

NORTH RICHMOND MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

515 Silver Street

N. Richmond, CA 94801

MINUTES

Meetings are being conducted at the Corine Sain Senior/Community Center, 515 Silver Street, N. Richmond, CA 94801. Meetings are accessible on ZOOM.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. Board members present were: Don Gilmore, Princess Robinson, and Latifah Abdulah. Absent were: Annie King-Meredith, Glory Lopez, and Beverly Scott.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Upon reviewing the agenda and the minutes, Princess puts forth a motion to accept the agenda and the minutes. Latifah seconds, and all are in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY REPORT

Resident Deputy Eierman/CCC Sheriff's Department. Reporting for the months of July and August, 2025. There were no assaults with deadly weapons. In July, there were no burglaries; in August, there was one burglary. Residential burglaries: there was one in July and none in August. Domestic violence: there was one in July and none in August. There was one domestic violence with injury to the spouse in August. Petty theft of a vehicle, there was none in July, and one in August. One armed robbery in July and none in August. There was no vandalism or felony vandalism. Eleven names were collected from the mail of illegal dumpers.

Lieutenant Ernest Lucas/Richmond Police Department: Reporting for the month of August 2025. There were 515 calls for service, and 44 reports were generated from these calls. There were misdemeanor crime reports; nine arrests were made. There were 78 hang-up calls for 911. There were 58 traffic stops. Eighteen citations were

issued from those stops. Twenty-six parking citations were issued. Eighteen abandoned vehicles were impounded. There were twelve stolen vehicle reports.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY/REPORTS CONTINUED

There was one battery report with no injury. One domestic violence report with injury and one strong-armed robbery, which is currently under investigation. The department has good leads on the suspect. The suspect is known to the victim, and a name has been given to the department.

There was a report of a shooting. The shooting took place outside of the City of Richmond; it happened in San Pablo. The suspect traveled to North Richmond in his vehicle. This incident is currently under investigation.

Question: Is the report for Greater Richmond or North Richmond? The answer is that the area of Castro & Hensley Streets, and Chesley Avenue is the boundary.

A resident says that most of the calls seem to be concentrated on the City side of North Richmond. The answer is that there was an event at Shield's /Reid Park. called Hood Day. Hundreds of people gathered. There was a DJ, pony rides, and jumpers for the children. The event started at 2:00 p.m. and didn't end until 4:00 a.m. in the morning. During the event, there were constant calls for law enforcement. Eventually, the Law Enforcement officers from the County and City had to shut the event down and escort the participants off the property and out of the streets.

PRESENTATIONS

Mark Howe/Consider approval of CC Permit Application CDLP25-02016: Mr. Howe is seeking approval from the NRMAC, pertaining to a use permit that he will be taking to the County for acceptance.

Mr. Howe has plans to build a private electric vehicle charging station. The property is located at 2200 Central Avenue, Richmond, CA. Enterprise Truck Rental is one of the tenants at the site.

This charging station will be available to the public. The station will have three terminals. Will be supplied by solar. The station will have a capacity of 330,000 watts. Will have enough power to charge 76 Teslas a day, 365 days a year. The site will offer free charging on Fridays.

PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

The station will be open daily from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. It will be designed for small vans and delivery vehicles. Most users will be in small vehicles. Yes, it will be designed for cars.

Princess says free charging sounds good. But it really wouldn't serve our community. Most residents do not have electric vehicles. Mr. Howe says a lot of people are getting electric vehicles. They are getting cheaper to purchase.

Don motions for approval of the use permit. Princess seconds, all are in favor.

Chief Lewis T. Broschad III/CCC Fire Protection District: This is one of the largest fire protection districts in the state, serving much of Contra Costa County. They work really closely and tightly with the Richmond Fire Department.

They recently partnered with the Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District. Contra Costa Fire Protection has 37 fire stations, including the Byron Wildfire Training Center. There are 41 fire companies, over 670 firefighters, and professional staff. Five hundred and eighty-two sq. miles is covered.

The Fourth of July was rather busy. Aerial firefighting plays a big role in fighting fires. From June 1 to July 31, 2025, there were 23 fires, 183 water drops, and 54,900 gallons of water used. Mainly used for vegetation fires, only flies during daylight hours. The helicopter is stationed at the Byron Wildfire Training Center. Staffed by one pilot and one Contra Costa fire member. The helicopter does come into the Richmond area. The fire department has two dozers, which assist in fighting fires. January through July 2025, N. Richmond had approximately 4.35 acres of vegetation fires. There were 49 exterior fires. In 2025, there was one working residential structure fire. In 2024, there were two working residential structure fires.

Total calls for W. CCC, January - July 2025: There were 1105. Call types were: EMS 452, Mistaken/False Alarm 315, Other Calls 148, Fire-other 71, Public Service 46, and Hazardous Condition 31.

PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

Latifah Abdulla, Community Engagement Manager/Urban Tilth Farms Update on the farm - Nourishing Our Community: The farm has three working acres and an additional seven acres to be developed.

Urban Tilth's mission is to inspire, hire, and train local residents to cultivate agriculture. To feed the community and restore relationships with the land. To build a more sustainable food system within a just and healthier community.

Urban Tilth has several locations: Verde, Richmond High, Unity Park, Crescent Park, Parchester, Lucas Park, and the N. Richmond Farm.

All of the training at the farm is paid: Fellowship, Summer Youth, and Watershed. There are things that you can get for free from the farm: Nursery Plants and Free Farm Stands.

Events, volunteering, tours: community days, volunteer days, CSA pack days. More events are wellness, cultural, farming, Eagle Scouts, Girls Garage, and Local & International Groups.

CSA stands for Community Supported Agriculture. The mission is to ensure fresh, local, chemical-free, and intentionally grown produce made available to all W. CCC residents. The CSA bag includes produce from the N. Richmond farm and a local partner farm. This allows the farm to offer high-quality seasonal fruits and vegetables, often harvested just a couple of days before the residents receive them.

There's a program that you can have the produce delivered to you - the cost varies according to your income

Programming: Extended Education, Senior Gardening Days, Spring Break, Afterschool at the Farm. Orchard for All, Just Transition, Community Advisory Committee, and the Watershed.

If you have an overflow of fruit, a team will come out and harvest it for you, and offer it at their farm stands.

PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

Cheryll Lopez, Community Engagement Manager/Urban Tilth Farms - Watershed Restoration Program: The Watershed Program has programs within itself. Programs such as: Basins of Relations - Eight trainees were hired today. Training Program, Watershed Restoration - They work at WildCat Creek and San Pablo Creeks. Field Crew, Community Engagement Events -, Native Plant Nursery, and Water Conservation Project - offers free water conservation kits for your home. Has done about 50 of these kits. Will be participating in the upcoming Coastal Clean-up.

Latifah gives an update on the construction at the farm. So far, the farm has the new permanent greenhouse, the native plant nursery, and the sweet spot (honey extraction room). The farm shed and farm crew break room, watershed workshop, compost toilet, section #1 - history walk, crop row outdoor classroom, and the orchard outdoor classroom.

There's the Brookside Drive Frontage Improvements. A new sidewalk, curb and gutter, driveway, and rain gardens. Will begin the process of growing soil in a new crop row area and install a new water-conserving irrigation system.

Will be launching the Oral History Project by collecting oral histories with local elders and long-time N. Richmond residents for the History Walk Oral History Project.

The Ohlone Reflection Garden, The Farm Stand (Farm Store) - offering fresh fruits and vegetables to North Richmond seven days a week. An expanded wash and pack, equipped with more produce cold storage space, so they can connect with more small sustainable farmers and get more healthy food to people in need.

A community Room: Creating more space where community members can hold community meetings, events, workshops, youth and adult programs year-round. Will have the solar and battery backup.

There will be a children's garden designed for children under ten years old that will include a mud kitchen and plenty of play and learning spaces.

PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

There was a project that the \$19 million was supposed to be for: The N. Richmond Farm Community Resilience Center at Urban Tilth. Las Deltas affordable housing revitalization, Verde Elementary greening project, E-Bike lending library, and Wildcat Creek improvements. A petition is available to sign to see if the money would be released. The farm is looking for other avenues for funding. Quite a few communities were affected by the loss of the funding. The County is actively disputing the loss of these funds.

The farm started with five volunteers, and presently they have over 80 employees. The farm is getting ready to celebrate its 20th Anniversary. Starting October 11th. Events are planned for afternoon site tours, starting at 3:00 p.m., a silent auction, a celebratory dinner, and an evening ceremony. There will be opportunities to share your feedback and vision for their future. And of course, fun activities, and more.

Natalie Matias, Community Engagement Manager/The Watershed Project - An Overview of Projects in N. Richmond:

The Watershed Project's mission is to inspire local residents to understand, appreciate, and protect our watersheds.

What is a watershed? An area of land that drains (or "sheds") water to a main water body. In this presentation, they will mainly be focusing on the N. Richmond creeks. Wildcat Creek and San Pablo Creek.

Natural watersheds will flow downward into a larger body of water. In our case, the San Pablo Bay. Some watersheds are urbanized. The Bay Area averages around 70% of Impervious Surfaces. Water can not penetrate through these things. Surfaces-like roads, cement etc. What we end up with is a loss of water. Water will evaporate and not reach where it needs to go.

The Wildcat Creek watershed is about 13 miles long. It starts up in the Berkeley Hills, at Volmer Peak, and flows through a number of different communities.

The San Pablo Creek is an 18.78-mile-long creek that flows from the hills near Orinda to the San Pablo Bay.

PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

Why do the creeks matter? Everything we do - from mountaintop to marshlands-affects our water and land wildlife, our families, and communities.

The Watershed's goal is to communicate through environmental education in K-12 schools. They work with the K-12 students, community volunteers, young adults, Grassroots community groups, and local government agencies. They do Green Infrastructure: rainwater harvesting, rain gardens, bioswales. Habitat Restoration: creeks, marshes. Advocacy and research, and community engagement.

There are a couple of different projects in N. Richmond that the Watershed wants to make sure that we know about. They intend to give updates on the projects throughout the remainder of the year.

The Shields/Reid Habitat Garden Planting. Proposed for October and November 2025. What types of plants and resources would you like to see in the Shields/Reid Habitat Garden? Some options are Native Plants, Pollinator Garden, Reading Garden, Medical Plants, or a Senior Garden.

Another project is: Restoring Wildcat Creek - Restoration Action Plan Development. During 2024 - 2028, the Watershed will be working with stakeholders and community members to update the Restoration Action Plan developed for WCC in 2010 & facilitate restoration.

Watershed is also working on bringing equal access to the Bay Trail and the Horizontal Levee Development. Also included in the WCC project is monthly water quality monitoring in the creeks. There are a number of different sites, located all along the WCC. Five creeks, fifty-four sites in CCC.

Another project is called the Wildcat Creek Stewards. The time frame is 2023 to 2027. This project is designed to increase WC engagement. Creating more opportunities for the community to get involved in educational activities and planting. The Youth Workforce Program, The Green Collar Core Workmanship Program. Working with

youths and college students. Hosting a number of opportunities in the community by attending festivals and community events.

PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

Educational programs are working with a number of schools in WCCC. Doing WCC-specific programs. Working all across the S. F. Bay Area watersheds.

Another great project is the N. Richmond Collaborative Shoreline Adaptation Planning Project - Phase 2. They are in the planning phase: 2018-2027. A collaboration between community members and project designers to help shape the future of the NR shoreline.

The goal is to work with technical experts to make sure that the community is included in planning this shoreline design plan. The design plan will end up with something that's called a Horizontal Levee. The levee is to protect the area from changes in climate, such as sea level rise. The plan will also bring some amenities to the area, recreational, wildlife preservation etc.

In conclusion, here is a list of projects in the North Richmond Community. Shields/Reid Habitat Garden, Restoring Wildcat Creek, Wildcat Creek Stewards, North Richmond Collaborative Shoreline Adaptation Planning Project and Fish Passage Retrofit.

Get involved and participate in one of the upcoming Wildcat Action Network events. (September 20 & 27 - Creek Cleanups. Share your thoughts on what you'd like to see in the future of WCC now or later. Stay up to date on all things Wildcat Creek via the website: thewatershedproject.org or Natalie@thewatershedproject.org

Princess remembers being a part of a WCC project. She wants to know if the designs from that project are being considered in the upcoming planning. The answer is yes.

Princess wants to know what will be built or used from the program that she participated in. Natalie says that conversations are being held about where we get the funding.

Princess appreciates that this is happening. She also wants to know if N. Richmond residents are being hired to work in any of the programs. Yes is the answer....

PROGRAM AND OTHER AGENCY REPORTS

Tania Pulido, District Coordinator/Supervisor, John Gioia's Office: Tania announces a joint council meeting. The meeting will be presented by the North Richmond Advisory Council and Shild's/Reid Neighborhood Council. Managing Community Investment, September 24th at 5:30 p.m. Hosted by BAAQMD, NRMAC, and Shields/Reid Neighborhood Council. Join in person at 515 Silver Ave. North Richmond or via ZOOM <https://cccouny-us.zoom.us/j/89930359453>

Learn about BAAQMD - What do they do?, Community Investment Office and Goals (meet new staff), Penalty Allocation, and MORE! Give feedback on Funding Allocations! What initiatives should be funded? Please join, your voice matters.

Millions of dollars will be going to the Richmond Area. Twenty million in one pot and thirty-five in another. Combined regional pots are seventy-five million. The Richmond Area pot of twenty million, a certain percentage will go for overhead.

The funding has to go to frontline communities. Communities such as North Richmond, Iron Triangle, San Pablo, Mont Tavin, and Atchason Village.

Another important meeting for District One residents and stakeholders! Please join and inform us how the new community impact funding will be spent. How would you spend \$1 million to promote equity and address economic and health disparities in W. Contra Costa County

Supervisor Gioia wants to hear from W. County Residents. The Board of Supervisors allocated \$5 million to launch a Contra Costa Community Impact Fund, with \$1 million to be spent in each Supervisor's District. At the town hall meetings, join in person or remotely. ZOOM ID: 863 4023 4111.

Meeting Dates: RSVP LINK: <https://tinyurl.com/CCIF-RSVP>
9/23 at 5:00 p.m. Youth ages 13-24 only @ RYSE Center 3939 Bissell Ave., Richmond,

9/30 at 6:00 p.m. @ Pinole City Hall 2131 Pear St., Pinole
10/2 at 5:30 p.m. @ St. Peter CME Church 5324 Cypress Ave, El Cerrito
10/6 1:00 p.m. @ RYSE Center 3939 Bissell Ave., Richmond
10/9 6:00 p.m. @ City of San Pablo City Hall 1000 Gateway Ave.
10/11 10:00 a.m. @ RYSE Center 3939 Bissell Ave, Richmond

PROGRAM AND OTHER AGENCY REPORTS CONTINUED

Janine Shaheed, Community Engagement Manager/CHDC - Mitigation Fee Funded:

Continues to do Task Force Walks, focusing on illegal dumping areas and WCC.

There is a lot of work going on in the WCC area. The goats are out there controlling the vegetation. Two homeless encampments have been taken down.

Attended community events over the summer. Participated in the N. R. 14th Annual Music Festival. Attended the Buy Back the Jets event. Supported National Night Out, Thrive Thursdays, and Black August Event.

Kalu has put together a Mitigation Resource pamphlet. It consists of a list of community-based organizations, social services in the community, and resourceful phone numbers and addresses.

The N. R. Green letters will go out this month. The Willie Spears Cleanup will be held on Saturday, September 21st, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The senior center had a presentation regarding health care, presented by Contra Costa Senior Legal Services. They will do a follow-up on the 16th. The senior center is partnering with Master Gardeners - this is a new program, the first class will be held on the 25th.

The Young Boss Network will be starting a new session. Entitled Starting Your Own Business - The age group is (12-22). The date is September 11, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at 515 Silver Ave. N. Richmond, CA.

Dillion Harp, Community Engagement Manager/RichmondLand: The event Buy Back the Jets was a powerful event in the community. A thank you to all who supported the event.

There was catering by TMD, cupcakes by Sweet Addition, over 600 backpacks and school supplies were given out by Change for Five Hundred and the Bonafide Riders MC, Video Game Trucks, Live Performance, and Tabling by businesses that provided information about access to home ownership opportunities.

PROGRAM AND OTHER AGENCY REPORTS CONTINUED

A Virtual Orientation was held for the people who signed up for membership. Every 4th Thursday, RL will be at the resource center in N. Richmond. Will be helping people with support toward home ownership. Richmond Land will be attending the CA Community Land Trust Conference.

The third resident sign-up members meeting will be coming up on September 18th. The board members' election is coming up soon. RL has six board members and is looking for four more.

Richmond Land has secured a partnership with CHDC. The ECO Village project is receiving support from architects and engineers with the planning of the project. Have been engaging with former N. R. residents' first priority in coming back to the neighborhood, Las Deltas' former residents: The Right of Return.

The South 24th Street property will have a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The new deck has been completed, and the residents have moved back in.

Any questions or for further information, please email Richmondland.org.

Latifah Abdullah, Community Engagement Manager/Urban Tilth Farms - N. Richmond: Urban Tilth was at the 14th Annual North Richmond Music Festival, and also attended National Night Out.

They made donations to the Buy Back the Jets Housing Resource event. Volunteer days at the farm are every 4th Saturday of the month, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The After-school at the Farm program for pre-k to 5th grade resumes on October 1st. The location is at the N. Richmond Farm from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

On August 30th, the Black Caucus had a Black August event at the farm

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Next meeting: October 7, 2025 - 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
515 Silver Street, N. Richmond, CA 94801