

**RESOLUTION NO. 111-24**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND,  
CALIFORNIA, IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSITION 6 TO AMEND ARTICLE 1,  
SECTION 6 OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION**

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**WHEREAS**, Article 1, Section 6 of the California Constitution currently states that "slavery is prohibited" with the exception that "involuntary servitude as a punishment for crime" may still be practiced; and

**WHEREAS**, the exception clause permits the continued exploitation of labor from incarcerated individuals, which disproportionately impacts people of color, particularly Black and Indigenous communities, and perpetuates systemic racial inequalities; and

**WHEREAS**, forced labor under the guise of punishment for crime is a vestige of slavery, a system that the United States Constitution's 13th Amendment sought to abolish, yet left this harmful exception intact, effectively allowing slavery by another name; and

**WHEREAS**, California is currently one of only 16 states that still retains this exception in its constitution, perpetuating a practice that should have been eradicated with the abolition of slavery; and

**WHEREAS**, Proposition 6 seeks to amend Article 1, Section 6 of the California Constitution to remove the exception clause, fully prohibiting slavery and involuntary servitude under any circumstances, thereby reaffirming California's commitment to human rights and dignity; and

**WHEREAS**, the passage of Proposition 6 aligns with the principles of justice and fairness, ensuring that no individual, regardless of their legal status, can be subjected to involuntary servitude as a means of punishment; and

**WHEREAS**, ending this exception would set a national example, showing that California stands firmly against all forms of slavery and upholds the fundamental belief in equality and freedom for all; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no formal opposition to Proposition 6, and its passage would only strengthen California's justice system by promoting rehabilitation over exploitation; and

**WHEREAS**, a broad coalition of civil rights organizations, faith leaders, labor unions, legal experts, and formerly incarcerated individuals have voiced their strong support for Proposition 6 and the removal of the slavery exception from California's Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, this Council recognizes the importance of historical accountability and the responsibility to dismantle the legacies of systemic injustice embedded in our state and nation's legal framework.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the City Council of the City of Richmond City Council hereby declares its support for Proposition 6, which amends Article 1, Section 6 of the California Constitution to remove the exception clause permitting involuntary servitude as punishment for a crime, effectively ending all vestiges of slavery in the state; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Council directs its Clerk to send copies of this resolution to the Governor of California, the Speaker of the California Assembly, the President pro Tempore of the California State Senate, and other appropriate state and local officials to advocate for the passage of Proposition 6.

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I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting thereof held October 15, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers McLaughlin, Robinson, Willis, Zepeda, Vice Mayor Jimenez, and Mayor Martinez.  
NOES: None.  
ABSTENTIONS: None.  
ABSENT: Councilmember Bana.

PAMELA CHRISTIAN  
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND  
(SEAL)

Approved:

EDUARDO MARTINEZ  
Mayor

Approved as to form:

DAVE ALESHIRE  
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. 111-24**, finally passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on October 15, 2024.

*Pamela Christian*  
Pamela Christian, Clerk of the City of Richmond