

RESOLUTION NO. 100-20

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND,
CALIFORNIA, URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR TO
OVERTURN ASSEMBLY BILL 1838 (2018) AND GIVE CITIES BACK THEIR RIGHT
TO IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH AND RAISE REVENUE BY DISINCENTIVIZING
CONSUMPTION OF SODA AND OTHER SUGARY BEVERAGES**

WHEREAS, according to The Sacramento Bee, in the summer of 2018, the California State Legislature and governor were the victims of a type of “extortion” and “shakedown” by the American Beverage Association and essentially forced to enact Assembly Bill 1838, prohibiting cities from enacting popular sugary drink taxes through 2030; and

WHEREAS, sugary drink taxes are proven tools for cities to improve public health and raise revenue, as is the case with the City of Seattle which has been able to use that revenue to give \$800 in grocery vouchers to thousands of families hard-hit by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, voters who passed sugary drink taxes in their cities before Assembly Bill 1838 went into effect have improved the health of their fellow residents and helped their cities generate millions of dollars in revenue – funding available to stave off budget cuts due to the COVID-19 induced economic downturn; and

WHEREAS, cities need every single tool available in the fight against COVID-19 in order to give their residents the possibility of a healthy and prosperous future – a majority vote of the California State Legislature and a signature by the governor would give cities such a tool; and

WHEREAS, the world has changed since COVID-19 and the State of California can no longer afford to handcuff cities and prevent voters from using proven tools to improve health equity and public health and provide for safe, accessible, and affordable drinking water.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond City Council urges the California State Legislature and governor to overturn Assembly Bill 1838 and allow residents to choose whether they want a sugary drink tax in their city; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be sent to Governor Newsom, Senator Skinner, and Assembly Member Wicks.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a special meeting thereof held September 15, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Choi, Johnson, Martinez, Willis, Vice Mayor Bates, and Mayor Butt.
NOES: None.
ABSTENTIONS: None.
ABSENT: Councilmember Myrick.

PAMELA CHRISTIAN
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND
(SEAL)

Approved:

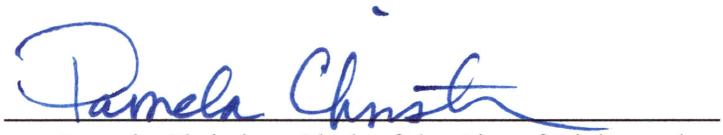
THOMAS K. BUTT
Mayor

Approved as to form:

RACHEL SOMMOVILLA
Interim City Attorney

State of California }
County of Contra Costa } : ss.
City of Richmond }

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of **Resolution No. 100-20**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a special meeting held on September 15, 2020.



Pamela Christian, Clerk of the City of Richmond