Marina Bay Neighborhood Council

Marina Bay Neighborhood Council's (MBNC) 2024 Year End Letter

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Dear MBNC Members,

As we reflect on 2024, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your unwavering support. Here are some highlights from our vibrant year:

First Quarter:

- **Farmer's Market Launch:** Fresh produce arrived at Marina Bay Park, fostering a healthier community. Thanks to former Councilmember Gayle McLaughlin for seeing this through. For more info go to: https://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/4643/Richmond-Farmers-Market

- **Community Concerns:**
  - Increased flaring at Chevron refinery:
    - Flaring was described as CWS Level 1 Alert; reported to not represent a threat to the community.
    - Residents can report increased flaring at Bay Area Air Quality Management District by calling their complaint line at (800) 334-ODOR (6367).
    - Also, can contact the Richmond Fire Department at (510) 233-1214 for immediate concerns.
  - Mail theft and lack of deterrents to crime:
    - Held a community meeting with Richmond Postmaster Francisco Ascencio.
    - Postmaster discussed the local and statewide problems and provided suggestions on ways to prevent theft.

Second Quarter:

- **Special Tax Assessment**:
  - Presenters included Tawfic Halaby - Deputy Director of Public Works, Tony Thrasher - External Consultant, and Greg Hardesty - Superintendent of Landscape and Lighting
  - They provided an overview of the special tax assessment budget that Marina Bay residents pay to help maintain landscape and lighting in Marina Bay Park.

Third Quarter:

- **TransMontaigne Expansion**:
  - Held a special meeting with City Planning and TransMontaigne representatives to discuss a permit to expand its truck/rail operations and increased transporting and offloading of additional hazard materials into Marina Bay.

    - MBNC submitted a letter objection addressing the potential adverse effects on our community of nearly 4000 residents.

- **Dumpster Day**: Successfully hosted another community clean-up event.

- **Meet the Candidates:**
    - Held a "Meet the Candidates" forum introducing Ahmad Anderson and Sue Wilson running for City Council District 5.
    - Sue Wilson won the seat and is the newly elected District 5 Councilmember.
    - A review of the candidate's responses to the Q&A session may be viewed at: http://marinabaycouncil.org/2017/05/

Fourth Quarter:

- **Election of Officers:**
    - Voted by acclamation to reappoint:
        - Margarita (Rita) Mitas as President
        - Amelia Morgan as Treasurer
        - Laura Freeze Ho as Secretary
        - Lynne Therriault as member-at-large
        - Kathy Watson as technical lead
        - Volunteers for 2025 will be Basha Goddard, Nancy Kemper, Susan Lustig, Jacob Perkins, Kyanna Williams, and Sandra Lax

Year-End Wrap Up:

- **Development Projects:**
    - Harbour Way S. development project on hold
    - Craneway Facility is operating as a pickleball club
    - MBNC awaiting response to letter Environment Impact Review and expansion permit for TransMontaigne project
    - Moxion went bankrupt and laid off all its employees; building will be completed with new tenant TBD

2024 would not have been possible without the dedication of all our volunteers: Margarita Mitas-President, Amelia Morgan-Treasurer, Laura Ho-Secretary, Lynne Therriault-Member at Large, Kathy Watson-Technical Assistant, Barbara Goddard, Susan Lustig, Frank Wheeler, Nancy Kemper, Sandra and Jacob Perkins.

For 2025, MBNC is already planning quarterly meetings and a community event to connect with our neighbors. **Stay tuned!**

We hope you continue to show your support and consider renewing your membership. The dues are used for donations to worthy non-profits and to help support the council's yearly initiatives.

MBNC looks forward to working with you in 2025.

Margarita Mitas – MBNC President