley, Bea Roberson, Jim Hanskev, William Haynes, Veronica Godinez, Denise Henry, Jesus Ferrusquia, Danita Davis, Rosa Martinez, Maaika Marshall, Tania Pulido, Rafael Vazquez, Manuel Floriano, Anthony Martinez, Aimme Rodriguez, Daisy Santizo, Alejandra Candelas, Ben Martin, Lanisha, Vernisha Williams, Jasmine Hudson, Liz Watts, Eduardo Martinez, Eddie Paasch, and Juan Reardon. Mayor McLaughlin stated that the students should be allowed to re-paint the mural and be

compensated for the money the students spent on the last mural and directed Bill Lindsay, City Manager, to initiate community outreach and return to consider approving a revised graffiti ordinance in 60 days.

The City Council received a presentation on the The Draft Pedestrian Master Plan and The Draft Pedestrian Master Plan from City Planner, Kieron Slaughter, and consulting firm, Fehr & Peers. The following persons gave comments: Miriam Jocelyn, Bill Pinkham, Sims Thompson, Nancy Baer, Will Osuna, Liz Bittner, Garland Ellis, and Jerry Yoshida. (*A motion was made by Councilmember Ritterman, seconded by Councilmember Rogers, extended the meeting until finished –Vice Mayor Butt and Councilmember Bates objected*).

STUDY AND DIRECTION TO STAFF SESSION

The City Council reviewed options for a Southern District Substation, provide direction to staff regarding a preferred location, and consider approving the proposed source of funding to move forward with this project. *Councilmember Boozé recused himself from discussion on this item because he knows the person who owns the building that is proposed for the substation.* Deputy Chief, Allwyn Brown, stated that this would give the police department a presence on the south side of town and are prepared to move forward with the proposed substation. Capt. Anthony Williams, Southern District Commander, stated that an existing building at 3327 Cutting Boulevard or constructing a new building attached to the existing Fire Training Station at 3506 Cutting Boulevard were the two possible substation locations. Councilmember Rogers suggested that negotiate the best possible option to have a long-term lease of the building at 3327 Cutting Boulevard. The following individuals gave comments: Naomi Williams, Myrtle Braxton, Texanita Bluit, and Bea Roberson. Vice-Mayor Butt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Rogers, to proceed with the project and recognize the 3327 Cutting Boulevard as the preferred location with the provision that a lease needs to be negotiated and the fire training center location is the alternate location. Councilmember Rogers made a friendly amendment that the City not take a position on which is the preferred site. Vice Mayor Butt did not accept the friendly amendment. Councilmember Rogers retracted his second on the motion and made a substitute motion that the City not take a position on which location is the preferred site and direct the City Manager to negotiate the best deal possible, including the option of buying the building. Mayor McLaughlin seconded Vice Mayor Butt's motion. Discussion ensued. Councilmember Ritterman, seconded by Councilmember Bates made a substitute motion that 3506 Cutting Boulevard be selected as the preferred substation location. Councilmember Rogers stated he will not support either motion and requested an agenda item for the next City Council meeting that the same amount of money that would be used for the proposed substation be used for

other police services that the Police Chief could identify to be used in the most effective way. Councilmember Rogers asked the Police Chief, Chris Magnus, if the best use of the funds would be for a police substation or if the money would be more effective for other types of police services. Chief Magnus replied that the best use of the funds could be for hiring more officers, or providing more police programs, etc., but that a Southside police substation would be very effective in helping deter crime in the Southside area. Councilmember Beckles made a friendly amendment to Councilmember Ritterman's motion, directing staff to research the most cost effective options for the preferred fire training substation site. The motion failed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Bates, Beckles, and Ritterman. **Noes:** Vice Mayor Butt and Councilmember Rogers. **Absent:** Councilmember Boozé. **Abstain:** Mayor McLaughlin. The original motion made by Vice Mayor Butt, failed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmember Ritterman, Vice Mayor Butt, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Noes:** Councilmembers Bates and Rogers. **Absent:** Councilmember Boozé. **Abstain:** Councilmember Beckles. Vice Mayor Butt, seconded by Mayor McLaughlin, made a motion directing staff to proceed with the planned substation with no preference on which site to develop and attempt to negotiate a lease at 3327 Cutting Boulevard, and work with the architect to determine if there may be better value developing the substation at the fire training center, passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmember Beckles, Ritterman, Vice Mayor Butt, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Noes:** Councilmembers Bates and Rogers. **Absent:** Councilmember Boozé. **Abstain:** None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:18 a.m. to meet again on Tuesday, March 29, 2011, at 6:30 p.m.

City Clerk

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor