

## **City Manager's Weekly Report**

This is the weekly report for the week ending January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

### 1. **Meeting Notes**

The next meeting of the Richmond City Council will be on Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> beginning with a Closed Session at 5:00 PM and with the regular City Council agenda at 6:30 PM.

### 2. **Public Works Storm Watch**

Because of the National Weather Forecast predicting significant rain for next week, the Public Works Department paving crew will be placed on a 12 hours on/12 hours off schedule from Monday January 18<sup>th</sup> through Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Half the crew will start Monday at 12:00 midnight and work until Monday at 12:00 noon. The other half will work from 12:00 noon until 12:00 am. All emergency calls should go to the Public Works duty phone at 812-5253, and there will be a person at all times to answer calls on that line.

The storms are expected from Monday through Tuesday accumulating up to 4 inches of rain, with a brief break on Wednesday morning; an even more severe storm is forecast for Wednesday afternoon well into Thursday with up to 5 inches accumulation. Winds accompanying this storm are forecast at a rate of over 25 miles per hour. Close to 10 inches of total rain is predicted for next week. The only good news is that the tides are somewhat favorable, although the highest tide is 4.4 feet on Wednesday during a predicted severe storm segment. Public Works staff will undoubtedly be busy.

### 3. **Harley Searcy**

Harley Searcy, the energetic and well-spoken consummate gentlemen, who headed the development team with whom the City partnered for the Civic Center revitalization project, died Monday in Southern California. Harley put the design-build team together for this award-winning project and made unprecedented efforts to ensure that the contractors on the job hired locally. In the end, the highest quality project possible to the City was delivered. He and his team were extremely professional and creative. We could not have achieved the success we did on this project without Harley's experience, drive, enthusiasm and interpersonal skills. He will be missed.

### 4. **Richmond Public Library to Bring Services to Incarcerated Youth**

The Richmond Public Library and the Contra Costa County Library have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to collaborate at the Juvenile Hall

Library in Martinez, and the Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility (OAYRF) in Byron.

In 2006, the Contra Costa County Library opened a full service library at Juvenile Hall and, in 2008, a smaller library at OAYRF, both built with grants from the Leshar Foundation. With a collection developed specifically for the teens incarcerated there, the library has proven to be extremely popular and very successful at encouraging the residents to read for pleasure, information, and entertainment. Many of these young people have reported that the first time they finished a book, or even found one that they were interested in reading, was at the Juvenile Hall or OAYRF libraries and they continue to use the libraries when they are released.

As part of the MOU, all City of Richmond residents admitted to Juvenile Hall will receive a Richmond Public Library card upon their release. The Richmond Public Library and the Office of Neighborhood Safety will participate in the first "Community Services Day" at Juvenile Hall where local organizations will present their services to the residents of Juvenile Hall.

The Office of Neighborhood Safety will contribute \$5,000 to the Contra Costa County Library to help maintain a consistently high level of library service at Juvenile Hall, and incarcerated Richmond youth will be directed toward City of Richmond services such as Project STOP, the Young Adult Empowerment Center, and Richmond Youthworks.

5. **Update on City of Richmond Environmental Initiatives**

The environmental sustainability group in the City Manager's office is working on a number of significant initiatives in the City of Richmond to make the City a better global citizen:

**Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)**

Environmental staff is currently implementing a variety of residential and municipal energy efficiency projects using \$955,100 in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funds awarded to the City through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Staff is currently initiating the following projects:

- Free comprehensive energy efficiency audits and upgrades to 20-25 moderate income Richmond households (actual program rollout should begin in late spring),
- Municipal facility energy audits and retrofits (auditing began in December), and
- A comprehensive plan to solarize all viable city facilities and properties (assessments began in December).

Additional EECBG projects will be implemented in 2010, and all of the EECBG projects will require the use of Richmond Build graduates to complete at least 20% of the work.

### State Energy Program

The City of Richmond was included on two State Energy Program grant proposals for emerging technologies and residential energy efficiency retrofits. The Municipal and Commercial Building Targeted Measure Retrofit Program Grant effort was led by Energy Solutions of Oakland. The Program will focus on installing new lighting and HVAC technologies to reduce energy consumption in city facilities and parking lots. The proposal was an interdepartmental effort, which was propelled by Public Works' hard work and ability to meet a tight deadline to gather building and site characteristics for the application. ABAG led the California Comprehensive Residential Building Retrofit Program Grant effort which will focus on providing free home weatherization to low income Richmond residents. The California Energy Commission will announce which grants were selected for funding in March of 2010.

### Residential Food Waste Collection and Composting Program Coming to Richmond

Environmental staff participated in negotiations between the West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority (WCCIWMA) and Republic Services to offer food waste collection and composting services for Richmond residents. On December 10, 2009, the WCCIWMA Board of Directors voted to approve moving forward with a contract with Republic Services to offer a residential food waste collection and composting program to West County residents. The program will allow residents to place food scraps and compostable food ware in their green waste bins for collection and composting. This program will begin in Richmond on July 1, 2010 in conjunction with the implementation of the city's Food Ware Ordinance which requires Richmond food providers to use compostable disposable food ware. More program details will follow.

### Supply Exchange

The Supply Exchange is the City of Richmond's new online exchange system for office supplies among City departments, through which employees will be able to post available supplies and request needed supplies from other departments. The goal of the Supply Exchange is to facilitate the reuse of materials, thereby reducing unnecessary purchasing and minimizing waste.

### Shuttle Service

The City of Richmond employee shuttle will continue operating daily to transport employees between Civic Center and the Richmond BART/Amtrak Station to encourage the use of public transit to work, thereby reducing greenhouse gas

emissions. Additionally, environmental staff is pursuing grant funding for a shuttle service open to the public that would run between the Richmond BART/Amtrak Station, Civic Center, and Marina Bay. The shuttle would run Monday through Friday during peak business hours and would complement the AC Transit service offered in the area.

## 6. **Housing Help On-Line**

The Housing & Community Development Division of the Redevelopment Agency, in collaboration with Community Housing Development Corporation of North Richmond (CHDC), Richmond Neighborhood Housing Services (RNHS), Bay Area Legal, Contra Costa County and several other Contra Costa County cities, has launched a new web-site to assist people in getting help with housing issues, including foreclosures. It is [www.casahomehelp.com](http://www.casahomehelp.com) and the beta version is now on-line. Soon, there will be more features including complete Spanish translations.

## 7. **Comprehensive Annual Financial Report Issued**

The Finance Department recently issued the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) presenting the City's financial position for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2009. Highlights from this year's report include:

- The assets of the City exceeded its liabilities by \$356 million (net assets) which includes \$136.4 million restricted for specific purposes.
- The City's governmental funds reported combined ending balances of \$194 million, a decrease of \$61.5 million in comparison to the prior year. This decrease of \$61.5 million includes a \$57.9 million decrease in total assets and a \$3.6 million increase in liabilities.
- The General Fund ending fund balance was \$45.4 million, of which \$10 million was designated for contingencies. This reflects a \$900,000 decrease over the prior year.
- Current year revenues of \$221.3 million reflect an \$18.2 million increase from the prior year.
- General government expenses of \$18.7 million represent an \$8.1 million, or 30 percent, decrease from the prior year. Expense appropriations were reduced at mid-year to adjust for reduced revenue projections as a result of the declining housing market.
- Public Safety expenses of \$91.4 million represent an \$11.3 million increase from the prior year. The majority of the increase is attributed to increased personnel costs due to salary increases and hirings.
- Public Works expenses of \$43.3 million represent a \$12 million, or 39 percent increase from the prior year. Most of the increase is attributed to Engineering and Public Works Capital Improvement Projects.

8. **Honda Port of Entry Project Update**

Construction on the Honda Port of Entry has continued, through ongoing demolition, grading, underground storm water drainage and utilities, materials delivery and staging, and rail welding. Technical focus areas have included further investigation into the Port sanitary sewer system, BP and Kinder Morgan pipeline coordination, berth repair final design and purchasing and investigation, and design for the site high-mast lighting. Although the weather has been wet, no major work time has been lost.

Next steps will be focused on BP pipeline protection, completion of storm water drainage improvements, completion of BP roadway template, completion of rail yard sub-grade, rail tie deliveries and materials staging, water/sanitary system improvements, and track installation.

The first Honda vehicles are still planned to roll on shore in Richmond in April 2010.

9. **Contra Costa LAFCO Fire Service Workshop**

During 2009, the Contra Costa County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), which deals with municipal boundaries and related service issues, conducted a Municipal Services Review (MSR) on fire and emergency medical services in Contra Costa County. The purpose of this review was to determine the current state of fire and emergency medical services as they are provided throughout the county. Several meetings were held to discuss the results of the MSR report and it was finally adopted by the LAFCO Board in August 2009.

There were numerous perspectives on the MSR results, both positive and negative. A number of issues identified in the MSR report concerned fire and emergency medical services in West Contra Costa County, although not specifically focusing on services in Richmond. These issues have been recently discussed at the West County Mayors meetings held each month.

The LAFCO Board felt that, in order to adequately address concerns raised in this MSR, they would hold an initial Fire Service Workshop on Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Martinez City Council Chambers. The full MSR report can be viewed at:

[www.contracostalafco.org/municipal\\_service\\_reviews.htm](http://www.contracostalafco.org/municipal_service_reviews.htm) .

10. **Public Works Department Update**

- **Hilltop Police Substation:** Construction of the Hilltop Richmond Police Department substation continues. Installation of finish lighting and plumbing were completed this week and the project now stands at 95% completion.

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center: The lead and asbestos abatement at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center was at approximately 90% of completion before the holidays. However, on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009, this facility was vandalized and flooded again. A contractor hired by the insurance company has dried out the facility. The building has been secured and a building repairs assessment is being conducted with the insurance company to determine repairs feasibility.

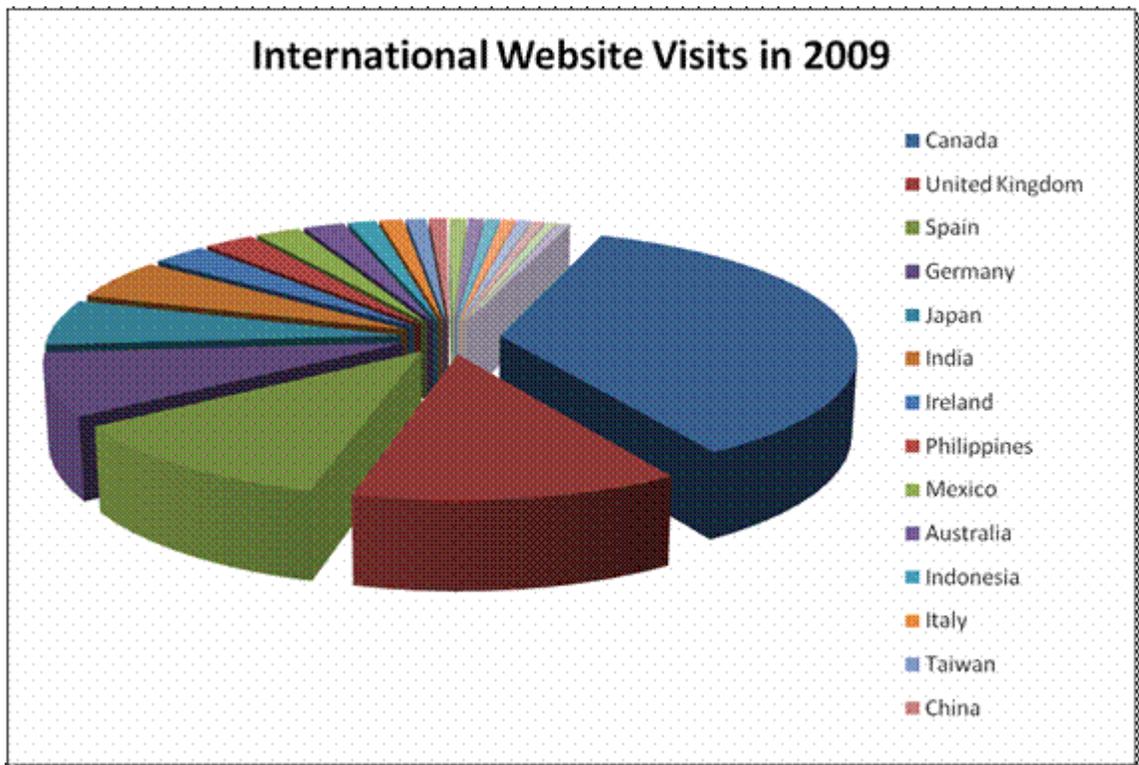
#### 11. Recreation Department Update

- Message of Peace: The Recreation Department, in collaboration with the Richmond Children's Foundation and the West Contra Costa Unified School District, presented the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday March on Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 3:15 PM. Over 400 children, the Mayor, the School Superintendent, parents and community members marched from Harbour Way and Florida to Martin Luther King, Jr. Park where they presented inspirational speeches, heard tributes, and sang songs in honor of Dr. King's memory.
- Baseball: The Recreation Department held tryouts and registration for Little League baseball on Saturday and Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> at Nicholl Park. Currently, over 100 youth are registered to participate.
- Futsal: The Recreation Department currently has 25 teams, ages 7 to 14, registered for the Youth Futsal program. Games will be played on Sundays and Mondays at the Booker T. Anderson Community Center and the RPAL Gymsnasiums.
- Garden: The Nevin Center staff is meeting with the Parks Department, the Richmond Children's Foundation, and Eco Village of El Sobrante to create plans for a "New Iron Triangle Neighborhood Garden" with hopes to have the garden planted and growing by the Spring of 2010.
- Candy Cane Classic: The Recreation Department hosted the **McKelvey and Banks Memorial Candy Cane Classic Basketball Tournament** on Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at the Richmond Recreation Complex and the Richmond Memorial Auditorium. This year, the Candy Cane Classic added the names of McKelvey and Banks to honor the former Richmond basketball standouts who played professional basketball. Fourteen recreation, Amateur Athletic Union, and club teams, with players ages 7 to 14, played in the annual competition. The winners included: 10-years-old and under Wilson Elementary School Tigers; 12-years-old and under Nystrom Elementary School; 14-years-old and under Bay Area Magic Club team, and the 14-year-old and under Girls Bay Area Magic club team.

- Adult Futsal: The Recreation Department concluded its first Adult Co-Ed Futsal program on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Five teams participated in the seven week program.
- Training: The Youth Activities Coordinator will attend a free focus group discussion and training in Monterey on January 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> organized by the Outdoor Youth Connection/California State Parks. Participants will be representatives from cities throughout the Outdoor Youth Connection Network and will engage in discussions about youth councils and youth commissions and how to increase their effectiveness.

12. **Web Stats Fun Fact**

In 2009, 600,000 visits were made to the City of Richmond's website worldwide. Of the 156 countries visiting the City's website in 2009 the following 22 non-United States countries had the top hits:



Closer to home, the following 10 cities had the top hits totaling 274,294 visits in 2009:

