

RESOLUTION NO. 122-09

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND
AFFIRMING ITS SUPPORT FOR THE TEACHERS AND STUDENTS OF WEST
CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

WHEREAS the City of Richmond supports the West Contra Costa Unified School District's existing mission statement in its commitment to "... provide the highest quality education to enable all students to make positive life choices, strengthen our community, and successfully participate in a diverse global society and to provide excellent learning and teaching experiences; safe, student-centered learning environments; and support for all students and employees."; and

WHEREAS currently class size maximums have been replaced with "ratios" that allow any number of students in a given class; and

WHEREAS classrooms are lacking enough educational materials and support staff; and

WHEREAS there are as many as 50-60 students per class and not enough desks, chairs, book and workbooks, computers and work stations; and

WHEREAS the West Contra Costa Unified School District is at risk of losing quality veteran teachers due to early retirement, substandard salaries and loss of benefits; and

WHEREAS the State of California spends more on prisons than education, therefore reflecting its priority and values; and

WHEREAS the City of Richmond believes in stopping the school-to-prison pipeline and in holding the profession of teaching, as well as education, with a greater regard than that of the prison industrial complex; and

WHEREAS the City of Richmond believes that education is a human right, where all our students have equal access to the same type and quality of world-class education that is comparable to any city in the United States, regardless of race, creed, color, gender, or economic status; and

WHEREAS the City of Richmond believes in keeping class sizes to a minimum in order to achieve the highest quality education and meet required academic standards; and

WHEREAS the City of Richmond believes that all students should have sufficient supplies, support, and basic workstations to sit in the classroom, and an environment that does not impose a safety hazard due to over-crowding; and

WHEREAS the City of Richmond believes the West Contra Costa Unified School District teachers should be compensated in a way that will retain quality teachers and make Richmond attractive as a place to live and work; and

WHEREAS in response to public outcry over the condition of schools and education in our community, the Human Rights and Human Relations Commission petitioned the City Council to adopt a resolution in support of the teachers and families of the West Contra Costa Unified School District

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Richmond supports the families, students and teachers of the West Contra Costa Unified School District in their quest for safe and healthy classrooms, smaller class sizes, competitive salaries for teachers, and for retention of benefits for teachers and their families, in order to attain the type of quality education to which our students are entitled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Richmond encourages the West Contra Costa Unified School District administration and school board to support its students and teachers by coming to a fair and just resolution regarding working and learning conditions.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the City of Richmond shall write a letter to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger urging him to make a bold and drastic move on behalf of the people in the State of California and revise the state budget to make education the top priority.

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I certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on October 20, 2009, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Bates, Butt, Rogers, Ritterman, Viramontes, Vice Mayor Lopez, and Mayor McLaughlin.

NOES: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None.

ABSENT: None.

DIANE HOLMES
Clerk of the City of Richmond
[SEAL]

Approved:

GAYLE MCLAUGHLIN
Mayor

Approved as to form:

RANDY RIDDLE
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. 122-09**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on October 20, 2009.