

## MARINA BAY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 and self-introductions followed.

### **Beat Cop Report:**

Both Sergeant Tod Opdyke and Officer Rick Krug were present. Officer Krug stated, "there is nothing much to report on activity in the area." He was happy to inform everyone that hi-definition digital cameras have been installed in the marina area and are being monitored from the Harbor Master's office. There is not a lot of activity on the docks but the cameras are still good to have.

Virginia Finlay reported that there were two recent car incidents at Northshore Condos involving smashed car windows. Stan Anderson, Board President of Bayfront, reported that a GPS system was removed from a car at Bayfront Townhomes. Officer Krug reminded everyone to make sure cars are not sitting targets and that laptops, purses, backpacks, etc. should NOT be left in cars.

Sgt. Opdyke discussed a new tool, called "Touch DNA". This is a highly sensitive technology; but due to high demand throughout the state, it could take up to 6 months to get DNA-matching results from the state's laboratories. BUT if DNA from found items or parts of crime scenes, etc., is matched to an ex-felon, or someone violating parole, (just two examples) the DA can be asked to issue new charges and/or the perpetrators can be re-incarcerated. As an example, this technology can be used when weapons are found randomly and where DNA has been left on the weapon.

See police department's page on the City's website: <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.aspx?nid=82>.

### **Impromptu Report by City Manager Bill Lindsay:**

City Manager Bill Lindsay was in the audience to attend the Richmond City Budget 2010-2011 Report that was on the agenda for this meeting. President Virginia Finlay asked Mr. Lindsay to address the Chevron Agreement recently entered into by the City Council. He provided history of this Agreement as it relates to Measure T, passed by Richmond voters in November, 2008 (Purpose of Measure T: to increase business license tax revenue). What it means for Chevron and Richmond is a revenue stream of \$15-20 million/year to Richmond. Chevron challenged the validity of Measure T in a court appeal and the courts found some parts of the Chevron challenge valid. The City now owes Chevron \$1.2 million in back taxes collected but not spent by the city. As yet, these monies have not yet been refunded back to Chevron. <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.aspx?nid=59>

Lindsay stated that the City wants to tax Chevron fairly and like Chevron, the city wants to be competitive and maintain a diversified tax base. The city also needs to have certainty in its revenue stream as these funds are crucial to the City's long term competitiveness. A mediator was brought in to help resolve this court appeal, along with City Staff, the City Attorney and some council members. Last Thursday (May 6), an agreement was reached and it was recommended in a 6 to 0 vote (with one abstention) to adopt the following at last night's City Council Meeting (5/11). These are the key parts of the agreement:

1. Measure T appeal by Chevron is immediately dropped.
2. Chevron will waive the \$1.2 million interest payment that the City had not yet paid.
3. Ballot measure removes cap any taxpayer can pay (City ballot and Chevron's efforts to put on ballot were withdrawn).
4. Chevron will have to pay an additional amount equal to \$114 million to Richmond over 14 years, as follows.
  - o 2010-11: \$10 MM
  - o 2011-12: \$10 MM
  - o Fiscal Years 3, 4, 5: \$13 MM/yr
  - o The subtotal in above three bullets = \$59 MM
  - o Fiscal Years 6-10: \$7 MM/yr

- Fiscal Years 11-15: \$4 MM/yr
5. Renewal Projects:
- Community benefits agreement enacted.
  - Bay Trail rehabilitation will be completed near the Chevron property.
  - Greenprint Transportation project.
  - Air monitoring.

NOTE: The settlement did NOT address the hydrogen renewal project underway at Chevron.

There is a significant short term revenue boost to the City; this agreement allows money to go back into the City budget so no significant personnel reductions will be required going forward.

A Question/Answer session followed with questions about the State of California's involvement in this settlement, job reduction and property taxes. Chevron is outside of what the State can "grab" and so the settlement funds are safe. The State took \$10MM from our redevelopment agency and they have raided redevelopment agencies up and down the state. They Redevelopment Agency's sued but lost the battle to hold onto these funds. Fifty non-safety positions in Richmond were eliminated (i.e., non police, non fire), saving a great deal of money for the City BUT those positions are NOT coming back (some of these positions were early retirements, some were layoffs, etc.).

**City Budget 2010-2011:**

Councilwoman Ludmyrna Lopez provided a short overview of the Fiscal Year 2009-10 budget in brief and presented the FY 2010-11 Operating Budget Fact Sheet (please refer to City of Richmond website for details). There has been a very significant drop in revenue to the City from both sales taxes and the City's portion of property taxes. Some cuts in positions of City staff have been made and operating budgets have been trimmed as well. All areas of spending are being cut (from travel to office supplies to energy usage). The Chevron agreement will help the City to avoid additional layoffs; the new agreement providing funding for 15 years will be a major help to our budget. Chevron is the largest employer and the largest taxpayer in the City.

Budget Director, Andrea Miller, was introduced. Ms. Miller reviewed the 2009-20 budget in brief, providing highlights and a revenue breakdown. Ms. Miller and Finance Director Jim Goines, discussed the Operating Budget and Capital Improvements Budget which are tied into the City's Five Year Business Plan; for additional information, see: <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.aspx?nid=1785>

Sue Hartman, I.T. Director, briefly reviewed the City's new website and encouraged people to link the website to their Facebook and Twitter accounts. Go to: <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/>

Questions/Answers followed. Virginia Finlay addressed the City's \$10MM reserves.

**Marina Bay Bingo:**

The City notified the organizers that they are out of compliance. Their license has been suspended and therefore they cannot reapply for three years.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Zablotsky, Secretary, Marina Bay Neighborhood Council