

**RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, March 12,
2014**

The Richmond City Council Evening
Open Session was called to order at 6:37 p.m. by
Mayor Gayle McLaughlin.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Bates, Booze, Butt,
Myrick, Rogers, Mayor McLaughlin, and Tenant
Commissioners Hall and Thompson. **Absent:** Vice
Chairperson Beckles arrived at 6:39 p.m.

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

AGENDA REVIEW

None.

HOUSING AUTHORITY AS A WHOLE

The matter to discuss services provided by the
Richmond Housing Authority, consider
Strategies for improving these services, provide
direction to staff, and take possible action with respect
to strategies discussed was presented by Mayor
McLaughlin, City Manager, Bill Lindsay, Housing
Director, Tim Jones, and a representative from Sterling
Inspection Company. Some of the new short-term steps
are that every residential housing unit in all five
Richmond Housing Authority (RHA) properties will be
inspected immediately; a contract for procuring security
will be scheduled; an Executive Office Directive was
issued stating that all Housing Authority staff be
respectful in their dealings with tenants. As an
additional short-term measure, Contra Costa County
Vector Control is inspecting and assessing the Housing
Authority's extermination procedures. Medium-term
steps based on the results of the inspections described
above, in combination with prior data collected
regarding structural conditions of the Hacienda, a
decision will be made either to improve or to remove

this property. A long-term step is to implement a Rental Assistance Demonstration program for Nevin Plaza, Triangle Court, Friendship Manor, and Nystrom Village. The following individuals gave comments Robert Guillebeau, Larry Joe Washington, Sr., Lisa Fishman, Bea Roberson, Evan Lang, Terrence Griffith, Vinay Pimple, Zena, Latoya Barnes, Valerie Griffith, Texanita Bluitt, Delores Johnson, Constance Gary, Sylvia Gray-White, Gail Morris, Teresa Cooley, Wesley Ellis, Sims Thompson, Charles Smith, Evelyn Lowe, Victor Coleman, Nina Smith, Patricia Jones, Geneva Eaton, and Francis Clay. A motion made by Chairperson McLaughlin, seconded by Vice Chairperson Beckles, to set the policy now to issue the vouchers and return to the City Council in two weeks with the relocation plan and financial analysis, address the discoloration in units at Nevin Plaza, and modify the rental payment system. A friendly amendment was made by Commissioner Bates, that this be considered a short-term goal and that consideration of long-term goals be discussed at a later date regarding potential construction of a new development, passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Commissioners Bates, Boozé, Myrick, Rogers, Vice Chairperson Beckles, Chairperson McLaughlin, and Commissioners Hall and Thompson. **Noes:** None. **Abstentions:** None. **Absent:** Commissioner Butt.

The matter to discuss a vote of no confidence in the performance of: (1) Tim Jones, RHA Executive Director, and (2) Kathleen Jones, RHA Administrative Staff was presented. The following individuals gave comments: Charles Smith, Beatrice Atkins, and Latoya Barnes. A motion was made by Commissioner Bates, seconded by Commissioner Boozé, for a vote of no confidence for Tim Jones and Kathleen Jones. City Manager, Bill Lindsay, stated that the motion is premature because the management review and inspection of the units have not been conducted. A substitute motion made by Commissioner Myrick, seconded by Commissioner Rogers, that a policy is created that staff is directed to treat residents with respect, not use intimidation tactics or vulgar and condescending language, or blame or charge residents for issues in their unit. If an employee does not follow

the policy, they will be asked to leave immediately. Commissioner Rogers made a friendly amendment that he supports the motion with the exception of the possibility of violating union agreements.

(11:00 p.m. - A motion by Commissioner Rogers, seconded by Commissioner Myrick, to extend the meeting until the end of the current item, passed with Vice Chairperson voting no).

A second substitute motion by Commissioner Bates, seconded by Commissioner Boozé, that the City Manager consider all of the comments made and take appropriate action as he deems necessary in reference to Kathleen Jones and Tim Jones. Chairperson McLaughlin stated that she will abstain from voting until the results of the management audit are obtained and staff has an opportunity to respond. Commissioner Bates withdrew his motion. Chairperson McLaughlin made a substitute motion that there is a zero tolerance policy for disrespectful customer service in all departments. The motion died for lack of a second. City Manager, Bill Lindsay suggested the following language: employees who engage in that behavior are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination in accordance with established personnel rules. Commissioner Bates stated that this is currently the city's practice. The substitute motion failed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Commissioners Butt, Myrick, Rogers and Chairperson McLaughlin. **Noes:** Commissioners Bates and Boozé, and Tenant Commissioners Hall and Thompson. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Vice Chairperson Beckles. The original motion failed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Commissioners Bates, Boozé, and Tenant Commissioner Thompson. **Noes:** Commissioners Rogers and Tenant Commissioner Hall. **Abstain:** Commissioner Myrick and Chairperson McLaughlin. **Absent:** Commissioner Butt and Vice Chairperson Beckles.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:09 a.m. to meet again on Tuesday, March 18, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.

City Clerk

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor