

## **City Manager's Weekly Report**

This is the weekly report for the week ending July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

### 1. **Meeting Notes**

The City Council began its August meeting hiatus early last Wednesday morning. The next regular City Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.

### 2. **Richmond Receives \$3.8 Million COPS Grant**

Earlier this week, the Richmond Police Department was informed that the department will receive a COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP) grant award in the amount of \$3,819,952.00. The grant funds 8 additional police officer positions for a three-year period.

Nearly 7,300 CHRP applications requesting over 39,000 officers and \$8.3 billion in funds were submitted to the COPS Office. Approximately \$1 billion in grant funding was appropriated for this initiative through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), which means about 1 out of every 8 officer positions requested could be funded. Clearly, Richmond did very well in this competitive process thanks to the hard work of staff from the Police Department and Glen Price of the Glen Price Group — who worked on the City's grant application. We are also grateful for the help we received from our U.S. Congressional Representative, George Miller.

All CHRP applicants had to provide objective data in their applications regarding their jurisdiction's fiscal health, crime data and community policing plans. The fiscal health factors accounted for 50 percent of the total application index, and the crime statistics and community policing plans accounted for the other 50 percent. In addition, the COPS Office was legally required to distribute half of the available funding to jurisdictions serving populations of more than 150,000 and the other half to jurisdictions serving populations less than this level.

We look forward to hiring and training our new police officers over the next several months.

### 3. **Good News and Bad News From the Port of Richmond**

*First the good news*, an update on the Port/Honda Project:

As you may know, the Port of Richmond has applied for a required Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) permit for improvements associated with the Honda Project that are within the 100 foot band of the bay

shoreline. BCDC's Seaport Planning Advisory Committee met on Friday (today) and unanimously approved two items impacting the Port's Honda Project. The first item was the approval of the San Francisco Bay Area Containerized Cargo Outlook as presented by Dan Smith and the Tioga Group. As you may recall, the City contracted with the Tioga Group at the request of BCDC to provide an estimate of cargo activity for San Francisco Bay ports during the life of the Honda lease. The forecast updated BCDC's Seaport Plan cargo projections and concluded that the Port of Richmond would not need to be considered for Bay Area container cargo activity until at least 2030 rather than the 2020 projection that was developed in 1988. The second item was to confirm the BCDC staff recommendation to approve Richmond's Honda project as an allowable interim use as provided in the Seaport Plan. These committee approvals pave the way for obtaining the permit from the full Commission.

Construction is scheduled to start in August for the Honda Project improvements, and we expect the first Honda ships to arrive by the end of the first quarter of 2010.

*Now the bad news:*

As you know, the Port of Richmond has a contract through Auto Warehousing Company (AWC) and Glovis to bring Hyundai and Kia vehicles through the Port. Unfortunately, we were officially notified this past week that Glovis is relocating their Hyundai and Kia vehicle operations from Richmond to the ports of Hueneme and San Diego in Southern California, with the ships being diverted starting this month. Glovis has fulfilled their contractual obligation in Richmond so they are "free" to move. Nonetheless, this is a significant reduction in the Port's annual revenue from operations.

Port Director Jim Matzorkis is actively working, as always, on new opportunities to offset this loss of business.

#### 4. **Public Works Highlights**

The Public Works Department resurfaced the West Civic Center parking lot adjacent to the Art Center, and started the resurfacing of the Employment and Development parking lot this week. Next week, Public Works will complete the resurfacing of the Employment and Development parking lot, and perform dig outs at the main Civic Center Plaza parking lot between 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Streets on Barrett Avenue in preparation for a complete resurfacing the following week.

The Public Works Parks Division is planning a ground breaking ceremony for the new Skate Park at Nicholl Park on August 14<sup>th</sup>. More details on this event will be provided in the near future.

5. **Green National Night Out – Tuesday, August 4th**

This year, the City of Richmond is adding a new and unique feature to its National Night Out celebration on August 4<sup>th</sup> – a “Go Green” competition among the neighborhood block parties. The “Go Green” competition is based on the challenge to “green” each neighborhood block party. Every block party is challenged to take actions to reduce their environmental footprint through such actions as providing recycling at their event, using reusable dishes, and providing condiments in bulk. Prizes will be awarded with the greenest event being recognized on the City’s website and receiving a Green National Night Out trophy. The City hopes that demonstrating easy and creative ways to “go green” will reduce waste, protect the environment, save dollars and reduce blight — which has a direct correlation to building safer communities.

The purpose of National Night Out is to encourage residents and business owners to participate in neighborhood watch, highlight community crime prevention efforts, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

The City Manager’s Office, Police Department and Crime Prevention Citizen Advisory group have partnered to create the new “Go Green” competition. For more information about the neighborhood block parties on National Night Out, visit: <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/GreenNNO>.

6. **New Library Cards**

The Richmond Public Library is inviting the community to come in and get a new library card – whether community members have had one in the past or have never had one. There are three designs to choose from, and each design has a handy key chain card. An individual, who currently has the traditional purple library card, may select a new card without a replacement fee. The designs were created by library staff and members of the library’s Promotions Task Force, an employee group created by the Library Director to advise her on the most effective ways to promote the library to the community. The three designs appeal to adults, teens and children, and feature Librarian Sheila Dickinson on the story time card.



## 7. More Library News

- The Richmond Public Library held a collage art program for adults on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, at the Main Library. Around 20 adults attended, including several men and folks who don't normally use the library. Maude DeVictor, a Library Commissioner and one of the participants, commented that this was a relaxing program and that the teacher was excellent. Regina Gilligan, the artist who led the workshop, will repeat the presentation at the Bayview Library on Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 PM, and at a date to be announced in September at the West Side Library.

Patricia Davis, a community member, sent an e-mail regarding the program, saying: "Hi, I would like to say how much I enjoyed the Collage Class sponsored by the Richmond Library... I was invited by one of the Library Commissioners, Maude DeVictor. The instructor was very nice, patient and knowledgeable. It was a nice way to relax and remove ourselves from some of the burdens during this time. Other participants seem to have enjoyed themselves, and we all enjoyed meeting and sharing with each other. Too bad the media was not there to report on one of the positive things that happened in Richmond. I hope you consider sponsoring more collage classes in the future".

Special thanks go to Librarian Tarnel Abbott for arranging the collage program.

- The Friends of the Library have received a \$2,000 grant from Target to support the end-of-summer-party for the children's summer reading game, in addition to some other aspects of the program. Since the Summer Reading Program is so popular, this will have a big impact. Thanks to Librarian Karen Roy for her work on the grant application.

- The Richmond Public Library has received notice that its grant application for federal Library Service and Technology Act (LSTA) funds has been approved for the Public Library Staff Education Program (PLSEP) in the amount of \$8,267. This competitive program addresses the formal education needs of public library staff to reimburse their tuition costs as they pursue a Masters degree in library and information science. The grant funds are distributed to the library where the prospective students are employed and are then disbursed to the students. Two employees, Deborah Bonet and Stacie Plummer, were included in the application.

Thanks go to Stacie Plummer, who wrote the application for the library, and congratulations go to both of the individual participants who each prepared their specific applications.

- Pajama Story Time has been a big hit. This special story time was offered at the Main Library on Wednesday evenings in June and July. An average of 25 people attended each session, which featured stories, songs, finger plays and other activities for families.

