



Meeting Minutes

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY East Richmond Heights Municipal Advisory Council

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

6:30 PM Open Door United Methodist Church, 6226
Arlington Blvd, Richmond, CA 94805 |
<https://cccouny-us.zoom.us/j/81874478413>

Jon Sargent (Chair), Victoria Lynn Curtis (Vice-Chair), Jinwei Zhang, Joann Pavlinec, Pam DeWitt, Bara Sapir, Royer Ramirez- Ruiz

Agenda Items: Items may be taken out of order based on the business of the day and preference of the Committee

1. Roll Call and Introductions

00:01:19

Present

Victoria Curtis, Pamela DeWitt, Joann Pavlinec, Royer Ramirez Ruiz, Bara Sapir, and Jon Sargent

Late

Jinwei Zhang

2. Treasurer's Report

00:01:56

The Treasurer's Report was provided, with a balance of \$1,183, and an update expected next month regarding investments related to the recent festival.

3. Approval of Minutes

[25-2840](#)

Attachments:

[6.18.25MeetingMinutes](#)

00:02:14

The Council approved the minutes from the previous meeting, with a correction made to remove a mention of math questions at the festival.

This Discussion Item was approved as amended.

4. Presentations

P.1. Presentation by Contra Costa County Supervisor's Office

00:03:34

Supervisor John Gioia provided an update on the ongoing garbage service issues related to the Republic Services labor strike. He explained that a sympathy strike at a landfill near Stockton had impacted services, but Republic had resumed collection using out-of-state workers. Residents were advised to place both carts and bagged garbage at the curb. The County has issued legal notices to Republic for

breach of contract and is exploring potential rate relief for residents. He also reviewed the County's two separate agreements with Republic-one for collection and another for post-collection-and highlighted added services such as scheduled curbside pickup and additional dumpsters for community cleanups.

P.2. Presentation by Sheriff's Office Bay Station Commander, Lt. Brian Fitzgerald

00:36:56

Commander Fitzgerald reported 69 calls for service in East Richmond Heights during June, including two auto burglaries, three vandalisms, and eight total written reports. He addressed a prior question regarding cut internet lines near North Arlington and Alpine, confirming it is within the Sheriff's jurisdiction. No related reports have been filed, though a recent incident of cut lines was noted in the same area, potentially involving individuals posing as utility workers.

He followed up on concerns about a boat on North Arlington potentially blocking the roadway. The boat is registered to the adjacent property and is fully off the roadway. Questions about enforcement responsibility were discussed, with clarification that the Sheriff's Office and CHP share authority, and that code enforcement may also be involved depending on visibility or property line issues.

Regarding reports of ICE activity in Concord, Fitzgerald confirmed the Sheriff's Office does not have jurisdiction there. Supervisor Gioia explained the county's "Stand Together Contra Costa" program provides legal assistance to immigrants and had received reports of ICE presence at the Concord Immigration Court. These reports remain unverified. Several ICE sightings, including at a Home Depot in San Pablo, were investigated and not confirmed.

A request was made to consider agendaizing immigration enforcement updates at a future meeting, pending jurisdictional relevance. No further questions were raised.

*P.3. *SPECIAL* Presentation from AC Transit External Affairs Representative, Ryan Lau*

00:48:22

Ryan Lau from AC Transit provided an overview of upcoming service changes under the agency's Realign project, which will take effect August 10, 2025. AC Transit is currently operating at 85% of pre-pandemic service levels and faces a \$42 million budget deficit. Despite this, the agency recently adopted a balanced budget and continues to prioritize service for transit-dependent communities.

Key service updates affecting the area include increased frequency on high-demand corridors like Cutting Boulevard, with most of West Contra Costa County receiving 30-minute or better service. The Line 74 will no longer serve Castro Ranch Road due to low ridership, and the Rollingwood neighborhood will shift from Line 72 to Line 76 to improve reliability.

Lau encouraged residents to visit (actransit.org/realign) for detailed route maps and updates. Printed materials will be available on buses and at BART stations, with ambassadors present in the field to assist riders.

In response to questions, Lau confirmed that seniors, disabled riders, and low-income individuals are eligible for a 50% fare reduction through regional transit programs and Clipper Start. He also noted that casual carpooling is a community-led initiative, not managed by AC Transit, and shared that transbay service remains limited with no immediate plans to restore Line H due to budget constraints. No further questions were raised.

P.4. Presentation by Richmond Police Department, Sgt. Terry Thomas

P.5. Presentation by California Highway Patrol (tentative)

02:34:11

Officer Zeid provided an update regarding traffic enforcement along Arlington Boulevard. CHP will soon deploy a radar trailer to the area and increase officer presence, per direction from the CHP Captain.

He also addressed a prior question regarding U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations. Officer Zeid reiterated that CHP does not receive advance notice of ICE activity and does not coordinate or assist with such operations due to legal restrictions, including California's status as a sanctuary state. He clarified that even if a federal deportation order exists for an individual, it is not CHP practice to notify ICE.

The officer recommended that residents concerned about immigration enforcement activities refer to the County's "Stand Together Contra Costa" program for support and information. No further questions were raised.

P.6. Presentation from Red Cross Disaster Co-Chair, Suzanne Garrett

P.7. Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Update, Michelle Rinehart

00:59:15

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District presented on the proposed shaded fuel break project in East Richmond Heights. The \$10 million project would create a 50-acre fuel break from El Cerrito to Hasford Heights. Community engagement is critical, with an 80% property owner approval goal set for the coming 10 days. Residents would be responsible for ongoing property maintenance and wildflower planting costs, with grant funds available to offset expenses. Concerns around invasive species, defensible space, and educational outreach were discussed. The Fire Chief emphasized the benefits of the project for wildfire mitigation and evacuation safety, with flexibility built in to modify project boundaries based on resident feedback.

5. Discussion Items

6. Subcommittee Reports

02:40:42

No report. There were no land use applications that were reviewed

SR.1 Land Use Committee: Joann Pavlinec, Jinwei Zhang

7. Regional Historical Presentation

02:40:54

8. Agenda Items / Speakers for Upcoming ERHMAC Meetings

02:41:14

9. Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to two minutes).

02:46:56

The Council held a discussion on the tree ordinance in Kensington, noting its restrictiveness and cost burdens. Alternative models from Palisades, Pacific Palisades, and Sausalito were recommended for consideration. The Council also supported requiring at least two bids for tree removal to maintain fairness. In addition, questions were raised about maintenance responsibilities and access for weed abatement on neglected properties, with recommendations for increased education and potential ordinance review.

The Council reviewed participation guidelines for the upcoming Arctic Art Festival. Due to insurance restrictions, political tabling was not allowed, though passive methods such as wearing information boards were deemed acceptable. Approval was granted to allocate \$50 for the creation of a vector-based community map by a graphic designer. The map would serve general community use while avoiding parcel-specific details. Attendees praised the Red Cross smoke alarm program.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for August 20, 2025

Adjourn

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