

**RESOLUTION NO. 149-21**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND COMMENDING  
OUTGOING CITY ATTORNEY TERESA STRICKER FOR HER SERVICE AND  
PROFESSIONALISM; AND RENOUNCING AND CONDEMNING STATEMENTS  
ABOUT THE CITY ATTORNEY MADE BY MAYOR TOM BUTT**

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**WHEREAS**, Teresa Stricker took office as City Attorney for the City of Richmond on November 9, 2020, and has provided dedicated service to the City of Richmond since that time;

**WHEREAS**, City Attorney Stricker has performed her duties with the highest level of professionalism and integrity;

**WHEREAS**, elected City leaders should at all times conduct themselves with dignity, fairness, grace, integrity, and a sense of propriety, and responsibility;

**WHEREAS**, Section 2.12.020 of the Municipal Code of the City of Richmond states: "While the City Council is in session, a Councilmember must preserve order and decorum.";

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Tom Butt has engaged in a campaign of making indecorous and improper public statements about City Attorney Stricker's conduct as City Attorney including, but not limited to, suggesting she is responsible for authorizing "illegal contracts" when, in fact, (1) the contracts and investigations were not managed by the City Attorney's Office, (2) the contracts were implemented pursuant to a long-standing practice that pre-dated her tenure (as acknowledged by Mayor Butt himself during the August 24, 2021 meeting of the City Council), and (3) in November 2020, shortly after her arrival, City Attorney Stricker ended that practice and implemented new internal protocols to safeguard contracts exceeding spending authorities;

**WHEREAS**, City Attorney Stricker is restricted by ethical and legal constraints set by applicable state laws and the California Rules of Professional Conduct from publicly responding to many of the Mayor's statements about her conduct and communications;

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Butt made derogatory, disparaging, belittling, and undignified statements about City Attorney Stricker, including, but not limited to, statements made on the [www.tombutt.com](http://www.tombutt.com) e-forum on June 23, 2021, July 1, 21, and 24, 2021, October 19, 2021, and November 8, 10, 16, and 21, 2021; as well as his abusive and disparaging comments during open sessions of the City Council on July 22 and 27, 2021, August 24, 2021, as well as November 2, 9, 16, and 23, 2021;

**WHEREAS**, on November 23, 2021, the Council of the City of Richmond censured Mayor Butt for breaching his duty as mayor under state law to not publicly release confidential attorney-client privileged information and confidential closed session information, and directed the City Attorney to both initiate litigation against Mayor Butt for his improper disclosure of attorney-client privileged information, and report the actions of Mayor Butt to the Contra Costa County Grand Jury and the Contra County District Attorney;

**WHEREAS**, during the open session of the City Council meeting on November 23, 2021, Mayor Butt made further disparaging comments which members of the Council of the City of Richmond repudiated and stated their appreciation for the work City Attorney Stricker has done.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the Council of the City of Richmond does hereby commend and express its appreciation to outgoing City Attorney Teresa Stricker for her dedication to professionalism and integrity, and for performing at the highest level on behalf of the City of Richmond during challenging circumstances.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the Council of the City of Richmond hereby denounces and condemns the statements made by Mayor Butt during Council meetings and on his online e-forum about City Attorney Teresa Stricker that improperly impugn to her a lack of intelligence, and integrity, and/or otherwise disparage her professionalism and qualifications.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the Council of the City of Richmond hereby censures Mayor Butt for his inappropriate conduct during meetings of the City Council occurring on July 22 and 27, 2021, August 24, 2021, and November 2, 9, 16, and 23, 2021, and reminds Mayor Butt of his obligations under the Municipal Code of the City of Richmond to preserve order and decorum during meetings of the City Council.

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I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a special meeting thereof held December 14, 2021, by the following vote:

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

PAMELA CHRISTIAN  
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND  
(SEAL)

Approved:

THOMAS K. BUTT  
Mayor

Approved as to form:

HEATHER MCLAUGHLIN  
Acting 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. 149-21**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a special meeting held on December 14, 2021.

  
Pamela Christian, Clerk of the City of Richmond