

**RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA,  
March 26, 2013**

The Special Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 5:42 p.m. by Mayor Gayle McLaughlin who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL**

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Councilmembers Bates, Beckles, Butt, Myrick, Rogers, Vice Mayor Boozé, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Absent:** Councilmembers Butt and Rogers arrived at 5:44 p.m.

**READING OF THE CODE OF ETHICS**

The Code of Ethics was read by Patrick Seals.

**STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

None.

**OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Henry Parker invited everyone to the Second Annual “Reach for the Stars” Full Inclusion Fashion Show and Showcase working with children on the Autism spectrum, being held April, 27, 2013, at Lavonya Dejean Middle School, 3400 Macdonald Avenue, from 5:30p.m. to 9:00 p.m. tickets are \$10.00.

Tamisha Walker and Lauren Vaughn spoke in support of Councilmember Beckles and thanked her for supporting the Safe Return Team. Ms. Walker and Vaughn invited individuals to join them on Thursday and Friday, March 28 and 29, 2013, for community outreach at Richmond and Kennedy high to help stop

the violence and to support young people in their efforts to stay alive in the City of Richmond.

Jackie Thompson, Wesley Ellis, Naomi Williams, and Bea Roberson expressed displeasure with Councilmember Beckles' for her behavior at a previous City Council Meeting where she called members of the audience "ignorant." They stated that the public apology Councilmember Beckles made was not sincere because she blamed the public for preventing her from doing her work. They also expressed disappointment with Mayor McLaughlin's decision not to correct Councilmember Beckles' behavior and thanked Councilmember Bates for apologizing on Councilmember Beckles' behalf.

Texanita Bluitt stated that the City Council should conduct business in a respectful way. She also stated that she expects intelligent representation from the City Council because the world was watching.

Steven Bates stated that Councilmember Beckles should take responsibility for her remarks, and Major McLaughlin should have corrected Councilmember Beckles' behavior. He stated that everyone on the Richmond City Council should be treated equally and fair. Mr. Bates also stated that Councilmember Beckles offended her constituents and he would appreciate an apology.

Councilmember Beckles stated that she made a public apology regarding her choice of words. She stated that she hates the energy in the Council Chambers and grieves deeply because of the amount of hate that she feels from individuals towards her. Councilmember Beckles also stated that she used a poor choice of words when she heard people heckling her. Councilmember Beckles also stated that she was constantly reminded of the violence in our streets and on a weekly basis she hears homophobic statements from individuals in the audience. She asked for forgiveness and apologized for her statements.

**PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND  
COMMENDATIONS**

Mayor McLaughlin and Councilmember Bates presented a proclamation of California Park and Recreation Society District 3 2012 Outstanding Volunteer in Parks and Recreation Award to Eli Williams, Chair of Richmond Commission on Aging. Mr. Williams was joined by members of the Commission on Aging and gave comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m., to meet again on Tuesday, April 3, 2013, at 6:30 p.m.

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City Clerk

(SEAL)

Approved:

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Mayor