

RESOLUTION NO. 121-20

**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA,
ADOPTING THE CASH RESERVE POLICY**

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond has determined that an appropriate level of the General Fund reserves is a policy decision; and

WHEREAS, the Governmental Finance Officers Association recommends that reserve levels be directly related to the degree of uncertainty the local government faces; and

WHEREAS, the Cash Reserve Policy identifies an ending cash balance equal to fifteen percent (15%) of total General Fund expenditures as the minimum needed to provide stability against potential volatility of revenues and uneven cash flows; and

WHEREAS, City Council approval is required before any withdrawals from cash reserves, which should be used for one-time emergencies only and not to be used for ongoing expenditures; and

WHEREAS, as the City experiences net revenue gains in future years, cash reserves must grow back to a minimum fifteen percent (15%) of total General Fund expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of the Cash Reserve Policy is consistent with “best practices” and the City Council’s fiduciary oversight of fiscal policies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby adopts the Cash Reserve Policy for the City of Richmond that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting thereof held November 10, 2020, by the following vote:

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

PAMELA CHRISTIAN
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND
(SEAL)

Approved:

THOMAS K. BUTT
Mayor

Approved as to form:

TERESA STRICKER
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. 121-20**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on November 11, 2020.


Pamela Christian
Pamela Christian, Clerk of the City of Richmond

**Cash Reserve of the City of Richmond
Established by the Finance Department**

Fiscal Year 2020-21

1. Overview

Municipal governments provide a wide range of services that have an impact on public safety and quality of life for community members. Prudent use of resources helps determine how effectively these services are provided on an ongoing basis. In addition to managing revenues and expenditures, it is also the municipal finance official’s responsibility to focus on the General Fund balance and maintain cash reserves. In particular, to maintain operations in case of any significant event that could cause disruptions in cash flow, such as an economic downturn or natural disaster.

The City of Richmond endeavors to maintain adequate reserves in its General Fund as a matter of fiscal prudence and sound financial management: This policy will guide the City in:

- Planning for contingencies and unexpected events;
- Ensuring cash availability to stabilize cash flow;
- Maintaining creditworthiness;
- Long-range financial planning; and
- Deciding when to use reserves and how to replenish reserves should they fall below the minimum threshold

2. Policy Guidelines

For purposes of this policy document, cash reserves refer to the sum of the Committed, Assigned, and Unassigned portions of the fund balance in the General Fund. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54 (GASB 54) defines five distinct classifications of fund balances, applicable to governmental funds only, as follows:

<u>CLASSIFICATION</u>	<u>NATURE OF RESERVATION</u>
Non-Spendable	Cannot be spent because they are either (a) not in spendable form or (b) legally or contractually required to remain intact
Restricted	Restricted either externally imposed or imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation
Committed	Reserved for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the City Council
Assigned	Reserved by the City Council or City Manager for specific purposes, but neither restricted nor committed

Cash Reserve Policy of the City of Richmond

Unassigned

Residual balance not classified in any of the above categories and has not been restricted, committed, nor assigned to specific purposes

The City shall maintain year end contingency reserve balances in the General Fund of a minimum fifteen percent (15%) of next year's budgeted General Fund expenditures including transfers out. This is the minimum needed to maintain the City's creditworthiness and to adequately provide for economic and legislative uncertainties, cash flow needs and contingencies. A policy based upon percentage assures that the reserve will remain a prudent cushion as the City's budgets grow over time.

City Council approval is required before any withdrawals from the reserve fund. The City Council shall have the discretion to use the reserve for one time emergencies only and not to be used for ongoing expenditures. As the City experiences net revenue gains in future years, the reserve balance must grow back to a minimum fifteen percent (15%) of total expenditures, in order to allow the City to build up its capacity to handle future short term economic downturns or emergencies with minimal to no impact to City services.

The Finance Director/Treasurer will review the Cash Reserve Policy annually in connection with the City's annual budget process to ensure that the City is in compliance with the policy. Additionally, the City Manager will review the policy at regular intervals and will make recommendations for modification as deemed appropriate.