

## **NORTH RICHMOND MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Tuesday, August 4, 2020  
515 Silver Street - North Richmond CA 94801  
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

### **Minutes**

Remote Meeting/Due to COVID-19/Meeting was accessible via Zoom.

#### **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m., board members present were: Dr. Henry Clark, Don Gilmore, Beverly Scott, Annie King- Meredith and Lilly Rahnema. Absent were Karen Garcia.

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

The agenda and minutes were reviewed and approved by all board members.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cynthia recommends to the board that a certificate of acknowledgment of Mark Randle, be drafted and presented to the Randle family. Mark recently lost his life due to gun violence. He was a longtime resident of NR. His grandfather was the late Charles Reid. Mark was like a mentor in the neighborhood. He went around talking to the youths of NR, about making something of their lives. He had plenty to say to the grown-ups also. Henry supports the recommendation, and Don authorizes it.

Cynthia brings up the trash issue that has been a nuisance to community resident Kaprice James. This issue has been going on for at least three years. A vacant lot next to her resident is a dumping ground for trash. Kaprice has become discouraged about having brought her house at that location. She is dismayed that the dumping problem has not been resolved.

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

Lt. Buford/CCC Sheriff's Department: Reporting for the month of July 2020. There were (347) service calls. One search warrant was issued. Several individuals were arrested for warrants and drugs, at a house located at 237 Vernon Street. There was a report of a person shooting a gun in the area.

COVID-19 testing site will be opening up in the community. The site will be located at the NR Center for Health. Testing will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays. In July, Deputy Cumberson was replaced by Deputy Cardona.

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## **LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY REPORTS CONTINUED**

Lt. Buford/CCC Sheriff's Department: Question asked if there was a Hispanic turf war going on, between N.R. and Central Richmond. Answer: not sure.

Annie thanks Lt. Buford for his service to the community. She says that it is important that we mask up. Too many parties going on in the neighborhood. One residence in particular, conducts family gatherings every weekend. The party spills off the property and out into the streets. Lt. Buford says the city is working on an ordinance about wearing masks. It is noted that there are illegal social gatherings all around NR. People continue to host social events at the park and they have a tendency to gather and socialize on a regular basis at the park.

Robin Bryant/NR Resident: Robin says for five days straight, at 2nd and Ruby, individuals get in their cars and rev their engines, before six in the morning. On one particular morning, an individual in a van was revving up his engine. Then the individual rammed into this car, over and over. Robin made a call to law enforcement and was referred to the CHP. She needs to know if the incident was accidental or intentional. The incident will be checked out with the CHP.

Henry says that there is an abandoned van at the end of Vernon Street.

Lt. Buford, introduces Assistant Sheriff, John Lowden. Sheriff Lowden thanked the NRMAC for his invitation to attend the meeting. He says that the Abatement and Litter Program was put on hold. The program is to be restarted soon. Mask violations forms will be available next week. Fines for not wearing a mask will be going into effect.

Dr. Clark says thank you to Sheriff Lowden, for his presence. Question: In terms of outreach to the community, are the law enforcement agencies able to pass out facemasks. They plan to issue masks in the future. Individual officers may have a few in their car, to be given out at their own discretion.

Dr. Clark asks what are the guidelines for getting hair cuts. Is there a safe place to cut hair. Answer: As far as business goes, that is left up to Code Enforcement and the Conservation and Development Department.

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## **PRESENTATIONS and Proclamations**

Supervisor John Gioia and Kim Mc Carl, CCC Health Department-Communications Officer. (Robert Rogers standing in for John Gioia): COVID-19 Update:

The department of public health held a press conference with Dr. Desmond Carson, a staff member at Life-Long Medical. Doctor Carson, a local physician and resident of Richmond, delivered his commentary-complete with liberal use of words. He pointed out the facts: In CCC hospital beds are currently at 47 percent capacity. At the time of the press conference, CCC had 7,670 confirmed cases to date, with 119 deaths and 110 people currently hospitalized-including suspected cases, according to data, it has 144 hospitalized patients, with 42 in ICU beds.

COVID-19 testing site will be opening up in NR. The location will be at the NR Center for Health. Testing hours will be on Tuesdays and Fridays, afternoon, appointments are necessary.

There was an ordinance passed by the Board of Supervisors, mandating the wearing of face masks. Violators will be fined. Question asked: Does the Supervisors office have face masks available? Yes, Robert says. Face Masks are available after staff did necessary repairs on the defective elastic part of the masks. Robert goes on to say Supervisor Gioia and Don Gilmore of CHDC worked reluctantly hard to get COVID-19 testing site open in NR.

Albert Featherstone/NR resident: Mr. Featherstone has a question for Kim: Asking when people test positive and are cleared to go back to work ten days after incubation, are they contagious? Could they spread the virus around? Answer: there is a difference between being symptomatic and contagious.

It takes ten to fourteen days for some tests to come back. Annie thanks Kim for sharing knowledge on the virus. Her question is about the test that is being taken. Why is there a difference in test results' comeback time of the test results? The answer is that several labs do the testing. Some labs are expedient and some are not. Quest labs take longer. First responders get test results back faster. The Board of Supervisors has approved two additional contracts with two additional labs. Contact tracing is done for positive tests.

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## **PRESENTATIONS and Proclamations Continued**

Covid-19 Update--Dr. Clark asks Kim about hydrogen or chloride peroxide. He asks are these medicines able to kill the coronavirus and aids. Kim says that those medicines were used in the treatment of aids, but are not as effective on COVID. There are preliminary studies being conducted on the medication Remdesiver, to be used as a possible treatment for COVID.

Wayatt Ptkak/NR resident: Mr. Ptkat lives on the City of Richmond side of NR. He and his family got tested for COVID at Kennedy High School today. He knows that there is a lot of concern about the positive tests. Test samples have gotten lost, self testing is not being conducted correctly. He asks if the antibody test shows whether or not you may have had COVID and your health is better. He also asks if hospitals get more money for COVID patients.

Answer: Not more money, but funding comes from different designated sources. He got tested today and was not asked for identification.

Sherry Stanley, Board of Directors/WCWD - Updates: Sherry has two quick updates. Still working on the levee project. Wants to build a levee to protect the community from flooding and sea level rising. A living levee and natural habitat are being proposed. Wastewater district approved ½ million dollars to do research, \$640,000 in funds came from a nonprofit group. In the future may be asking the NRMAC to write a letter to Chevron, to join in and work with the project.

Sewer pipes replacement is needed in the NR community. A study of the pipes has been approved. NR pipes are the worst, in need of replacement. The pipes are over fifty years old and have exhausted their life span. Extra water gets into the pipes, which causes backups etc. A lot of the pipes are cracked, due to age. The lateral pipes connection from the houses needs to be replaced. The old pipes and connections cause overflows in the wintertime. Annie asks where are the bad pipes located. Annie also asks about the recent major water pipe renovation that was done on Market Street. Were the laterals replaced?

Don asks will grants be available to residents, to have replacement work of pipes done.

Answer: \$4,500 will be available per property, to replace lateral.

Dr. Clark asks Sherry, how much does a lateral cost to be replaced. Sherry guests about up to \$9,000. Henry is concerned about seniors that can't afford to have sewer pipe lateral replaced. There is a lack of sewer pumps in the community. Had three, now only has one.

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## **PRESENTATIONS and Proclamations Continued**

Mr. James Lee, Business Entrepreneur/Cannabis project at 703 Chesley Ave.

This is a followup from last month's meeting. This is Mr. Lee's third time presenting to the NRMAC on this proposed project. At the last meeting, the NRMAC board members want to see Mr. Lee commit to more community engagement.

Mr. Lee presented photos of a recent trash cleanup that he conducted along the RR tracks. He is committed to keeping the surrounding area clean. Makes commitment to job training for security guards. Increased lighting at 703 Chesley, he makes the commitment of giving back 5% of the company's earnings, to the community's mental health programs.

Robin asks will you be working with the local youths? Cynthia asks why you would want to locate a cannabis business in NR. She points out that the community has a past history of drug abuse, gun violence etc. Besides 703 Chesley is located, directly across the street from a community housing complex. The residents consist of children, young adults, and seniors.

Henry says, first of all in terms of the garbage clean up. People are being paid to keep trash off the streets of NR. Henry says that there are other places to get training to be a security guard. Henry says that he does not support the 5% give back to the community, that is way too low. While working with Luz on the NRMAC, years ago it was agreed upon, that 25% from companies that operate in the NR area, would be a feasible give back into the community. Why should we change?

Don asks what other jobs your company offers.

Answer: Trimmers, packaging, management assistant. Don asks will there be some type of training for those positions. Mr. Lee says that he will work with the people.

Latecia, NR resident asks: Is anyone asking the community how they feel about having a cannabis operation in the community, and if not what would your outreach plan be? Henry says that this is your third time coming before the NRMAC, and you have not reached out to the community.

Dulce, NR resident asks: Once jobs are opened, how will they be publicized. She wants Mr. Lee to invest, back into the community more than 5%.

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### **PRESENTATIONS and Proclamations Continued**

Mr. Lee/Cannabis Operation 703 Chesley: Mr. Lee says once all business expenses have been satisfied, he will be working with a 50% profit. Mr. Lee says that he is being

realistic about what he can afford. Mr. Lee says that he is reaching out to the NRMAC first before reaching out to the community. If the NRMAC says no, then he will stop the planning process.

A motion is made to turn the project down. Beverly makes motion not to support the project. All except one board member were in favor of not supporting. Results as follows: Henry against, Annie against, Beverly against, Don against, and Lilly abstain.

Nicolle Smith, representing Verizon and Sprint/land use permit 385: There is a cell tower located off the Richmond Parkway, by Action Metals. The land use permit needs to be renewed. It expires every ten years.

Don asks what benefits or kickback does the phone companies provide to the community, other than cell phone service.

Annie asks, what area does the tower service? What is the expiration date of the present contract? Answer: 12/20 and 4/21 of next year.

Henry does not recall when that tower was authorized or whether or not the community collected any kickback benefits.

Robert says a \$7,500 permit fee probably goes to Public Works. Dr. Clark says the fact is that those companies are making mega-profits.

This discussion will be carried over to the next NRMAC meeting. The motion was set to carry over to the next meeting. Amendment made that we get some answers to questions about funding going back into the community.

Annie, Beverly, Lilly, Henry, and Don all motion for carrying over to next month's meeting, in order to receive more information on funding.

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#### **OTHER AGENCY/PROGRAM REPORTS**

Carlos Lemus, Project Manager/Healthy Richmond: At last month's meeting Carlos talked about people not wearing facemasks during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Healthy Richmond staff has been working with Supervisor John Gioia and the County Health Department. There is an urgency for people to wear their facemask. A testing site will be opening up in NR. They are asking for nonbusiness hours for the testing site.

Healthy Richmond is in communication with the Housing Authority of CCC. There is not a lot of movement there, due to COVID-19, and government bureaucracy. They are also working on hosting workshops on applying for business loans and homeownership.

Working with Youth Services, including RYSE, to help formulate surveys. Will be doing virtual listening sessions. NR youth activities are still being looked into.

August 24th--Leadership Workshop. School starts on August 17th. Need input from parents about schooling and COVID. Need Spanish translators for outreach workshop.

Robert Rogers, District Coordinator/Supervisor John Gioia's Office:

Robert says there is a spike in COVID-19 cases, mainly in West County. The practice of not wearing facemasks- penalties are in place. There is a county hotline number that you can call if you see anyone, not in compliance with the facemask ordinance.

The Verde school mural is fantastic. A special thank you to the outstanding donators: Joe Pullido, The Lumber Baron, and Chevron Richmond Refinery.

Don Gilmore, director CHDC:

Don announces the COVID testing site, to be located at the NR Center for Health. Heritage Point is 100% occupied. A third of the funding for a local grocery is in place. Continuing to work with Las Deltas and the Housing Authority of CCC.

Alisa Orozco, Community Service Coordinator/CHDC: Doing prevention and illegal dumping monitoring and outreach. Working with the task force on illegal dumping. Youth programs are in the process of development. July 24th, garbage was cleaned up at the RR tracks.

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### **OTHER AGENCY/PROGRAM REPORTS CONTINUED**

Marco from Urban Tilth Garden: Due to the COVID crisis some of the community gardens have closed down. Workers were compensated and given servants pay. The fresh fruits and vegetable program- transitioned from pickup to delivery.

Serving 190 families a week, delivering produce bags to homes. The farm has two new packaging areas and two vans were donated to the farm.

REACH International Fellowship/Annie Meredith-King filling in for Bishop Edwina:  
REACH passes out facemasks in the community. REACH also provides groceries to the community.

Don has asked that the meeting be extended by 15 minutes. Motion made by Annie and 2nd by Beverly.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

**Next Meeting**

Tuesday, September 1, 2020

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

(via) Zoom

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION**

**OTHER AGENCY/PROGRAM REPORTS**