

RESOLUTION NO. 6-17

**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND,
CALIFORNIA IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED STATE FUNDING FOR ADULT
EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, California is home to 5.2 million adults that have less than a high school education, and

WHEREAS, in the City of Richmond, 23.1% of the population has not earned a high school diploma, with 12.9% of the population having less than a 9th grade education, and

WHEREAS, California's adult schools and community colleges together only serve about 1 million of the 5.2 million adults in need of adult literacy services, and

WHEREAS, funding for California's adult schools was cut by half between 2009 and 2013, and has never been restored, and

WHEREAS, California's adult schools, including the adult school that serves the City of Richmond, have had to reduce their services due to the reduced level of funding and have never been able to restore them, and

WHEREAS, the adult school that serves the City of Richmond, West Contra Costa Adult Education provides free or low cost Vocational Training, High School Diploma, GED and English as a Second Language classes, all of which help Richmond residents prepare to enter new jobs or qualify for better jobs, and

WHEREAS, the education and training provided by West Contra Costa Adult Education is vital to the economic health of the City or Richmond, and

WHEREAS, parents are their children's first teachers, and children succeed in school when their parents are involved in their learning, understand the school system, and are able to advocate for their children with the school, and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond is committed to the Full Service Community Schools model, which includes adult education for parents and community members to increase community involvement in the schools, and

WHEREAS, immigrant parents often need to acquire English language skills and life skills in order to help their children with school work, understand the U.S. school system and become effective advocates for their children, and

WHEREAS, the population of the City of Richmond is 32.4% foreign born, with 49.9% of Richmond residents speaking a language other than English at home, and

WHEREAS, parents, including immigrant parents, in the City of Richmond and surrounding cities are able to take Parent Education classes and Family Literacy classes through West Contra Costa which help parents advocate for their children's education and also learn skills that help them deal with family conflicts in a positive manner, creating stronger families, and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond, is a sanctuary city which is committed to protecting the rights of its immigrant population, and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond supports the State of California's commitment to protecting the rights of state's immigrant population, and

WHEREAS, West Contra Costa Adult Education, which has a large number of immigrants in its student body, is an important partner for the City of Richmond in disseminating information about immigrants' rights and otherwise helping to protect the rights of immigrants, and

WHEREAS, adult schools throughout the State of California will be important partners for local governments and for the state in efforts to protect the rights of California's immigrant population, and

WHEREAS, West Contra Costa Adult Education, like many other adult schools, has had to reduce its services due to inadequate funding and has been unable to restore them, making it more difficult for residents of Richmond and surrounding cities to access needed educational services, and

WHEREAS, restoration of adult education funding in California to pre-2009 levels would greatly benefit residents of the City of Richmond and of the State of California

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond City Council, recognizes that adult education is a vital resource for the City of Richmond and for the State of California; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Richmond City Council directs staff to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Brown as a request to increase Adult Education Block Grant funding in the 2017-2018 budget to allow California's adult schools to begin to recover from the funding cuts and to restore much needed services.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting thereof held January 17, 2017, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Choi, McLaughlin, Myrick, Willis, Vice Mayor Beckles, and Mayor Butt.

NOES: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmember Martinez.

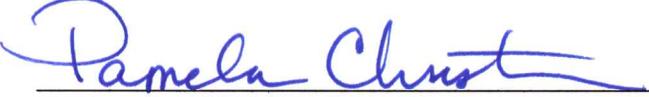
PAMELA CHRISTIAN
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND
(SEAL)

Approved:
TOM BUTT
Mayor

Approved as to form:
BRUCE GOODMILLER
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. 6-17**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on January 17, 2017.



Pamela Christian, Clerk of the City of Richmond