

**RESOLUTION NO. 33-25**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND,  
CALIFORNIA, RECOGNIZING THE MIDDLE EASTERN AND NORTH AFRICAN  
(MENA) COMMUNITY AND TO URGE SUPPORT FOR  
ASSEMBLY BILL 91 — “MENA INCLUSION ACT”**

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**WHEREAS**, the City of Richmond is committed to being an inclusive and equitable city that values and supports all its residents, regardless of racial, ethnic, or cultural background; and

**WHEREAS**, Richmond is home to a growing population of individuals of Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) descent, who represent a wide array of nationalities, languages, and traditions, all contributing significantly to the city’s cultural richness, economic vitality, and civic life; and

**WHEREAS**, the MENA community in Richmond has played a vital role in the city’s development, including in the fields of education, healthcare, small business, technology, public service, and community-based advocacy; and

**WHEREAS**, current Census data and state-level demographic methods fail to accurately count and reflect the MENA population, resulting in underrepresentation and limited access to resources and services; and

**WHEREAS**, accurate and disaggregated demographic data is critical to advancing equity in policymaking, funding allocations, and program development, ensuring that all communities, including MENA, are seen, heard, and served; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of California has the largest MENA population in the United States, yet the lack of a distinct MENA data category at the state level continues to create barriers to educational, health, and economic equity for MENA communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Assembly Bill 91 (AB 91), the “MENA Inclusion Act,” would require state and local agencies in California that collect demographic data to include separate categories for MENA groups and publicly report that data beginning January 1, 2027; and

**WHEREAS**, AB 91 will help ensure accurate representation and equity for MENA communities across California by informing policies and funding decisions with complete and inclusive data;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Richmond, as follows:

1. The City of Richmond formally supports Assembly Bill 91, the Middle Eastern and North African Inclusion Act, and recognizes its significance in ensuring equity and accurate representation for the MENA community in California.
2. The City of Richmond recognizes the MENA community as a distinct racial and ethnic group with unique contributions to the cultural, economic, and social life of the city.
3. The City of Richmond will continue to uplift and support the contributions, culture, and civic engagement of the MENA community in all aspects of public life.

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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 regular meeting thereof held on April 15, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Bana, Brown, Jimenez, Robinson,  
Wilson, Vice Mayor Zepeda, and Mayor Martinez.

NOES: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None.

ABSENT: None.

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. 33-25**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on April 15, 2025.

  
Pamela Christian, Clerk of the City of Richmond