



## **MARINA BAY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL** **RICHMOND MAYORAL CANDIDATES FORUM**

Wednesday, March 11, 2026 – 6:00 PM

**Overview:** This forum, hosted by the Marina Bay Neighborhood Council (MBNC), allowed residents to hear from five mayoral candidates leading up to the June 2, 2026 primary election. MBNC does not endorse candidates and provides this summary for informational purposes.

The following candidates participated:

- Ahmad Anderson
- Claudia Jimenez
- Demnlus Johnson III
- Eduardo Martinez (Incumbent)
- Mark Wassberg

Questions covered five key topics:

1. Development
2. Public safety
3. Housing and development approvals
4. Governance
5. Use of Chevron settlement funds

### **Summary of Candidate Responses:**

#### **1. Train Noise, Hazardous Materials & Craneway Vision**

**Question:** What actions would you take to address train noise, hazardous materials transport, and what is your vision for the Craneway site?

##### **Ahmad Anderson**

- Supports pursuing a rail quiet zone similar to Emeryville.
- Emphasized addressing environmental justice and hazardous materials transport.
- Proposed developing the Craneway as a destination waterfront area with restaurants, events, and transportation connections.

### **Claudia Jimenez**

- Supports working with Union Pacific and stakeholders through a formal working group to address noise concerns.
- Highlighted Richmond's coal ban as an example of regulating hazardous materials locally.
- Supports Craneway as a community gathering and event space.

### **Demnlus Johnson III**

- Supports establishing a quiet zone through federal and regional coordination.
- Proposed stronger enforcement on hazardous materials transport.
- Supports Craneway as a revenue-generating event venue similar to Oakland's Kaiser Center.

### **Eduardo Martinez**

- Noted rail regulation is largely federal, limiting city authority.
- Emphasized Richmond's ability to regulate handling of hazardous materials via land-use authority.
- Proposed a broader waterfront vision including tourism, ferry connections, and a conference hotel.

### **Mark Wassberg**

- Expressed skepticism that train noise can be significantly reduced.
- Suggested exploring federal scheduling changes or sound barriers.
- Craneway development should depend on demand and cost feasibility.

## **2. Public Safety, Homelessness & License Plate Cameras**

**Question:** How should Richmond address homelessness and vehicle habitation, and what is your position on license plate reader technology (Flock cameras)?

### **Ahmad Anderson**

- Proposed a multi-strategy approach including prevention programs, transitional housing, and services.
- Supports using license plate reader technology to improve public safety.

### **Claudia Jimenez**

- Supports expanding housing and outreach programs, including motel conversions and service centers.
- Supports public safety technology but opposes Flock specifically, citing concerns about data sharing and privacy.

### **Demnlus Johnson III**

- Advocates working more closely with Contra Costa County to expand shelter capacity and services.
- Supports safe parking programs for people living in vehicles.

- Strongly supports Flock cameras for crime prevention.

### **Eduardo Martinez**

- Emphasized community-based safety programs, including the Office of Neighborhood Safety and mental-health response teams.
- Supports technology but prefers California-based companies instead of Flock.

### **Mark Wassberg**

- Emphasized stronger law enforcement and enforcement of camping restrictions.
- Supports re-activating license plate cameras and expanding police resources.

## **3. Housing Development & Community Input**

**Question:** How would you improve Richmond's development process while still allowing community input?

### **Ahmad Anderson**

- Said Richmond's development process is too slow and bureaucratic.
- Supports streamlining permitting while ensuring transparency and earlier community engagement.

### **Claudia Jimenez**

- Supports streamlined approvals near transit and commercial corridors.
- Emphasized community benefit agreements and labor standards.

### **Demnlus Johnson III**

- Proposed eliminating the Design Review Board and moving its duties to the Planning Commission to speed development and reduce bureaucracy.

### **Eduardo Martinez**

- Said Richmond needs clear development standards, so developers understand community expectations.

### **Mark Wassberg**

- Said development decisions should primarily be handled by developers and the planning process, with less political interference.

## **4. Governance, Transparency & City Responsiveness**

**Question:** How would you improve accountability and responsiveness in city government?

### **Ahmad Anderson**

- Proposed regular community reporting and direct engagement with neighborhood councils.
- Emphasized leadership presence in communities.

**Claudia Jimenez**

- Proposed expanding city staff focused on community engagement and resident communication.

**Demnlus Johnson**

- Proposed regular town halls and open office hours across neighborhoods.

**Eduardo Martinez**

- Suggested creating a central city liaison or concierge system to direct residents to the correct city department.

**Mark Wassberg**

- Called for greater responsiveness to residents and public forums with the mayor.

**5. Chevron Settlement (\$550 Million)**

**Question:** How would you prioritize spending Richmond’s Chevron settlement funds?

**Ahmad Anderson**

- Invest in infrastructure improvements and neighborhood revitalization...use funds to address aging city systems.

**Claudia Jimenez**

- Supports creating long-term investments and infrastructure improvements while diversifying the economy.

**Demnlus Johnson III**

- Advocates for community-directed spending and infrastructure improvements.

**Eduardo Martinez**

- Emphasized strategic investment rather than ongoing spending, noting the funds are temporary.

**Mark Wassberg**

- Funds should prioritize public safety and police staffing.

**Wrapping Up:** The Marina Bay Neighborhood Council encourages residents to stay informed, participate in the election and vote on June 2, 2026.