

RESOLUTION NO. 129-21

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA,
IN SUPPORT OF STATE FUNDING FOR ADULT SCHOOL CLASSES
FOR OLDER ADULTS**

WHEREAS, isolation is one of the most serious challenges facing older Americans, as it can lead to physical and mental deterioration and even death; and

WHEREAS, education programs for older adults are a low-cost, effective way to combat isolation and promote healthy aging; and

WHEREAS, physically, mentally and socially stimulating programs such as Older Adult classes reduce the likelihood of participants contracting dementia by 18 %. (American Journal of Epidemiology, vol. 155, No.12, June 15, 2002); and

WHEREAS, education programs for Older Adults save the state money, as evidenced by a study that showed that improving healthy life expectancy by just one year each decade could save the state 14% on health care between 2007 and 2025 (British Department of Work and Pensions 2009 study, "Building a Society for All Ages", page. 15); and

WHEREAS, classes for Older Adults need to be free of charge because 45% of seniors live below the poverty line; and

WHEREAS, Older Adult programs provide the support needed for seniors to add significant value to their communities through volunteer work, as demonstrated by an informal study of participants in two West Contra Costa Older Adult programs which found that students in the programs provided about 6,463 hours of service during one school year, at a value of about \$76,780 per year; and

WHEREAS, adult school Older Adult programs provide unique opportunities for inter-generational learning such as living history projects, intergenerational art projects, or the current program in West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) where students from the Sakura Kai program for Japanese-speaking seniors teach Taiko drumming to children; and

WHEREAS, West Contra Costa Adult Education, the adult school that serves the Richmond area, plans to cancel its entire Older Adult program on December 18, 2021, because the State of California no longer provides funding for these classes; and

WHEREAS, when the adult school Older Adult programs close, the City of Richmond stands to lose two programs that serve over 150 Richmond area seniors, including a senior center program for Japanese-speaking seniors, Sakura Kai, and exercise classes that combat osteoporosis and other diseases of aging; and

WHEREAS, the Sakura Kai program is in high demand and has a waiting list; and

WHEREAS, these programs are very inexpensive at a cost of about \$34,000 per year; and

WHEREAS, Governor Gavin Newsom has made healthy aging a priority for the State of California, and has called for the creation of a Masterplan for Aging; and

WHEREAS, one of the five goals of the Masterplan for Aging is Inclusion and Equity, not Isolation, a goal which adult school classes for seniors effectively achieve.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Richmond, California hereby declares support for adult school classes for older adults; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Richmond, recognizes that adult education classes for Older Adults are a vital resource for the City of Richmond and for the State of California; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Richmond, send a letter to Governor Newsom, State Superintendent Tony Thurmond, State Senator Nancy Skinner, and Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, requesting that funding for adult school classes for Older Adults be added to the Masterplan for Aging; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Richmond, respectfully encourage the West Contra Costa Unified School District Board of Education, and other cities and school boards to send similar letters to Governor Gavin Newsom;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Richmond, respectfully encourages that the West Contra Costa Unified School District Board of Education find a way to keep funding the Older Adult program while efforts to raise money from the state or find other ways to continue funding the program continue.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting thereof held November 2, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmembers Bates, Jimenez, Martinez, McLaughlin, Willis, Vice Mayor Johnson III, and Mayor Butt.
NOES:	None.
ABSTENTIONS:	None.
ABSENT:	None.

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. 129-21**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on November 2, 2021.

Pamela Christian, Clerk of the City of Richmond