

## **NORTH RICHMOND MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Tuesday, June 13, 2017

515 Silver Avenue – North Richmond, CA 94801

### **Minutes**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m. Board members present were: Don Gilmore, Dr. Henry Clark, Andrea Bailey, Aaron Morgan, Beverly Scott, and Annie King-Meredith.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES**

The agenda and minutes were reviewed by the board members. Dr. Clark motioned to approve them, Annie second, all was in approval.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mary Frazier, Director/Northern California Asthma Breathmobile Program: The program continues to serve Verde School. The program has formed a partnership with Contra Costa College. The college has a career development department. Job listings are posted and are available. College students may receive credits, by work or volunteer.

Dan Pegaski/More Than a Game: The program will be hosting a clean-up and free baseball and soccer camp at Shield's and Reid Park on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The schedule is as follows: nine to twelve-Field Clean Up, twelve to one-BBQ, one to three-Soccer Camp & Baseball Camp.

In the past the program has worked on clean-up at Nichol Park.

They have produced the documentary/movie, "The Park". The movie is currently being presented throughout Richmond communities.

#### **LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY REPORTS**

Lt. England and Deputy Culberson/CCC Sheriff's Department: Lt. England introduces Deputy Culberson as the new deputy assigned to the NR community. Deputy Culberson has been with the department for two years.

Board member Annie thanks the department for doing such an expedient job, in taking care of the cleanup of the homeless encampment, alongside the creek located at Verde Street.

**PRESENTATIONS and Proclamations**

Lashonda White, Richmond City Manager's Office/Carlos Villarreal and James Edison, Willdan Financial Services: Presenting the NR Annexation fiscal Impact analysis study:

The draft North Richmond Annexation Feasibility Study will be presented at seven other meetings, throughout the City of Richmond and Un-incorporated North Richmond. To sign up for updates or to provide feedback visit: [www.ci.richmond.ca.us/nrannexation](http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/nrannexation)

Lashonda delivers Power Point presentation that details the findings of a fiscal analysis conducted by Willdan, who was contracted by the city and county. Focuses on improvements in services if annexation occurs, also closer political representation, i.e. Residents would now vote in city elections rather than just in county. White describes phases: Phase 1 is study, Phase 2 city Council vote and LAFCO application, Phase 3 vote by NR residents and Richmond residents. Carlos from Willdan also presents, describes the scenarios and assumptions. White and Carlos note that higher service levels do imply higher costs to the city and to the residents. By far the biggest cost is to property owners: approx. \$140 in property tax per \$100,000 in assessed values. The annexation study cost \$55,000 to produce, jointly funded by city and county. If NR was annexed today revenue of \$1.9 million dollars would be lost by the city.

Lashonda notes that annexation would cause approximately \$2 million in net loss to the city, due to services costing more than tax revenue.

**The meeting became officially open for questions at 5:48 p.m.**

Doug Harris asks what about fixed income residents? White notes that everyone in the city will have to pay according to the same tax rules.

Dr. Clark states that he opposes annexation and that the study is not what the NRMAC supported. He alleges racism by Mayor Butt and phoniness by RPD. He also says he doesn't believe RPD services are better than the CCC Sheriff's Department.

Bill Lindsay says annexation only occurs with community consent via vote. He says that the reason for annexation exploration is good, efficient government service delivery and continuity of land use, development, and other planning. Chief Brown says NR would benefit from the same community policing model used in all of Richmond.

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## **NR ANNEXATION STUDY/QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Annie King Meredith lives on the city side and has been dissatisfied by response time of RPD. She also is not satisfied with city code enforcement. Annie also states that CHDC is not being recognized or considered in the study.

A question from the community regarding marijuana dispensaries, which are legal in Richmond, the lack of comparable annexation studies and lack of additional detail in study.

Lloyd Madden asks how the city will pay for this. Answer is that city will lose money in short run, but may get net positive if heavy development occurs in future.

Chris Hammon says landowners like him don't want to pay more.

Aaron Morgan, NRMAC Member questions the city's fiscal health.

Beth Williams, resident said annexation may benefit the community long term and that status quo is subpar.

Beverly Scott, NRMAC member, says she is concerned about increasing fees on residents. Question about why now? Lindsay said good time to look at it again.

Robert Rogers gives history of why area is unincorporated pocket, cites Doug Harris documentary, notes that previous annexations have been squelched by big landowners and businesses. Rogers says Gioia is generally supportive of One Richmond concept on good government/service delivery grounds and closer political representation, but shares concerns about costs to residents. Gioia is eminently respectful of community and NRMAC leaders and wants to have robust meetings and input that foster consensus. City leaders concur.

Lloyd Madden asks about jobs. City officials say that hopefully economic improvement can factor in and the city has its own regulations etc.

Dr. Clark urges for township and self-determination.

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**NR ANNEXATION STUDY/QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CONTINUED**

Doug Harris asks about Parchester Village, says it has poor services. Also asks why not annex El Sobrante? Rogers says Parchester is imperfect comparison because it is farther away, more isolated from city than North Richmond, which is geographically more integrated. Rogers notes that El Sobrante would provide much more money to the city, but that community has strenuously resisted annexation in the past and doesn't have the same level of needs that North Richmond has, particularly in public safety.

Janna Muhammad alleges a plot to gentrify North Richmond. Gwen Carr, resident: laments that there are no new businesses as part of the plan.

Dr. Connie Potrero says annexation should not happen. Don Gilmore NRMAC chairperson, cautions against premature conclusions, notes that we have just received the study and need to do more research and dialogue. Donald Hampton NR developer, say's next time this study is presented, the presenter should make sure that everyone has the same reading material. It seems as if there were several different copies of the power point study, and people became very confused.

Questions were asked if certain future developments were taken into consideration/ such as: The NR Pacific Plan, which is on hold, with intentions to down size. The NR Regional Shoreline and Bay Trail. The closure of the Las Deltas Housing Projects.

Concerns were voiced that if annexed, residents with fixed incomes would be hurt the most, to the point where it would affect their everyday standards of living. Basically they would not be able to afford everyday necessities, such as property taxes, utilities, food, etc.

It was stated that there is no advantage to annexation. It was voiced, if that's the case why annex.

Meeting adjourned 7:05 p.m.

**Next Meeting**  
**Tuesday, August 1, 2017**  
**5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**  
**515 Silver Avenue – Richmond, CA**

