

City Manager's Weekly Report
For the week ending June 6th, 2008

1. **Meeting Notes**

The next City Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 17th.

2. **Richmond Code Enforcement – “One Block at a Time” Program Launch**

Beginning on Saturday, June 14th, and extending through the following week, the City of Richmond Code Enforcement unit will implement a pilot, comprehensive code enforcement clean up on a block in the Parchester neighborhood. Participants in this code enforcement clean up will include the Police Department Code Enforcement staff, Public Works Department, Engineering Department, City Attorney's office, Fire Department, the RichmondWorks “Helping Hands” program, and other community groups and volunteers. Part of this process will involve identifying properties that are violating the Richmond Municipal Code, and that, as a result, are contributing to blight and crime. But another key element of the program will be to identify those property owners who may need assistance in abating those problems, and helping them with the abatement process. These help activities might include mowing lawns, painting houses, cleaning graffiti, and removing dumped items. After the neighborhood clean up, property owners that remain in violation of provisions of the Municipal Code will be cited.

If this initial pilot neighborhood project is successful, it will be similarly tried at several other locations during the summer, with the hope that this can transition to a neighborhood “self-help” activity, with lesser involvement of City resources.

3. **Letter to United States Surface Transportation Board**

As you will recall, the City Council received information at its last meeting regarding a recent action of the U.S. Surface Transportation Board (STB) that may result in a substantial increase in long train traffic through south Richmond. The STB action relates to an agreement giving Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) trackage rights over the Union Pacific's (UP's) facilities, which agreement effectively limits the number of long intermodal trains otherwise moving through the middle of Richmond. In short, the STB ruled that BNSF has no explicit authority from the STB to run trains on the Union Pacific track at this time.

I sent a letter this week to the STB that was drafted by the City Attorney's office with the input of BNSF, indicating that, while the Board's decision focused on the legal issues concerning the dispute between BNSF and UP railways, the decision did not address the significant effects that the change in rail traffic will have on Richmond and its residents now that BNSF must resume running long intermodal trains through our City. The letter specifically requested that the Board consider Richmond's views and the impact that its decision will have on our community.

We have provided you with a copy of that letter under separate cover. You should also be aware that we have contacted Congressman George Miller's office about this problem. We will keep you informed.

4. **Groundbreaking for Macdonald Avenue Streetscape**

Please note that the Groundbreaking Celebration for the Macdonald Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project, acknowledging the commencement of construction on the Harbour Way to 19th Street section of Macdonald Avenue, will be on Thursday, June 12, at 10:00 AM.

5. **Celebrating the Countdown to Occupancy of the Renovated Civic Center**

With "officially" one year to go until completion of Phase I of the Civic Center revitalization, the development team is planning a barbecue at the project site for the afternoon of Friday, June 20th. The City Council will be invited and there will be site tours. We will provide additional details in the near future.

6. **Richmond Heights Neighborhood Council Community Budget Presentation**

The most recent neighborhood budget presentation took place on Monday, June 2nd at the Serra Adult Education Center. Councilmember Ludmyrna Lopez, Budget Administrator Andrea Miller, Fire Chief Michael Banks, City Engineer Rich Davidson, and Public Works Director Yader Bermudez were among the staff present to provide information and answer questions raised by those in attendance. Some of the requests from citizens included:

- Notify residents when street sweeping will commence again so that cars can be moved;
- Look into grant funding for trash receptacles along the San Pablo corridor which includes recycling tops;
- Provide additional information regarding sewer lateral inspection and repair requirements prior to selling your home, together with a list of recommended contractors.

7. **Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS) Update**

This past week, ONS staff met with The California Endowment Foundation (TCEF) and its senior program staff to discuss ways in which the City of Richmond and TCEF might partner more strongly around community wellness, violence prevention, and intervention program activities. ONS staff are planning to provide TCEF with recommendations for such potential collaborative opportunities.

ONS is also working with the Richmond Community Wellness Collaborative (RCWC) and its law enforcement partners on developing a funding application for the creation of a regional anti-gang oversight project. The resources developed

through this opportunity would be directed towards strengthening the coordination of the many different and current gang and street violence prevention, intervention and suppression activities. An investment in such a coordinating function would enable the City of Richmond to provide greater leadership in effectively addressing gang and street violence in the East Bay region in a comprehensive way, and would pay tremendous dividends for the regional community. We believe that, once launched, the result would be a program that is sustainable and has the potential for state and national replication.

8. Neighborhood Change Agent (NCA) and Street Outreach Report

As part of the City's Outreach and Community Resource Teams, ONS Neighborhood Change Agents (NCA's) provide daily/ongoing school and street based outreach to identified at-risk youth and young adults who are disconnected from human service delivery opportunities. This week, the activities of the outreach team included:

- Networking with community and family members on the scene of recent shootings;
- Meeting with family members of recent murder victims;
- Participating in the Planning of the Richmond Youth Sports Camp II at MLK Jr. Recreation Facility and Park;
- Attending ONS Advisory Committee Retreat;
- Attending Parole and Corrections Team (PACT) meeting;
- Working with Neighborhood House of North Richmond Community Ambassadors and the Richmond Community Wellness Collaboration (RCWC) to work collectively on case management opportunities within the mentoring program at Peres Elementary school;
- Coordinating with the Richmond Parole Unit on developing and scheduling for case management training.

9. Recreation Department Highlights

Activities of note by the Recreation Department over the past several weeks included:

- The Recreation Department, in collaboration with the Commission on Aging, held Senior Night Out at the Richmond Recreation Complex on Friday, May 30, 2008 from 6:00 - 9:00 PM which was attended by approximately 250 seniors. The event paid tribute to volunteers chosen by the West County Senior Coalition, to Ms. Hunter, a woman from Nevin Plaza who is 106 years old, and to outgoing Commissioners Arnie Kasendorf and Katie Summers. In addition to dinner, music was played by the Jeb Brady Band. The night was festive, lots of prizes were won and it provided an evening out for frail and homebound seniors to enjoy while sharing the experience with friends and seniors from the community.

- The Recreation Department Senior Center held an all-day seminar for the Japanese American Cultural League on Saturday, May 3, 2008. Members of the Richmond Shimada Friendship Association attended the seminar. There were approximately 75 in attendance.

- The Recreation Department staff coordinated the 26th Annual Senior Information and Health Fair held on Tuesday, May 20, 2008, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Recreation Complex. Approximately 80 vendors participated and an estimate of 400 seniors and visitors were in attendance at this special event.