

CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 44-17

**A RESOLUTION OF THE RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE
ANNUAL HOMELESS WORKFORCE CONFERENCE AT THE RICHMOND
MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM**

WHEREAS, the economic growth and sustainable development of the City of Richmond depends on a skilled workforce of Richmond residents to meet the requirements of existing employers and attract new businesses; and

WHEREAS, Richmond also has one of the highest concentrations of people suffering long-term poverty, homeless people, hard-to-employ people, long-term unemployed people, and under-employed people in Contra Costa County and throughout the San Francisco Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, in order to reduce poverty and homelessness, many more residents of Richmond must improve their employability, re-enter our local workforce, and achieve gainful and sustainable employment; and

WHEREAS, many public agencies and groups already address the most urgent needs of Richmond's poor, homeless, hard-to-employ, and long-term unemployed for food, shelter, and health care; and

WHEREAS, those who work in these public agencies and groups addressing the most urgent needs, as well as all those who work in social services, health care, and employment services to help vulnerable populations, need continuous training and technical support to be effective; and

WHEREAS, those who are dedicated to helping vulnerable populations also suffer burn out, vicarious trauma, compassion fatigue, and health issues such that they need professional and peer support to be fully effective in their work; and

WHEREAS, Richmond needs social services, health care, and employment services professionals who are dedicated, healthy, and provided the necessary skills and support to do their work effectively; and

WHEREAS, Saffron Strand, Inc. is a Richmond-based 501(c)(3) non-profit membership organization founded in 2009 that builds the job skills and increases employment of homeless adults and youth in Richmond; and

WHEREAS, Saffron Strand's mission includes public education and professional training, such that Saffron Strand's Annual Homeless Workforce Conferences since 2010 have attracted to Richmond hundreds of professionals in social services, public health, and workforce development agencies as well as other stakeholders, including education, non-profit, faith-based, and elected leaders from other Bay Area communities and other states; and

WHEREAS, Saffron Strand's Annual Homeless Workforce Conferences bring unique, nationally-recognized public education and professional training that provides specialized expertise to help the homeless and others re-enter the Richmond workforce for the long-term; and

WHEREAS, the professional training and public education that result from Saffron Strand's Annual Homeless Workforce Conferences benefit Richmond directly and significantly by helping to reduce homelessness and poverty in our City, improving the quality and employability of our workforce, and by showcasing Richmond as a center of research and best-practice dissemination, forward thinking, and pioneering innovation in the effort to reduce homelessness and poverty; and

WHEREAS, the most cost-effective and reliable way to reduce homelessness in Richmond and other communities -- and to conserve public funds for unreimbursed emergency, medical, and law enforcement services -- is for the homeless who can work to enter the

workforce with valuable, marketable skills and thereby achieve and sustain gainful employment; and

WHEREAS, Saffron Strand’s Annual Homeless Workforce Conferences contribute to reduced violence, lower crime rate, greater community engagement, increased employment, improved business development, and higher quality of life in Richmond and other communities; and

WHEREAS, these annual conferences:

1. Engage stakeholders in cost-effective, employment-focused solutions to homelessness, including the workforce of homeless, hard-to-employ, and long-term unemployed Richmond residents and members of other communities;
2. Identify gaps, incentives, and disincentives in existing housing, health care, and employment programs for the homeless and practical ways to integrate new solutions;
3. Apply traditional and new best practices in the continuum of care and transition out of homelessness and poverty;
4. Focus on programs to optimize employability and career potential of homeless persons and those at risk of homelessness; and
5. Use Richmond -- where the homeless and other low-income residents face every possible challenge -- as the proving ground for new, employment-focused solutions to homelessness and poverty; and

WHEREAS, Saffron Strand’s 2017 Annual Homeless Workforce Conference -- “Working Upstream: What Can We Do to Prevent Homelessness?” June 12-13 at the Richmond Memorial Auditorium – will:

1. Address causes of homelessness closer to their source, including inequality of opportunity for education, employment, and housing; and
2. Train and support professionals and others in order to help those who are at risk of homelessness to stabilize, recover, and rebuild their lives before they become homeless; and
3. Provide a unique platform to explore new strategies and key factors critical to preventing homelessness.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Richmond City Council declares support for Saffron Strand’s Annual Homeless Workforce Conferences; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Richmond City Council declares support for “Working Upstream: What Can We Do to Prevent Homelessness?” June 12-13, 2017 at the Richmond Memorial Auditorium; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Richmond City Council encourages all City departments, boards, and commissions that provide services or other help to Richmond residents who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to support and enable appropriate staff to participate in “Working Upstream: What Can We Do to Prevent Homelessness?”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Richmond City Council recommends that the City include the “Homeless Workforce Conference” in “Mark Your Calendar” in the City’s website and promote the Conference through other appropriate media; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Richmond City Council waives the rental fee for use of the Richmond Memorial Auditorium for the 2017 Annual Homeless Workforce Conference and endorses and supports City of Richmond co-sponsorship of this Conference.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Richmond City Council endorses, supports and waives the rental fee for use of the Richmond Memorial Auditorium for Saffron Strand's Annual Homeless Workforce Conference for the next two (2) years.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting thereof held May 2, 2017, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Choi, Martinez, McLaughlin, Myrick, and Willis.
NOES: Mayor Butt.
ABSTENTIONS: Vice Mayor Beckles.
ABSENT: None.

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. 44-17**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on May 2, 2017.



Pamela Christian, Clerk of the City of Richmond