

City Manager's Weekly Report
For the week ending September 26th, 2008

This is the weekly report for the week ending September 26th, 2008.

1. Meeting Notes

The next regular City Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 7th.

As a reminder, the City Council will have a regular business meeting on Tuesday, October 28th, rather than reserving that 4th Tuesday meeting for Study Sessions only, as is the custom. The meeting that would normally be held on the first Tuesday in November (November 4th [Election Day]) is cancelled.

2. Update on City-wide Graffiti Abatement Program

As you may recall, the City of Richmond initiated a city-wide anti-graffiti program this past May, which was launched with a volunteer clean-up day on May 10th. Since that time, staff has continued to work with Boyles and Associates, the anti-graffiti program consultants that were retained by the City Council, to grow the program.

An update on this anti-graffiti effort is as follows:

Abatement/Eradication

- During the month of August, 2120 tags were abated by staff.
- 24% of the tags were gang related and cleaned within 48 hours of notification.
- Based on the amount of solvent distributed to volunteers, 6,200 square feet of tagged areas were abated.

Volunteers

- There were 72 registered volunteers as of the end of August.
- The City's volunteer coordinators have made 6 presentations to neighborhood groups.

Enforcement

- Two Police Officers have been specifically designated to assist with enforcement efforts.
- Training for officers took place on September 11th in San Jose.

Collaborative efforts with other agencies

- The most recent collaboration meeting with other agencies attacking this problem was held last Thursday, September 25th. The collaborative is working on a public awareness campaign with the slogan of "You Spray It – You Pay It!" which will involve a poster to be distributed to businesses, schools and posted at local bus stops.

- Caltrans will develop an abatement plan for structures along I-80 and I-580 within the Richmond boundary lines.
- The Railroad will provide a flagman on the first Tuesday of the month and allow trained city staff to abate graffiti.

Outreach Efforts

- An information table will be available during the Home Front Festival in October.
- The program will continue to participate with the One Block at a Time initiative.
- Information on the program was distributed at National Night Out.

Trina Jackson, working in the City Manager's office, has done an excellent job coordinating this program in its beginning stages. Among the next steps are to:

- Contact the Chamber of Commerce to solicit increased participation from the business sector.
- Send code enforcement notification letters to private property owners to inform them of the City's abatement policy.
- Send appreciation certificates to three outstanding volunteers

Finally, the Keep America Beautiful Campaign has been in contact with Boyles and Associates and is apparently interested in funding a litter abatement program in the City of Richmond.

We will keep you informed as these efforts continue.

3. Investment of City's OPEB Funds

Earlier this year, the City Council authorized a contract with Public Agency Retirement Services (PARS) to invest funds with Union Bank/HighMark Money Market Funds, for the purpose of funding the City's Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEBs). With the recent events occurring in the capital market, in particular with Money Market Funds, HighMark Capital Management has reassured all investors that there are no funds invested in Lehman Brothers Holdings or American International Group (AIG), or in sub-prime mortgages. The City's current investment with HighMark Capital is \$3.7 million.

4. City Receives Grant to Develop a Pedestrian Master Plan

The Engineering Department, in partnership with Contra Costa Health Services, received confirmation from the California Department of Transportation that the City has been awarded a \$250,000 Environmental Justice: Context-Sensitive Planning Grant for FY 2008-09. This grant will enable the City to develop an overall pedestrian master plan that will conform to our new General Plan. The grant requires community involvement, so there will be a series of community workshops to help create this master plan. The scope of the project will also include conducting a City wide survey of sidewalk and crosswalk conditions, as well as mapping out wheelchair ramp locations and ADA accessible routes. The goal is to make pedestrian mobility safer, eliminate restricted access gaps and create a more

livable community. The City has committed \$25,000 as a match towards this project. The contract is scheduled to be executed in January 2009 with the project starting in March 2009 and being completed by February 2011.

5. City Receives Grant from the West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority to Assist in “Greening” the Richmond City Offices

The City staff is continuing to implement new internal policies and practices that are designed to reduce the organization’s impact on the environment. One key element in this strategy is to improve citywide waste reduction, and the City was just provided with an \$8,142 grant from the West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority to assist in these efforts.

A recent assessment of the City’s waste reduction practices revealed that:

- There are an insufficient number of recycling bins in workspaces and inadequate information about how to direct materials — 28% of employees surveyed indicated that they did not have a recycling bin in their work station and 42% said that they did not know that they could commingle all recyclables in the bins.
- There is no established recycling program for City-generated universal wastes.
- Disposable dishware, which is not recycled or composted in the City of Richmond, is prevalently used in City buildings, and
- There is potential for on-site diversion of the food waste generated in select City buildings.

To help address the problem of an insufficient number of bins, the City procured approximately 300 desk-side recycling bins and 50 larger recycling tubs from the West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority.

The recently awarded grant will assist the City in:

- Developing a recycling policy to define expectations for employee participation;
- Providing desk side recycling containers and labels indicating recyclable materials;
- Designating a recycling drop off station for batteries, fluorescent lights/bulbs, electronic waste and printer cartridges in all applicable City buildings;
- Providing resources to maintenance staff to facilitate the collection of recyclables;
- Providing reusable dishware and washing supplies to all City offices;
- Providing worm compost bins to divert food waste in seven City buildings;
- Developing an ongoing outreach campaign on waste reduction for employees.

We will track the process and keep you informed.

6. **Richmond Fire Department to Participate in LUCAS Project**

The Fire Department has been chosen by Contra Costa County Emergency Medical Services to participate in the LUCAS Project. This project involves testing a new innovation in cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) called a LUCAS device, which is an air actuated tool designed to perform chest compressions during CPR. The beauty of this device is that it can continually perform compressions at a preset depth and at the recommended number of compressions per minute, thus facilitating more effective and efficient CPR. The Department will initially be testing the device on two engine companies, and, if all goes well, it is anticipated that all of the City's engines will eventually be so equipped.

7. **Public Works Paving Progress**

Last week, the Public Works Department completed the resurfacing of Esmond Avenue from 13th Street to 23rd Street. This week, City crews will resurface around the Pt. Richmond Plaza, including Washington Avenue, Park Place, and West Richmond Avenue.

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

This past week, ONS staff met with administrators at San Quentin State Prison in an effort to create a partnership that will strengthen and improve ONS capacity to facilitate violence prevention and intervention activities within the walls of the prison that may result in having a positive impact on public safety in Richmond. Currently, ONS is committed to working with the Richmond Project, a prison support group for men returning to Richmond. The Richmond Project has asked ONS to assist them in creating a strategic plan, and provide opportunities for the group of men inside the prison who will return to Richmond to connect with public and community-based service providers prior to release.

9. **Neighborhood Change Agent (NCA) (Street Outreach) Update**

- In September, partnering with the City's regional parole office, NCA's provided follow-up support to more than 30 formerly incarcerated people. The support has included intensive case mentoring, transportation support, accompanying and referring individuals to the Department of Motor Vehicles (obtaining appropriate identification), county and community based social services, employment agencies such as Richmond Works, Eastbay Works, Allen Temple, Laborers Unions, Labor Ready, etc. NCA's have participated in case planning sessions with parolees and their parole agents. ONS support has also been extended to spouses (significant others) and to the children of this group of ONS clients.
- From May 2008 through September 2008, NCA's have provided case management assistance to more than 140 clients in its combined street outreach and re-entry based efforts. During this same period, NCA's have made more than 200 street and school-based contacts, and 150 re-entry based

contacts. Our goal with each contact is to create a case management or mentoring opportunity that leads to connecting the contact to services.

10. **Recreation Department Update**

- Youth Sports Tennis Program participant, Gordon Huang, has been specially chosen and will be sponsored by the USTA Norcal Coaches Commission to be a part of a team to represent Northern California in the prestigious Coaches Commission Workout and Exchange to be held in San Diego the weekend of Friday, October 10th.
- Recreation Department staff s completing the final plans for the Annual Haunted House to be held at the Recreation Complex on October 30th, and 31st, 2008 from 5 to 9 pm.
- The Recreation Department is implementing an Aikido program beginning October 1st at the Booker T. Anderson, Nevin and Shields-Reed community centers, and is providing a new step-aerobics class held every Tuesday evening at the Recreation Complex.
- Art classes will begin at the Pt. Richmond Community Center beginning in November.
- The Recreation Department is hosting a Floating Pumpkin Patch on Saturday, October 11, 2008 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Families will be able to enjoy games, and take home a pumpkin for \$3 per adult and \$1 per child.
- The Swim Center staff will begin offering CPR and first aid courses to City staff starting in October.

11. **PAL Pumpkin Visit**

IT Director and pumpkin *aficionado* Sue Hartman recently assisted Richmond Police Activities League (RPAL) students to enjoy a fieldtrip to Napa where they learned how to grow Atlantic Giant Pumpkins. Both the owner of the Hudson Ranch, Lee Hudson, and Leonardo Urena, the holder of the Guinness Book world record for the largest gourd ever grown, invited Richmond PAL students to a personal hands on site tour. Students learned from beginning to end the steps to successfully grow a competition pumpkin and gourd, and enjoyed a 100 pound watermelon at the end of the day. We hope to make this an annual trip.