

**RESOLUTION NO. 68-10**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND  
SUPPORTING OUTREACH AND EDUCATION REGARDING SMART  
METERS TO PREVENT POWER SERVICE DISCONNECTIONS AND URGING  
A MORATORIUM ON NEW SMART METER INSTALLATIONS PENDING  
THE OUTCOME OF AN INVESTIGATION BY THE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

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WHEREAS, the City of Richmond desires to protect its citizens from losing essential services such as power and utilities; and

WHEREAS, data from the Division of Ratepayer Advocates has shown an increase in PG&E's disconnections of service compared to the past year, particularly after the installation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) or Smart Meters in April of 2009; and

WHEREAS, numerous complaints have been sent to consumer advocacy groups such as TURN (Toward Utility Rate Normalization) regarding skyrocketing bills that arose after the installation of Smart Meters; and

WHEREAS, according to TURN, there are some cases where plausible explanations have not yet been given to justify these increased power bills; and

WHEREAS, according to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), approximately 1000 complaints have been received regarding Smart Meters; and

WHEREAS, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) has admitted there are problems with Smart Meters such as non-functional, non-communicative or problematically installed Smart Meters; and

WHEREAS, heightened consumer protections, in the form of educational assistance, monetary assistance, and communication with customers, are key to preventing and limiting disconnections from essential utility services and possible overbillings; and

WHEREAS, The City of Richmond supports suspension of remote disconnections while the Public Utilities Commission conducts its investigation into the use of Smart Meters; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond City Council calls upon the CPUC to develop additional consumer protections to prevent service disconnections in the form of improved education, communication, and monetary assistance programs in cases of financial hardship; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that the Richmond City Council supports a moratorium on new Smart Meter installations, consistent with TURN's consumer advocacy efforts, as well as suspending remote disconnections until the CPUC ordered independent investigation on Smart Meters has issued its findings; and

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the City Manager is directed to send a copy of this resolution and a cover letter to the Commissioners and Executive Director of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).

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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 City Council meeting held on June 1, 2010, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Bates, Butt, Lopez, Vice Mayor Ritterman, Rogers, Viramontes, 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. 68-10**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on June 1, 2010.