

RESOLUTION NO. 54-17

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA IN SUPPORT OF KEEPING THE SERRA ADULT EDUCATION SCHOOL IN THE CITY

WHEREAS, 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 of Richmond; and

WHEREAS, the centrally located Serra Adult Center facility is a particularly important resource for Richmond residents because it is accessible to those most in need of adult education services, such as residents with less than a high school education, low-income residents, and immigrants; and

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

WHEREAS, the median household income in the City of Richmond is \$54,857, well below the California state median income of \$64,500; and

WHEREAS, the poverty rate for the City of Richmond is 16.2%; and

WHEREAS, according to the last census, 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 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 West Contra Costa Unified School District and the City of Richmond are both 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 in order to help their children with schoolwork, understand the U.S. school system and become effective advocates for their children; and

WHEREAS, the Serra Adult Center site offers life skills and Family Literacy classes which help parents support their children's education while they increase their own literacy; and

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

WHEREAS, Serra Adult Center provides a centrally located site where immigrant students can learn about their legal rights and obtain information that can protect them; and

WHEREAS, a recent survey of English as a Second Language students at Serra Adult Center found that 54% of the students feel "very afraid" because of the current anti-immigrant sentiment in the U.S., and 79% report that they feel safer and less worried in their ESL classes; and

WHEREAS, West Contra Costa Unified School District plans to move adult education classes out of the Serra Adult Center in order to establish an elementary school at the site; and

WHEREAS, the elementary school was originally proposed for another site, and there are other sites where the elementary school could be established; and

WHEREAS, the proposed new site for the adult education classes at Serra Adult Center is Alvarado Adult School, which is at the furthest southern edge of the school district; and

WHEREAS, a recent demographic map indicates that ESL students at the Serra Adult Center live in Central Richmond, San Pablo, or points north; and

WHEREAS, a recent survey of ESL students at Serra Adult Center indicates that only 8% would be able to attend classes at Alvarado Adult School, and that the number that could attend other proposed sites was less than 30%; and

WHEREAS, the West Contra Costa Board of Education decided to move the adult school out of Serra without giving adult school students, teachers, or staff an opportunity to say how the move would affect them,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Richmond hereby:

1. **Recognizes** that Serra Adult School site is an important resource for the residents of West County; and
2. **Declares** support for keeping adult school classes at the Serra Adult School site; and
3. **Requests** that West Contra Costa Unified School District maintain Serra Adult School as an adult education site and establish the new elementary school in another location.

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 16, 2017, by the following vote:

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

NOES: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None.

ABSENT: None.

PAMELA CHRISTIAN
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND
(SEAL)

Approved:

TOM BUTT

Mayor

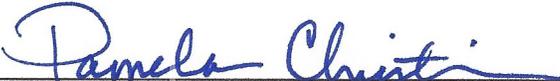
Approved as to form:

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. 54-17**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on May 16, 2017.



Pamela Christian, Clerk of the City of Richmond