DRAFT City Staff Responses to Questions from City Councilmember Bana
Received on November 28, 2023

1. **ARPA SIP**
   What is SIP? Please always have a list of acronyms at the end of every document. Thanks.

   ANSWER: SIP stands for the Strategic Investment Plan and is spelled out on page 4 of the staff report. The SIP informed how the City should allocate ARPA funds, and was developed based on input from the Community Needs Assessment, paired with a sociodemographic and market analysis. Information about the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the SIP can be found at https://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/4095/American-Rescue-Plan-Act.

2. **Goal 1: Improve the quantity and quality of housing, especially low-income housing, and reduce homelessness 2 Housing First and Emergency Housing Support Program/Tenant Protection and Rental Assistance $250,000 - $1,484,233 Our Homes and Neighborhoods**
   Can we use some of it to shrink the pipelines to homelessness?

   I think item below does not make sense and we need to pay for a portion of the increase, like 3 or 4% of it. (P.2.c Letter requesting that Heritage Park at Hilltop not move forward with its current December 1, 2023, rent increase and to reevaluate rent increases in the future.)

   ANSWER: The city is involved in various efforts to support Richmond's unhoused population. City staff will take direction from City Council on future actions to take regarding this important topic. The City of Sparks, Nevada, in partnership with the Reno Housing Authority, provided millions in housing support to residents in need. The City Council could review and consider this program as a model with a program administered through a non-profit organization. The City's focus is currently on the State Audit. The full article is at City of Sparks to Provide $3 Million in Rental Assistance through Reno Housing Authority.

3. **Goal Area 3: Improve the quality of life, community health, and social determinants of health Soccer fields, park amenities and upgrades $3,900,000 - $10,000,000 Our Culture and Community**
   Where is the soccer field going to be? Can we get a fence around the toddler area in Cheese Park out of this?

   ANSWER: The amount of funding received from the City of Richmond will determine the number of soccer fields developed. Based on the City Council presentation on October 3, 2023, staff, along with the park consultant, recommended development of fields in the following three (3) parks within FY 23-24 and FY 24-25: (1) Wendall Park, (2) Shields Reid Park, and (3) Lucas Park. The funding could also cover related project soft costs, community engagement, and amenities at other parks, such as the possibility of placing a fence around the toddler area at Cheese Park. The City plans to participate in a

community engagement process and receive additional direction from City Council, as appropriate, before making any changes at parks.

4. **Goal Area 4: Improve public safety, <u>Art Initiative</u> $250,000 - $1,935,000 Our Culture and Community**
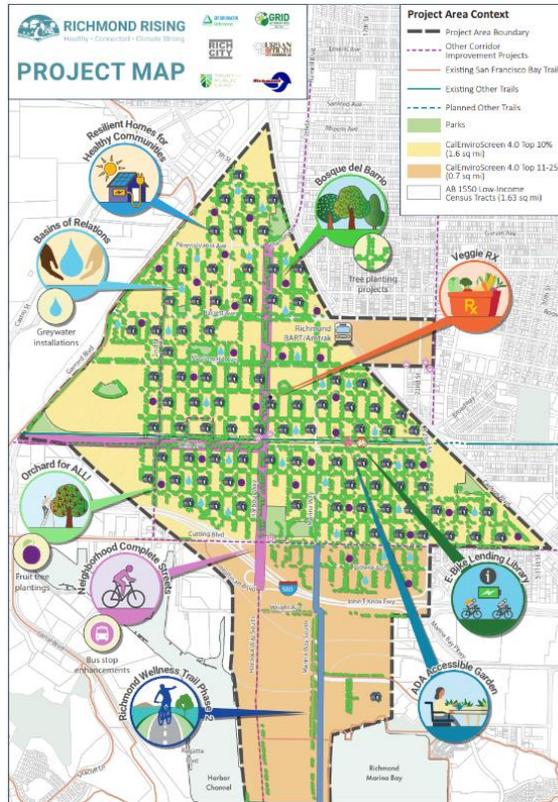**Is this about public safety or art?**

ANSWER: The Art Initiative is about art; however, depending on how one looks at the impact of art on the community, one could determine that art impacts public safety. For purposes of the staff report, City staff tried to align funding recommendations with City Council Goal Areas and the ARPA Strategic Investment Plan. Per the City Council Strategic Goal areas, goal area 4 (Improve Public Safety) includes an objective calling for the inclusion of art in street safety measures. While this item might fit better in another Strategic Goal area; Goal Area 4 was the only objective staff could find that specifically mentioned art. On October 24, 2023, City Council directed staff to develop and release an RFP to study the feasibility of creating an art district in Richmond.

5. **Façade Improvement Pilot Program - $300,000:**
Which areas of Richmond?

ANSWER: The goal of the 20-month pilot program is to provide existing (prior to 2023) small- and medium-sized businesses/building owners with incentives to improve their building's storefront. Through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process, the program allows for improvements to signage, awnings, painting, and other storefront enhancements. The program is for eligible improvement projects made to the first floor or street level of a commercial building/unit/suite(s). The requested funding would be used for the building improvement grant. This project is part of the City's Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Grant deliverables. The TCC project area is below and includes Coronado, Iron Triangle/Atchison Village and Santa Fe, and part of Richmond Village/Metro Square, Cortez/Stege, and Marina Bay.

6. **Examples of other park amenities could include: · Outdoor fitness equipment at Nicholl Park (grant match) - $162,000 · Harbour 8 LEED Certification - $250,000. Can we add a Bike Garden in District 4, cost estimate around $350,000?**

   ANSWER: The "other park amenities" have not been determined yet. The City plans to participate in a community engagement process and receive additional direction from City Council, as appropriate, before making any upgrades/improvements at parks. The amount of funding available will also play a critical role in determining what work can be done at city parks.

7. **Facilities Needs Assessment - $500,000**
   I hope it covers the costs for May Valley Community Center. May I ask for an indoor/outdoor sound system for community events for just $5000. I got this number from Mark Anthony, the sound engineer at RPAL.

   ANSWER: Your request for May Valley is noted and City staff appreciates the information. The proposed Facilities Needs Assessment is an important process for the City to undertake and will include an assessment of all city-owned facilities, including May Valley.

8. **Infrastructure: Stormwater - $750,000**
   Where is it? Is it to prevent mudslides in District 4?

ANSWER: The stormwater program is underfunded, and these funds will support various projects throughout Richmond. Possible project areas include but are not limited to Hilltop Dr., Sheldon Dr., Atchison Village, San Pablo Avenue, and Parchester Village.

9. Here:

Nystrom Village	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	$-
Tenant Protection and Rental Assistance[3]	$1,484,233		
Art Initiative	$-	$-	$-
YouthWORKS	$1,200,000	$1,200,000	$-

Why is Art Initiative included with nothing in any option?
Why are tenant protection and rental assistance only in one of them?
How do we mix and match between the 3 options? Which ones are the highest priorities in your view?

ANSWER: Although a dollar amount is not included in the Options Chart for the Art Initiative, information about it and a proposed range to support the project is included in the staff report. Economic Development staff are currently preparing a draft RFP for the Art Initiative. City staff decided to keep the line in the Options Chart as a way to highlight that it is a project that is currently a City Council-directed project that is unfunded and to highlight for City Council that funding can be allocated to this project, if desired.

There are many important and unfunded projects/programs within the City of Richmond; however, there are insufficient funds to fund all our needs. The Options Chart serves as a starting place for City Council discussion and therefore does not contain every possible combination of projects. A City Councilmember can decide to recommend approval of a specific option as presented or make a motion to adopt an option with changes. As an example, a councilmember could recommend Option X with a reduction of $500,000 in project A and an addition of $500,000 in project B.

10. ECIA

Amount Budgeted in FY 23-24	$4,250,000
Amount Remaining	$7,540,000

Could any of this go to bike lanes and bike garden in District 4?
It could also come out of Public Safety portion as teaching kids about traffic safety on the bike garden.

ANSWER: Per the ECIA, funding can be used to support bike lanes. City staff would require more information regarding the bike garden in District 4 to determine if ECIA Transportation funds can be used for this project. Specifics about the use of ECIA funds can be found at https://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/37791/ECIA-12-7-15?bidId=.

11. **Collaborating with the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) through the WCC Community Schools Systems Change Collaborative**
    What does this mean?

    ANSWER: Per WCCUSD, through the WCCUSD Community Schools System Change Collaborative, partners are engaged in a long-term effort to plan for, implement, and continuously improve its community schools strategy, with the ultimate goal of supporting community schools in every school in the district. Community schools are integral to achieving the transformation required within WCCUSD to increase equity and racial justice. The City of Richmond, along with the City of San Pablo, WCCUSD staff, parents, and other stakeholders, participate in this district-wide body which is developing a foundation for stronger and more collaborative efforts in support of community schools in WCCUSD.

    Per WCCUSD website, West County Full Service Community Schools is an integrated, comprehensive, coordinated initiative aimed at achieving educational success, well-being and self-efficacy for students, families, and communities (https://www.wccusd.net/Page/6087).