

City Manager's Weekly Report
For the week ending September 21st, 2007

1. Meeting Notes

The next City Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 25th, beginning with a Closed Session at 5:30 PM, followed by a special City Council Study Session meeting at 7:00 PM. Please note that there is no morning Closed Session on September 25th.

2. Civic Center Bond Sale is Completed

On Wednesday, the Civic Center Financing Team completed the sale of \$101,420,000 of Lease Revenue Bonds. The proceeds from these bonds will complete the funding of Phase 1 of the Civic Center Master Plan, which will rebuild City Hall, the Hall of Justice and Civic Plaza, as well as upgrade the Memorial Auditorium. Key elements in the financing strategy include the achievement of credit rating upgrades from both Moody's Investor Service (one notch to A1) and Standard & Poor's Corporation (two notches to A), which enabled the City to realize approximately \$600,000 savings on bond insurance costs. The bonds will carry a very favorable interest rate of 3.66%, resulting in average incremental net debt service of \$2.8 million per year.

Thanks to Finance Department and other City staff, as well as our professional advisors, for a very successful financing that allows the City to complete this critical next step toward reopening the Civic Center in 2009.

3. City Receives Grant to Assist in Addressing Issues of Crime Associated with Problem Liquor Stores

The City of Richmond has received a grant of \$100,000 from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control in response to a proposal prepared by the Richmond Police Department with the assistance of the Glen Price Group. The grant provides resources for a variety of operations that are intended to address the issues of crime associated with problem liquor establishments in the City. The strategy for the program is based upon data that shows that a relatively small number of establishments are associated with a disproportionate amount of criminal activity. These activities include: sale of illegal drugs on the premises, assaults, graffiti and vandalism, firearm-related crimes, sale of alcohol and cigarettes to minors, drunk driving, loitering and littering. The grant will provide funds for officer training; a diverse collection of enforcement techniques including collaboration with the Building Inspection, Fire and County

Health Departments; community education activities; and an improved system for recording and reporting arrests related to alcohol enforcement. The grant will support the Richmond Police Department in working closely with officers from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control and the District Attorney's Office to identify and prosecute alcohol premises-related offenses. Captain Eugene McBride and Sergeant Charles Whitney of the Richmond Police Department played active roles in the development of this successful application.

4. **Recognition for Unique Program Developed by LEAP Adult Literacy Program**

San Quentin literacy student inmates have selected the City of Richmond collaboration, *Ki to the Future*, for recognition as a program that is making a positive impact on youth. *Ki to the Future* is a unique partnership between LEAP, the Library, the Recreation Department, and the Center for Human Development. The program will receive a \$550 donation at a San Quentin literacy student recognition ceremony to be held in San Quentin on October 10th.

The *Ki to the Future* program provides an unusual after school experience for families at the Shields-Reid Community Center in North Richmond. To engage entire families after school, pre-school children look at books or hear stories in the library room, parents or guardians learn English, and school age children learn Aikido as a method to increase focus and concentration for improved academic learning. On a regular basis, parents will switch places with their children, as they too are preparing to learn. The goal of the program is to help all members of the family learn methods that increase their mental and physical stability under stressful situations and ultimately enhance their openness to learning new ideas and skills at home and at work.

5. **Library Hours**

At its recent meetings, the City Council has received comments concerning hours at the Main Library at 325 Civic Center Plaza. Please note that the Main Library is currently open the following 45 hours each week (including Saturday):

Monday	12 – 8 pm
Tuesday	12 – 8 pm
Wednesday	10 am – 8 pm
Thursday	10 am – 5 pm
Friday	12 – 5 pm
Saturday	10 am – 5 pm
Sunday	Closed

Library staff are planning to drop postcards to all addresses, reminding residents that the Library will remain open during construction to the Civic Center.

6. Presentation Concerning San Jose Graffiti Abatement Programs

This past Wednesday, members of the Beautification Committee, chaired by Councilmember Thurmond, and the Crime Prevention Committee, together with interested members of City staff and the community, heard a presentation by individuals who designed and implemented programs that helped to virtually eradicate graffiti in the City of San Jose. While the presentation was not detailed in terms of the specific program elements that were implemented, and was, in part, marketing consulting services that are currently being offered in such program design, it nonetheless sparked significant interest among over 50 attendees at this meeting. Among other activities, general elements of successful graffiti eradication programs involve:

- Training volunteers to paint over graffiti;
- Educating people about not doing graffiti;
- Working with the District Attorney to assign those who vandalize with graffiti to clean it up, and connect them to other re-entry services;
- Changing city ordinances and working with labor groups as needed to implement the above programs;
- Partnering with the school district and adjacent cities;
- Partnering with business, particularly having to do with procurement of supplies; and
- Identifying revenue sources to implement such programs.

City staff has requested a proposal from these consultants to evaluate whether or not they might provide assistance to the Richmond community. We will keep you informed as this project moves forward.

7. Employee Task Force on Quality Improvement

As you may recall, we have initiated an employee Task Force (TF), following up on the recently completed community survey, in an effort to involve employees at all levels and functions of the organization in a concerted effort to improve City services. This past week, the TF completed the initial phase of their work, which included translating the Mejorando Group report that was recently provided to you into four main areas of focus:

1. City Services
2. Employee Relations/Internal

3. Infrastructure
4. Communication

These categories were arrived at by the TF after much discussion. Each TF member serves on one of the four areas and will be working in that area prior to the next TF meeting scheduled for October 17. The intent is for each of these sub-teams to prepare a set of short-term and long-term recommendations to positively impact the situation. The schedule is for the TF to finalize their work and present it to Department Heads on November 7th.

The consultant, Patrick Ibarra of the Mejorando Group (who also facilitated the most recent City Council strategic planning session) reports that this select employee TF seems to be composed of high-energy, focused, positive employees who are committed to making a difference. The 22 Task Force members are:

- Fire – Dan Martin, Ray Muhammad, and Rico Rincon;
- Police – Detective Patrick Davis, Officer Virgil Thomas and Records Specialist Sheila Bruno;
- Public Works – Desiree Grayson, Markeith McCraw, and Artie Moore;
- City Manager – Lashonda Wilson;
- City Clerk – Patrick Seals;
- Human Resources – Lisa Stephenson;
- Planning – Hector Rojas;
- Finance – Herbert Pike;
- Community and Economic Development – Patrick Lynch;
- Housing Authority – Latan Jones;
- Employment and Training – Jay Leonhardy;
- Recreation – Sharolyn Babb;
- Library – Christina Nypaver;
- Engineering – Lynne Scarpa;
- Information Technology – Steve Furtado;
- City Attorney – Bruce Soublet.

I greatly appreciate their commitment to this effort.

8. Construction of Boat Ramp Street

A pre-construction meeting was held this week with W.R.Forde Associates to discuss the construction start date for the improvements to Boat Ramp Street. This project is located in the 600 block of West Cutting Boulevard next to Richmond Boat Works. The project will construct an area where community members will be able to launch kayaks and have access to the shoreline along the Bay Trail. These improvements are partially funded by a grant that the City received from the Department of Boating and

Waterways with the help of TRAC. Construction should start around October 8th and, weather permitting, should be completed before Thanksgiving.

9. Public Works Department Projects

New Public Works Director Yadar Bermudez reports the following significant activities by his Department during the past week:

- Preparing the Marina Bay Park for the Home Front Festival;
- Preparing (mowing, cleaning, powering, etc.) the MLK, Nevin, JFK and Shields Reid Parks and respective community centers for the Tent City Event.
- Surveying street lights throughout the Iron Triangle for proper operation;
- Repairing the existing irrigation systems and installing new irrigation control panel at MLK Park;
- Repairing lighting impacted by wire theft on the Bay Trail at the east side of Shimada Park, Atlas Road, Richmond Parkway at Goodrick, Railroad Avenue (Point Richmond) and Hilltop Park;
- Painting 17 light poles in the Hilltop/Fairmede Neighborhood area;
- Continuing with citywide graffiti removal;
- Pothole repairs on Harbour Way between Ohio and Bissel Avenue,
- Crack sealing on Carriage Hills North;
- Installing new street sweeping signs and poles on Macdonald Avenue from 37th Street to San Pablo Avenue; and
- Installing skip line on Barrett from 28th Street to 32nd Street.

10. Fire Department Promotions and Trainee Academy

Last week Firefighters Will Bachman, Bob Christie, Scott Duncan and Rico Rincon were promoted to the rank of Fire Engineer. They are currently working in their new assignments. A badge pinning ceremony will be held sometime in October with the date and time still to be determined.

Earlier this week, seven new fire trainees began a sixteen week recruit academy at the Fire Training Center. The trainees are Carolyn Conry, Jason Eakle, Steven Harris, Zachary Jenssen, Heidi Maretzki, Eric Mendoza-Govan and John Stevens.

11. Release of CrimeView Community Software

Following additional testing (and a premature announcement in a prior Weekly Report), the City's new crime mapping application – CrimeView Community – has been released to the general public by the Police Department. The application is accessed via the Internet and enables

members of the public to query for a range of crime incidents. The queries are further refined through specification of geographical parameters – address, feature proximity, or feature boundary – and time frames.

To access real time information about Richmond crime in your neighborhood, visit <http://crimeview.ci.richmond.ca.us/crimeviewcommunity/wizard.asp>.

12. City of Richmond Website Wins Award

The City of Richmond has received yet another award for its website. In particular, the City received the 2007 award for **OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT** from the Web Marketing Association. Details are below:

City of Richmond California
[2006 City of Richmond California Website Redesign](#)
Outstanding Website



Entry Scores

Entries were judged on the following seven criteria on a scale of 0-10 points:

Government – The City of Richmond was ranked in the top 5 for Local Government in this National competition.

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>City of Richmond</u>	<u>Industry Average</u>	<u>Web Award Avg.</u>
Design	8.0	7.2	7.5
Innovation	8.0	6.4	6.9
Content	9.5	7.7	7.8
Technology	8.5	6.6	7.1
Interactivity	10.0	7.2	7.2
Copywriting	9.0	7.4	7.6
Ease of use	9.0	7.2	7.5
Overall Score	62.0	49.7	51.6

Congratulations to all those who worked on this project.

13. Documentary on “The War”

You have undoubtedly heard of “The War,” a seven-part series directed and produced by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick which explores the history and horror of the Second World War from an American perspective by following the fortunes of so-called ordinary men and women who were caught up in one of the greatest cataclysms in human history. There is also a one-hour companion documentary, produced by KQED, which tells the compelling wartime stories of veterans and citizens on the homefront in the San Francisco Bay area. San Francisco has always been a destination for diversity and this documentary will reveal the impact of World War II on the wide mosaic of communities that comprise our region, including, of course, the City of Richmond. Visit www.kqed.org/dtv for details.