



City of Richmond

Formal Meeting Minutes

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk

Monday, June 22, 2020

6:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall
Virtual Meeting

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Chris Hilbert, Vice President
The Honorable Andreas Addison
The Honorable Kim Gray (late arrival)
The Honorable Michael Jones
The Honorable Kristen Larson
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch (early departure)
The Honorable Ellen Robertson

Absent

The Honorable Reva Trammell

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m., and presided.

Invocation was offered by Pastor Larry Miles Sr., of Fresh Anointing Cathedral Church of God in Christ (COGIC), 3001 2nd Avenue, Richmond, VA.

Members of Council and the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ELECTRONIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

City Clerk Candice Reid, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, announced the meeting would be held through electronic communication means. City Clerk Reid stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on June 15, 2020, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. She also stated members of the public were encouraged to provide comments in writing prior to the meeting and all comments received prior to 10:00 a.m., on Monday, June 22, 2020, were provided to Council members. Ms. Reid indicated that members of the public who signed up to speak and provide comment would be called to speak at the appropriate time.

CITIZEN SPEAKER GUIDELINES

Councilor Michael Jones moved to suspend Council's Rules of Procedure and to allow five minutes for citizens to speak during the Citizen Comment Period, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 7, Jones, Robertson, Larson, Lynch, Addison, Hilbert, Newbille. Noes None. Gray had not yet arrived.

Councilor Kim Gray joined the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Upon the President's request, Deputy City Clerk RJ Warren provided citizen speaker guidelines.

APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS

There were no appointment/reappointment items for consideration.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

There were no awards or presentations.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Citizens were provided an opportunity to offer comments in writing prior to the Formal City Council meeting. All written citizen comments received by the Office of the City Clerk were provided to members of the Council prior to the meeting, and are included as an appendix to the June 22, 2020 Formal City Council meeting minutes.

Charles T. Peters III addressed Council and requested the following:

- The reopening of the Marcus-David Peters case
- The defunding of the Richmond Police Department (RPD), and the reallocation of RPD funds towards a *Marcus Alert System*, civilian review board (CRB) independent of the RPD, human services, the environment and general community welfare
- The release of protesters with all pending charges dropped
- The removal of all monuments symbolizing white supremacy
- The release of the names of RPD officers under misconduct investigation since May 29, 2020

Christopher Gayler addressed Council and expressed his concerns regarding the use of force and military style equipment by the RPD. Mr. Gayler inquired why Council's Public Safety Standing Committee had not met since February to address public safety in the city.

Luca Connolly, Richmond Community Bail Fund (RCBF) co-director, addressed Council and informed Council that the RCBF provided funds for individuals unable to meet cash bail requirements. Ms. Connolly requested Council ask Commonwealth's Attorney Colette McEachin to drop all pending charges against protesters to avoid negatively impacting protesters' lives and diverting funds from city services.

Yohance Whitaker, Richmond Transparency and Accountability Project (RTAP) member, informed Council of RTAP's work to disrupt mass incarceration in the city. Mr. Whitaker addressed the potential of CRB oversight of the RPD, and he stated a diverse task force with meaningful citizen input was necessary in the drafting and establishment of a CRB.

Princess Blanding, sister of Marcus-David Peters, addressed Council regarding the establishment of a *Marcus Alert System* that would require that mental health experts be the first responders for emergencies involving individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. Ms. Blanding stated police would only serve as backup support if the emergency scene became unsafe. Ms. Blanding also stated the *Marcus Alert System* would only be successful if the RPD were held accountable for the use of force on peaceful protesters and members of the press.

Stephanie Rizzi, RTAP member, addressed Council and informed members of RTAP's efforts regarding civilian oversight of the RPD. Ms. Rizzi stated any CRB should be funded by Council and independent of the RPD. Ms. Rizzi cautioned Council that the mayor's suggested 90-day time period to review and establish a CRB may create a rushed and flawed system. Ms. Rizzi suggested that funds be reallocated from the RPD budget to fund the city's CRB.

Phil Wilayto, Virginia Defenders for Freedom, Justice and Equality (VDFJE), addressed Council and informed members that the VDFJE supported the resignation of former Richmond Police Chief William Smith, but were concerned about the mayor's selection of Major William "Jody" Blackwell to serve as interim police chief. Mr. Wilayto stated the public should be involved in the vetting and selection of the next permanent police chief. Mr. Wilayto also stated public engagement in the selection process would help reestablish trust between the RPD and citizens.

Dr. Aubrey Jones, Richmonders Involved in Strengthening our Communities (RISC) member, addressed Council regarding the lack of affordable housing in the city. Dr. Jones stated that affordable housing would produce secure and safe environments for families. Dr. Jones expressed his concerns regarding the upcoming end to the temporary moratorium on evictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Pam Smith, RISC member, addressed Council and informed members of the experiences citizens encountered regarding affordable housing and gun violence in the city.

Steve Saltzberg, RISC member, addressed Council and expressed his concerns regarding gun violence within the city. Mr. Saltzberg informed members of the *Group Violence Intervention* strategy and stated the violence reduction strategy could help decrease gang and gun violence within the city.

Janice Lacy, RISC member, addressed Council and informed members of the experiences citizens encountered regarding joblessness and the fear of homelessness. Mr. Lacy requested Council use funds provided by the CARES Act stimulus package to address affordable housing issues in the city.

Marty Wegbreit, Affordable Housing Trust Fund Oversight Board member, Eviction Task Force member, and RISC member, addressed Council and expressed his concerns of the potential for an eviction tsunami if the temporary moratorium on evictions came to an end. Ms. Wegbreit stated Council should declare affordable housing as the first priority to receive any potential surplus funds the city may have. Mr. Wegbreit spoke to the importance of housing availability for individuals who needed to shelter in place during a pandemic.

Nancy Kunkel, RISC member, informed members of potential uses of funds provided by the CARES Act stimulus package regarding affordable housing and eviction diversion. Ms. Kunkel addressed steps taken by the city of Alexandria to distribute funds the city received from the CARES Act to address housing issues.

Pastor Ralph Hodge, Second Baptist Church senior pastor, and RISC member, addressed the reallocation of RPD funds and resources towards proactive solutions that would help strengthen the community. Pastor Hodge stated the *Group Violence Intervention* strategy and the re-imagination of policing were necessary in the city. Pastor Hodge also stated that RISC had requested the mayor allocate CARES Act funds towards affordable housing and eviction diversion.

Mark Shubert addressed Council and expressed his concerns regarding the RPD's use of force on citizens within the city.

Emily Bradley-Kane addressed Council and expressed her support for the reallocation of RPD funds. Ms. Bradley-Kane requested Council reallocate RPD funds towards a *Marcus Alert*, schools, affordable housing, substance abuse treatment and other community focused programs.

Carlisle Bannister addressed Council and informed members he felt unsafe leaving his house during the current social unrest within the city.

Lawrence D. Meyer addressed Council and stated he was saddened by the current crisis in the city. Mr. Meyer also stated open dialogue was necessary from all sides to find solutions. Mr.

Meyer requested that citizens allow the legal process to take place regarding the removal of Confederate monuments.

Jer'Mykeal McCoy addressed Council and expressed his concerns regarding the use of force by the RPD. Mr. McCoy also expressed his concerns regarding the selection of Major William "Jody" Blackwell to serve as interim police chief. Mr. McCoy requested the reallocation of RPD funds towards community services and that the RPD only respond to violent situations and not situations involving mental health crises.

President Cynthia Newbille stated Council appreciated the comments provided by citizens and indicated that Council would address many of the issues citizens raised at upcoming committee meetings and forums.

AGENDA REVIEW AND AMENDMENTS

Councilor Kristen Larson moved to amend the agenda as follows:

ORD. 2019-275

To amend ch. 6 of the City Code by adding therein a new art. XII (§§ 6-596-6-602) to establish a technology zone program in accordance with Va. Code § 58.1-3850, for the purpose of facilitating the development and location of technology businesses in the city of Richmond, capital investment, and job creation.

To be continued to Monday, July 27, 2020

ORD. 2019-276

To amend City Code §§ 26-872, concerning definitions related to license taxes, and 26-989, concerning license taxes for personal services businesses, and to amend ch. 26, art. XV, div. 2 of the City Code by adding therein a new section numbered 26-1003.1, concerning the license tax for technology businesses, for the purpose of creating a new business, profession, and occupation license category called "technology business" and imposing a new license tax on such businesses.

To be continued to Monday, July 27, 2020

ORD. 2019-319

To reduce the speed limit on Libbie Avenue between Guthrie Avenue and the City's corporate boundary from 35 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour.

To be continued to Monday, July 27, 2020

ORD. 2019-320

To reduce the speed limit on Patterson Avenue between Willow Lawn Drive and Pepper Avenue from 35 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour.

To be continued to Monday, July 27, 2020

ORD. 2020-103

To rezone certain properties in the areas surrounding the Science Museum of Virginia, Allison Street, and the Virginia Commonwealth University and the Virginia Union University Broad Street Bus Rapid Transit station areas.

To be continued to Monday, July 27, 2020

ORD. 2020-104

To amend the official zoning map for the purpose of designating certain street blocks as "priority streets" and certain street blocks as "street-oriented commercial streets" in the areas surrounding

the Science Museum of Virginia, Allison Street, and the Virginia Commonwealth University and the Virginia Union University Broad Street Bus Rapid Transit station areas.

To be continued to Monday, July 27, 2020

ORD. 2020-105

To amend and reordain City Code §§ 30-433.2 (concerning parking lots in the UB Urban Business District, 30-440.3 (concerning yards in the B-4 Central Business District), 30-446.2 (concerning parking lots in the B-7 Mixed-Use Business District), and 30-950.2-30-950.5 (concerning Plan of Development Overlays), for the purpose of implementing the recommendations of the adopted Pulse Corridor Plan.

To be continued to Monday, July 27, 2020

ORD. 2020-107

To authorize the special use of the property known as 2126 Rosewood Avenue for the purpose of an existing single-family dwelling with an accessory dwelling unit, upon certain terms and conditions.

To be amended and continued to Monday July 27, 2020

RES. 2020-R038

To declare a public necessity to amend ch. 30 of the City Code and to initiate an amendment to the City's zoning ordinance to make such lawful changes as may be necessary to eliminate or appropriately reduce parking minimums and restrictions in areas zoned for commercial use and areas within the TOD-1 Transit Oriented Nodal District by requesting that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be conducted a study to determine whether and, if so, how the City's zoning ordinance lawfully may be amended to permit changes as may be necessary to eliminate or appropriately reduce parking minimums and restrictions in areas zoned for commercial use and areas within the TOD-1 Transit Oriented Nodal District.

To be continued to Monday, July 27, 2020

RES. 2020-R039

To request that the Mayor introduce such budget amendments to the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget as may be necessary to restore funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and the Eviction Diversion Program to the amounts proposed in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget introduced on March 6, 2020, in the event that City revenues exceed current projections for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

To be continued to Monday, July 27, 2020

ORD. 2020-041

To amend and reordain Ord. No. 2017-129, adopted Oct. 9, 2017, which authorized the special use of the property known as 1704 Arlington Road for the purpose of illuminated canopy signage, to modify the permitted uses, upon certain terms and conditions.

To be continued to Monday, July 27, 2020

The motion to amend the agenda was seconded and approved: Ayes 7, Jones, Robertson, Larson, Lynch, Gray, Addison, Newbille. Noes None. Hilbert was excused.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following ordinances and resolution were considered:

ORD. 2020-085

To designate the 3100 block of Decatur Street in honor of Johnny R. Battle.

ORD. 2020-119

To amend Ord. No. 2019-089, adopted Apr. 22, 2019, which authorized the special use of the properties known as 5400 Hull Street Road, 5336 Hull Street Road, and 5348 Hull Street Road for the purpose of self-storage facilities and multifamily dwellings containing up to 245 dwelling units, to modify the site plans, upon certain terms and conditions.

ORD. 2020-126

To authorize the special use of the property known as 420 North 26th Street for the purpose of two single-family detached dwellings, upon certain terms and conditions.

ORD. 2020-127

To authorize the special use of the properties known as 1201 North 31st Street and 1201 ½ North 31st Street for the purpose of two single-family attached dwellings, upon certain terms and conditions.

ORD. 2020-128

To authorize the special use of the property known as 2109 East Marshall Street for the purpose of a two-family detached dwelling, upon certain terms and conditions.

ORD. 2020-129

To amend Ord. No. 2019-274, adopted Nov. 12, 2019, which amended ch. 11 of the City Code by adding therein a new art. VIII (§§ 11-190-11-197) to establish a commercial property assessed clean energy program in accordance with Va. Code § 15.2-958.3, for the purpose of facilitating the development of clean energy projects, to revise the effective date of the program.

ORD. 2020-130

To amend Ord. No. 2019-338, adopted January 27, 2020, which repealed ch. 26, art. V, div. 3 (§§ 26-397-26-408) of the City Code and amended ch. 26, art. V, by adding there a new div. 3 (§§ 26-408.1-26-408.11) for the purpose of modifying the requirements for the partial exemption of rehabilitated structures from real estate taxation, to provide for the submission of program guidelines and to modify the effective date of such ordinance.

ORD. 2020-133

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to accept funds in the amount of \$20,104,653.00 from the Commonwealth of Virginia; to amend the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Special Fund Budget by creating a new special fund for the Department of Fire and Emergency Services called the COVID-19 Relief Special Fund; and to appropriate the increase to the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Special Fund Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services' COVID-19 Relief Special Fund by \$20,104,653.00 for the purpose of funding necessary expenditures due to the public health emergency with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ORD. 2020-134

To amend Ord. No. 2019-041, adopted May 13, 2019, which adopted the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 General Fund Budget and made appropriations pursuant thereto, by re-appropriating \$117,041.00 of the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 fund balance excess assigned to the "Delinquent Tax Sales" special fund of the Office of the City Attorney, and to appropriate these funds to the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 General Fund Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to the Office of the City Attorney by \$117,041.00 for the purpose of offsetting any deficit in that special fund.

ORD. 2020-135

To amend Ord. No. 2019-043, adopted May 13, 2019, which (i) accepted a program of proposed Capital Improvement Projects for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 and the four fiscal years thereafter, (ii) adopted a Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020, and (iii) determined a means of financing the same, to modify the purpose of the Stormwater Facilities Improvements project in the Utilities category to provide that such project includes a grant to Capital Trees pursuant to Va. Code § 15.2-953(B) to plant native plants and trees in the Low Line Park.

ORD. 2020-136

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute an Agreement and Deed of Lease between Scripps Media, Inc., as lessor and the City of Richmond as lessee for the purpose of the construction, maintenance, repair, and operation of a communications facility to support the City's emergency communications system at 3300 Cutshaw Avenue.

ORD. 2020-137

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Programmatic Project Administration Agreement Extension Addendum between the City of Richmond and the Virginia Department of Transportation for the purpose of the development and administration of previously authorized and future Revenue Sharing Program projects.

ORD. 2020-138

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a City of Richmond Grant Contract between the City of Richmond and Capital Trees for the purpose of making native plant and tree landscape improvements to The Low Line park in the city of Richmond.

ORD. 2020-139

To approve the Work Plan and Budget for the fiscal year ending Jun. 30, 2021, for the provision of services in the Downtown Richmond Special Service and Assessment Districts.

RES. 2020-R029

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause the Department of Planning and Development Review to conduct a redevelopment study of the properties along Commerce Road and a certain portion of the surrounding area concerning potential opportunities and implementation of plans for the redevelopment of certain properties along Commerce Road in the area bounded generally by Semmes Avenue to the north and Bellemeade Road to the south.

Citizens were provided an opportunity to offer comments in writing regarding Consent Agenda items prior to the Formal City Council meeting and public hearing. All written comments received by the Office of the City Clerk were provided to members of the Council prior to the meeting and are included as an appendix to the June 22, 2020 Formal City Council meeting minutes.

There were no comments or discussions and the **Consent Agenda was adopted:** Ayes 8, Jones, Robertson, Larson, Gray, Trammell, Addison, Hilbert, Newbille. Noes None.

REGULAR AGENDA

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2019-343

To amend City Code §§ 30-402.2, 30-411.3, 30-412.2, 30-413.3, 30-413.13, 30-414.2, 30-416.2, 30-418.2, 30-419.4, 30-420.1, 30-426.1, 30-428.1, 30-430.1, 30-433.2, 30-433.11, 30-434.1, 30-436.1, 30-438.1, 30-440.1, 30-442.1, 30-444.2, 30-446.2, 30-447.2, 30-447.11, 30-448.1, 30-450.1, 30-457.1, concerning permitted principal uses, and 30-1220, concerning definitions related to zoning,

and to amend ch. 30, art. VI of the City Code by adding therein a new div. 14 (§§ 30-697—30-697.3), concerning short-term rentals. (As Amended)

Citizens were provided an opportunity to offer comments in writing regarding Ord. 2019-343 prior to the Formal City Council meeting and public hearing. All written comments received by the Office of the City Clerk were provided to members of the Council prior to the meeting and are included as an appendix to the June 22, 2020 Formal City Council meeting minutes.

Public Hearing

Opposition

Thomas Courtney spoke in opposition of Ord. 2019-343 and requested that Council not adopt the proposed ordinance as written. Mr. Courtney stated the ordinance did not provide any benefit to the city, and he suggested Council refer Ord. 2019-343 back to the City Planning Commission for possible revisions.

Stacie Vanchieri spoke in opposition of Ord. 2019-343 and stated if the proposed ordinance was adopted as written, it would decimate the short term rental (STR) business model within the city. Ms. Vanchieri also stated STRs are the preferred choice of young tourists visiting the city. Ms. Vanchieri further stated Ord. 2019-343 had many flaws and the ordinance would not help generate revenue for the city.

Tyler Rackley spoke in opposition of Ord. 2019-343 and stated he believed the proposed ordinance would be highly destructive, because it would eliminate nearly 80% of existing STRs within the city. Mr. Rackley also stated Ord. 2019-343 would not benefit the city because it would not create any tax revenue that could be used for city services such as affordable housing.

Troy Kingsbury spoke in opposition of Ord. 2019-343 and stated he believed that STRs had greatly benefited the city. Mr. Kingsbury also stated the proposed ordinance would harm the continued grow of the city and discouraged tourism. Mr. Kingsbury suggested members research *NiidoHomes*, apartment style STRs, which provide a hotel alternative for tourists. Mr. Kingsbury referenced a currently operating *NiidoHome* he visited in Nashville, and expressed his belief that these were the types of housing options young tourists desired.

Support

Jerry Beverage, Fan District Association (FDA) member and former president, spoke in support of Ord. 2019-343 and stated the FDA also supported the proposed ordinance. Mr. Beverage also stated Ord. 2019-343 would help protect homeowners and residents within the city by preserving the residential character of neighborhoods.

Mark Olinger, Department of Planning and Development Review director, provided Council with additional information regarding the drafting and legislative history of Ord. 2019-343. Mr. Olinger cautioned Council that without the restrictions referenced within the proposed ordinance, large corporations and hotel operators could begin to buy multiple single family homes and apartment buildings to operate unregulated STRs within established neighborhoods. Mr. Olinger stated he believed Ord. 2019-343 was a good first step to begin the legal operation of STRs within the city.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch stated she believed amendments could be added to Ord. 2019-343, which would promote code enforcement, protect neighborhoods, create taxable revenue for the city and establish parameters to guardrail against large scale corporate run STRs. Ms. Lynch also stated she was concerned the ordinance would negatively impact the local economy.

Councilor Kristen Larson inquired about the taxation of STRs.

John Wack, Department of Finance director, informed Council that there was no current proposal to change taxation regarding STRs, because STRs have yet to be declared legal within the city. Mr. Wack stated city administration was also concerned that it would cost more to collect a new tax than what could be collected in revenue from any newly applied STR tax. Mr. Wack also stated he did not anticipate the city proposing a STR tax if the primary residency requirement was approved.

Vice President Chris Hilbert expressed his support for Ord. 2019-343 and stated he believed a tax regarding STRs should be implemented.

Councilor Ellen Robertson shared her concerns regarding the impact Ord. 2019-343 would have on current operators of STRs that are not primary residences. Ms. Robertson inquired if it was possible to “grandfather” current operators of non-primary residence STRs, if the ordinance was adopted.

Mr. Olinger informed Council that the “grandfather” option was discussed, but it was not possible. Mr. Olinger stated that was because the current operation of any STR was illegal, and illegal operations cannot be “grandfathered” into a legal enterprise.

Councilor Michael Jones stated he understood the necessity of a policy regarding STRs, but added he was aware of the impact it would have on the many operators of STRs.

Councilor Kim Gray stated she was disappointed that Ord. 2019-343 did not address taxation of STRs, but she believed the ordinance was necessary and a good starting point.

There were no further comments or discussions and **ORD. 2019-343 was adopted:** Ayes 6, Robertson, Larson, Gray, Addison, Hilbert, Newbille. Noes 1, Lynch, Abstentions 1, Jones.

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2020-R034

To declare surplus and to authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to seek proposals for the [properties] property located at [~~112 North 7th Street, 114 North 7th Street, 116 North 7th Street,~~] 500 North 10th Street[, ~~401 East Broad Street, 730 East Broad Street, 800 East Clay Street, 808 East Clay Street, 609 East Grace Street, and 601 East Leigh Street~~] for the purpose of facilitating the purchase and development of such [parcels] parcel. (As Amended)

Sharon Ebert, Department of Economic and Community Development deputy chief administrative officer, provided an introduction of Res. 2020-R034, and informed Council that the resolution was amended to remove all city-owned property with the exception of the Public Safety Building located at 500 North 10th Street.

Leonard Sledge, Department of Economic Development director, stated the unsolicited offer for the city-owned property by Capital City Partners, Inc., presented the city with a redevelopment opportunity that would attract businesses to downtown and create more taxable revenue for the city.

Councilor Kristen Larson inquired if there was an appraisal of the property referenced in the resolution.

Mr. Sledge informed Council that an appraisal was conducted, but city administration was reluctant to release that information due to the potential negative impact it could have on negotiations.

Councilor Ellen Robertson expressed her support for Res. 2020-R034 and the redevelopment of the area referenced in the resolution.

Councilor Kim Gray suggested Council and city administration examine a potential land lease of the city-owned property rather than a complete sale. Ms. Gray requested city administration keep Council informed of negotiations regarding the sale of the property.

Mr. Sledge stated city administration would negotiate to create and accept the best deal available for the city and citizens.

There were no further comments or discussions and **RES. 2020-R034 was adopted:** Ayes 8, Jones, Robertson, Larson, Gray, Trammell, Addison, Hilbert, Newbille. Noes None.

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2020-R043

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be developed a process for renaming the Robert E. Lee Memorial Bridge.

Citizens were provided an opportunity to offer comments in writing regarding Res. 2020-R043 prior to the Formal City Council meeting and public hearing. All written comments received by the Office of the City Clerk were provided to members of the Council prior to the meeting and are included as an appendix to the June 22, 2020 Formal City Council meeting minutes.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch provided an introduction of Res. 2020-R043, and she shared the experiences an African American citizen encountered with the Robert E. Lee Memorial Bridge as a child. Ms. Lynch also shared the citizen appreciated that Council was moving forward to begin the process of renaming the bridge.

Councilor Kim Gray stated she supported Res. 2020-R043. Ms. Gray also stated Council should keep in mind the needs of students attending Richmond Public Schools when reviewing the required costs for renaming streets and other amenities throughout the city.

There were no further comments or discussions and **RES. 2020-R043 was adopted:** Ayes 8, Jones, Robertson, Larson, Gray, Trammell, Addison, Hilbert, Newbille. Noes None.

President Cynthia Newbille, Vice President Chris Hilbert and Councilors Michael Jones, Kristen Larson and Andreas Addison requested to be added as co-patrons of Res. 2020-R043.

MOTIONS

Councilor Ellen Robertson moved that the ordinance entitled:

ORD. 2020-107

To authorize the special use of the property known as 2126 Rosewood Avenue for the purpose of an existing single-family dwelling with an accessory dwelling unit, upon certain terms and conditions.

be amended and continued to Monday, July 27, 2020, as follows:

Page 4, Line 6

After the word "required", strike the text "on the Property"

Page 4, Line 7

At the beginning of the line, insert a subdivision "(f)" followed by the text "A privacy fence not exceeding eight feet in height shall be permitted along property lines to the rear of the single-family dwelling" followed by a period

At the beginning of the line, insert a subdivision "(g)" followed by the text "The dwelling unit within the building accessory to the single-family dwelling unit shall only be occupied by family members of the Owner and shall not be rented to the general public. For the purposes of this ordinance, 'family members' shall be defined as persons related by blood, marriage, or legal guardianship or adoption, including foster children" followed by a period

There were no comments or discussions and **motion was seconded and approved:** Ayes 7, Jones, Robertson, Larson, Lynch, Gray, Addison, Newbille. Noes None. Hilbert was excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Councilor Andreas Addison moved to approve the minutes of the following Richmond City Council meetings: Special Meeting held on Monday, May 4, 2020, at 3:30 p.m.; Special Meeting held on Monday, June 1, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.; Informal and Formal Council Sessions held on Tuesday, May 26, 2020, at 4:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m., respectively; Informal and Formal Council Sessions held on Monday, June 8, 2020, at 3:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m., respectively.

The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 8, Jones, Robertson, Larson, Gray, Trammell, Addison, Hilbert, Newbille. Noes None.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

City Council will hold a public hearing on the following ordinances and resolution on Monday, July 27, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.:

ORD. 2020-145

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to submit a Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as an application for the receipt of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) funds, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funds; to accept funds from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the total amount of \$8,224,401.00; and to appropriate \$8,224,401.00 for various projects.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(3)(c).

ORD. 2020-146

To amend Ord. No. 2020-050, adopted May 11, 2020, which adopted the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Special Fund Budget and made appropriations pursuant thereto, by increasing estimated revenues from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the amount appropriated to the Department of Housing and Community Development's Special Fund by \$418,767.00, for the purpose of funding housing, community and economic development activities, and assistance for low- and moderate- income persons and special needs populations.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(3)(c).

ORD. 2020-147

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to enter into the Twenty-Third Commercial Area Revitalization Effort Program Cooperation Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Economic Development Authority of the City of Richmond for the

purpose of providing for the operation of the Commercial Area Revitalization Effort (“CARE”) Program.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Finance and Economic Standing Committee meeting on Thursday, July 16, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.

ORD. 2020-148

To amend ch. 26, art. V of the City Code by adding therein a new div. 10 (§ § 26-590-26-599) for the purpose of providing for the partial exemption of certain rehabilitated commercial or industrial structures from real estate taxation.

Patron: Ms. Robertson

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Finance and Economic Standing Committee meeting on Thursday, July 16, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.

ORD. 2020-149

To authorize the special use of the property known as 1101 North Arthur Ashe Boulevard for the purpose of a mixed-use building containing up to 29 dwelling units, with amenity spaces and commercial uses on the ground floor, upon certain terms and conditions.

Patron: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Monday, July 20, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

ORD. 2020-150

To authorize the special use of the property known as 1110 North 20th Street for the purpose of a two-family detached dwelling, upon certain terms and conditions.

Patron: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Monday, July 20, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

ORD. 2020-151

To authorize the special use of the property known as 3211 Delaware Avenue for the purpose of a group home located within an existing single-family dwelling, upon certain terms and conditions.

Patron: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Monday, July 20, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

ORD. 2020-152

To designate the 4000, 4100, 4200, and 4300 blocks of Crutchfield Street in honor of the late Leslie D. Jackson.

Patron: Ms. Lynch

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting on Tuesday, July 21, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.

ORD. 2020-153

To rename that portion of U.S. Route 1, known as Jefferson Davis Highway and located within the corporate boundaries of the City, from its northerly terminus at its intersection with Hull Street to its southerly terminus at the corporate limits of the City near its intersection with Walmsley Boulevard, as "Richmond Highway."

Patron: Ms. Trammell

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting on Tuesday, July 21, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.

RES. 2020-R044

To express the Council's support for the Director of Public Works' administrative directive entitled "Protected walkways and crosswalks, bicycle lane, and shared use paths" requiring certain pedestrian and bicycle accommodations and pathways within construction work zones.

Patrons: Mr. Addison and Mr. Jones

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting on Tuesday, July 21, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch left the meeting.

REPORTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Members of Council provided reports and announcements regarding respective district meetings and activities.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

CITY CLERK

From: [Danny Zemel](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 11:50:48 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members:

My name is Danny Zemel, and I live at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. I am submitting a public comment in support of:

1. Creating a civilian review board as an oversight measure of the Richmond Police Department ("RPD");
2. Reducing the budget of the RPD by at least 75%;
3. Reallocating those funds to Richmond Public Schools and Libraries, community programs assisting with mental health resources for Black and Brown communities, and additional community building in Black and Brown communities in Richmond;
4. Implementing the Marcus Alert;
5. Pressuring the Commonwealth Attorney to drop all charges against protestors;
6. Firing all officers involved in tear gassing protestors before curfew on Monday, June 1, as well as the other documented abuses, such as spitting on a detained protester; and,
7. Removing all confederate statues in the City - not just the ones on Monument Avenue.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Danny Zemel, Esq.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Owen Fitzgerald](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 12:06:09 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members:

My name is Owen FitzGerald, and I live at [REDACTED]. I am submitting a public comment in support of:

1. Creating a civilian review board as an oversight measure of the Richmond Police Department;
2. Reducing the budget of the Richmond Police Department by 75%;
3. Reallocating those funds to Richmond Public Schools and Libraries, community programs assisting with mental health resources for Black and Brown communities, and additional community building in Black and Brown communities in Richmond;
4. Implementing the Marcus Alert, so that mental health professionals are first responders to citizens in the midst of a mental health crisis;
5. Dropping all charges against protestors;
6. Firing all officers involved in teargassing protestors before curfew on Monday, June 1; and,
7. Removing all confederate statues in the City - not just the ones on Monument Avenue.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Owen FitzGerald

From: [Emily Fritz](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Concern
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 12:13:11 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members:

My name is Emily Fritz, and I live in Richmond, Virginia. I am submitting a public comment in support of:

1. Creating a civilian review board as an oversight measure of the Richmond Police Department;
2. Reducing the budget of the Richmond Police Department by 75%;
3. Reallocating those funds to Richmond Public Schools and Libraries, community programs assisting with mental health resources for Black and Brown communities, and additional community building in Black and Brown communities in Richmond;
4. Implementing the Marcus Alert, so that mental health professionals are first responders to citizens in the midst of a mental health crisis;
5. Dropping all charges against protestors;
6. Firing all officers involved in teargassing protestors before curfew on Monday, June 1; and,
7. Removing all confederate statues in the City - not just the ones on Monument Avenue.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Emily Fritz

From: [Gibson, Nicole](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 12:36:28 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members:

My name is Nicole Gibson, and I live at [REDACTED]. I am submitting a public comment in support of:

1. Creating a civilian review board as an oversight measure of the Richmond Police Department;
2. Reducing the budget of the Richmond Police Department by 75%;
3. Reallocating those funds to Richmond Public Schools and Libraries, community programs assisting with mental health resources for Black and Brown communities, and additional community building in Black and Brown communities in Richmond;
4. Implementing the Marcus Alert, so that mental health professionals are first responders to citizens in the midst of a mental health crisis;
5. Dropping all charges against protestors;
6. Firing all officers involved in teargassing protestors before curfew on Monday, June 1; and,
7. Removing all confederate statues in the City - not just the ones on Monument Avenue.

I look forward to seeing your response.

Sincerely,

Nicole Gibson, J.D.
[REDACTED]

From: [Allison Yacono](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment Submittal
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 12:57:05 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members,

My name is Allison Yacono and I live at [REDACTED]. I am submitting a public comment in support of:

1. Creating a civilian review board as an oversight measure of the Richmond Police Department
2. Reducing the budget of the RPD and reallocating funds to Richmond Public Schools and Libraries, community programs assisting with mental health resources for Black and Brown communities, and additional community building in Black and Brown communities of Richmond
3. Dropping charges on all peaceful protesters
4. Implementation of the Marcus Alert, and
5. Removal of Confederate statues all over the city—not just on Monument Ave.

I look forward to your response.

Thank you,
Allison

From: [Grant Turner](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public comment
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 1:45:29 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members:

My name is grant turner, and I live at [REDACTED]. I am submitting a public comment in support of:

1. Creating a civilian review board as an oversight measure of the Richmond Police Department;
2. Reducing the budget of the Richmond Police Department by 75%;
3. Reallocating those funds to Richmond Public Schools and Libraries, community programs assisting with mental health resources for Black and Brown communities, and additional community building in Black and Brown communities in Richmond;
4. Implementing the Marcus Alert, so that mental health professionals are first responders to citizens in the midst of a mental health crisis;
5. Dropping all charges against protestors;
6. Firing all officers involved in teargassing protestors before curfew on Monday, June 1; and,
7. Removing all confederate statues in the City - not just the ones on Monument Avenue.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Grant turner
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Heather Tobey](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Dear council members
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 2:22:21 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members:

My name is Heather Tobey, and I live at [REDACTED]. I am submitting a public comment in support of:

1. Creating a civilian review board as an oversight measure of the Richmond Police Department;
2. Reducing the budget of the Richmond Police Department by 75%;
3. Reallocating those funds to Richmond Public Schools and Libraries, community programs assisting with mental health resources for Black and Brown communities, and additional community building in Black and Brown communities in Richmond;
4. Implementing the Marcus Alert, so that mental health professionals are first responders to citizens in the midst of a mental health crisis;
5. Dropping all charges against protestors;
6. Firing all officers involved in tear gassing protestors before curfew on Monday, June 1; and,
7. Removing all confederate statues in the City - not just the ones on Monument Avenue.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Heather Tobey

From: [Rabia Husain](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public comment regarding Black Lives Matter
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 2:24:36 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members:

My name is Rabia Husain and I live in Richmond. I am submitting a public comment in support of:

1. Creating a civilian review board as an oversight measure of the Richmond Police Department;
2. Reducing the budget of the Richmond Police Department by 75%;
3. Reallocating those funds to Richmond Public Schools and Libraries, community programs assisting with mental health resources for Black and Brown communities, and additional community building in Black and Brown communities in Richmond;
4. Implementing the Marcus Alert, so that mental health professionals are first responders to citizens in the midst of a mental health crisis;
5. Dropping all charges against protestors;
6. Firing all officers involved in tear gassing protestors before curfew on Monday, June 1; and,
7. Removing all confederate statues in the City - not just the ones on Monument Avenue.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
Rabia Husain

From: [Viscomi, Alta](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public comment
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 2:25:58 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members:

My name is Alta Viscomi, and I live at [REDACTED]. I am submitting a public comment in support of:

1. Creating a civilian review board as an oversight measure of the Richmond Police Department;
2. Reducing the budget of the Richmond Police Department by 75%;
3. Reallocating those funds to Richmond Public Schools and Libraries, community programs assisting with mental health resources for Black and Brown communities, and additional community building in Black and Brown communities in Richmond;
4. Implementing the Marcus Alert, so that mental health professionals are first responders to citizens in the midst of a mental health crisis;
5. Dropping all charges against protestors;
6. Firing all officers involved in teargassing protestors before curfew on Monday, June 1; and,
7. Removing all confederate statues in the City - not just the ones on Monument Avenue.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Alta Viscomi
[REDACTED]

From: [Keeley O'Shea](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Justice
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 2:50:34 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members:

My name is Keeley O'Shea, and I live on [REDACTED]. I am submitting a public comment in support of:

1. Creating a civilian review board as an oversight measure of the Richmond Police Department;
2. Reducing the budget of the Richmond Police Department by 75%;
3. Reallocating those funds to Richmond Public Schools and Libraries, community programs assisting with mental health resources for Black and Brown communities, and additional community building in Black and Brown communities in Richmond;
4. Implementing the Marcus Alert, so that mental health professionals are first responders to citizens in the midst of a mental health crisis;
5. Dropping all charges against protestors;
6. Firing all officers involved in tear gassing protestors before curfew on Monday, June 1; and,
7. Removing all confederate statues in the City - not just the ones on Monument Avenue.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Keeley O'Shea

From: [Willy Clair](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: It's time for change.
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 2:55:32 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members:

My name is Willy Clair and I live in Richmond, VA. I am submitting a public comment in support of:

1. Creating a civilian review board as an oversight measure of the Richmond Police Department;
2. Reducing the budget of the Richmond Police Department by 75%;
3. Reallocating those funds to Richmond Public Schools and Libraries, community programs assisting with mental health resources for Black and Brown communities, and additional community building in Black and Brown communities in Richmond;
4. Implementing the Marcus Alert, so that mental health professionals are first responders to citizens in the midst of a mental health crisis;
5. Dropping all charges against protestors;
6. Firing all officers involved in tear gassing protestors before curfew on Monday, June 1; and,
7. Removing all confederate statues in the City - not just the ones on Monument Avenue.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
Willy Clair

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Julia Brown](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Change that needs to happen!
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 3:05:41 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members:

My name is Julia Brown and I live at [REDACTED]. I am submitting a public comment in support of:

1. Creating a civilian review board as an oversight measure of the Richmond Police Department;
2. Reducing the budget of the Richmond Police Department by 75%;
3. Reallocating those funds to Richmond Public Schools and Libraries, community programs assisting with mental health resources for Black and Brown communities, and additional community building in Black and Brown communities in Richmond;
4. Implementing the Marcus Alert, so that mental health professionals are first responders to citizens in the midst of a mental health crisis;
5. Dropping all charges against protestors;
6. Firing all officers involved in tear gassing protestors before curfew on Monday, June 1; and,
7. Removing all confederate statues in the City - not just the ones on Monument Avenue.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Julia Brown

From: [Jedszelle Baul](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 3:14:19 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members:

My name is Jed Baul, and I am a third-year student at VCU from Chesapeake, Virginia. I am submitting a public comment in support of:

1. Creating a civilian review board as an oversight measure of the Richmond Police Department;
2. Reducing the budget of the Richmond Police Department by 75%;
3. Reallocating those funds to Richmond Public Schools and Libraries, community programs assisting with mental health resources for Black and Brown communities, and additional community building in Black and Brown communities in Richmond;
4. Implementing the Marcus Alert, so that mental health professionals are first responders to citizens in the midst of a mental health crisis;
5. Dropping all charges against protestors;
6. Firing all officers involved in tear gassing protestors before curfew on Monday, June 1; and,
7. Removing all confederate statues in the City - not just the ones on Monument Avenue.

This is a pivotal point not only in this country's history, but for the Commonwealth and the City of Richmond. We are tired of seeing systemic racism and oppression affect Black and Brown communities as their lives are being taken away, especially by police officers here in Richmond with their despicable actions against peaceful protestors. The monuments across the city are only a painful reminder for many of us that Virginia and Richmond are rooted in centuries of slavery, racism and white supremacy. We need fundamental changes to take place, not apologies. Richmonders are tired of being oversold on promises solely to pander and shut down the voices that have been silent for so long. It is time that we systematically change these broken systems that can actually work for the people and prevent the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery, and countless other Black lives. Make Black Lives Matter.

I look forward to your response. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jed Baul

From: [Shelby G](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: An idea on how to send more money to communities in need, without defunding the police.
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 3:15:33 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hi!

What if we work on legalizing weed in Virginia, then put all the taxes/50% of profits of those sales towards our lower income communities in need? This money could specifically go to better education, mental health resources, job training, community building programs, and health resources.

Best,
Shelby

From: [thesammi5000](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Voice of your people
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 3:21:09 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members,

My name is Samantha Weiss and I live in [REDACTED] I am submitting public comment in support of:

- a. creating a civilian review board as an oversight measure of the Richmond Police Department
- b. reducing the budget of the Richmond Police Department by 75% and reallocating funds to Richmond Public Schools and Libraries, community programs assisting with mental health resources for Black and Brown communities, and additional community building in Black and Brown communities of Richmond.

I look forward to your response.

Thank you,
SAM

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment June 8, 2020
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 3:23:59 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members:

My name is Abigail and I am a resident of [REDACTED]. I am submitting a public comment in support of:

1. Creating a civilian review board as an oversight measure of the Richmond Police Department;
2. Reducing the budget of the Richmond Police Department;
3. Reallocating those funds to Richmond Public Schools and Libraries, community programs assisting with mental health resources for Black and Brown communities, and additional community building in Black and Brown communities in Richmond;
4. Implementing the Marcus Alert, so that mental health professionals are first responders to citizens in the midst of a mental health crisis;
5. Dropping all charges against protestors;
6. Firing all officers involved in tear gassing protestors before curfew on Monday, June 1; and,
7. Removing all confederate statues in the City - not just the ones on Monument Avenue.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Abigail

From: [Gabby Urcia](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: [URGENT] Public Comment to Richmond City Council
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 3:29:22 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members:

My name is Gabby Urcia, and I live in [REDACTED]. I am submitting a public comment in support of:

1. Creating a civilian review board as an oversight measure of the Richmond Police Department;
2. Reducing the budget of the Richmond Police Department by 75%;
3. Reallocating those funds to Richmond Public Schools and Libraries, community programs assisting with mental health resources for Black and Brown communities, and additional community building in Black and Brown communities in Richmond;
4. Implementing the Marcus Alert, so that mental health professionals are first responders to citizens in the midst of a mental health crisis;
5. Dropping all charges against protestors;
6. Firing all officers involved in tear gassing protestors before curfew on Monday, June 1; and,
7. Removing all confederate statues in the City - not just the ones on Monument Avenue.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
Gabby Urcia

From: [Elizabeth Lough](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 3:44:21 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members:

My name is Elizabeth Lough, and I live at [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. I am submitting a public comment in support of:

1. Creating a civilian review board as an oversight measure of the Richmond Police Department;
2. Reducing the budget of the Richmond Police Department by 75%;
3. Reallocating those funds to Richmond Public Schools and Libraries, community programs assisting with mental health resources for Black and Brown communities, and additional community build in Black and Brown communities in Richmond;
4. Implementing the Marcus Alert, so that mental health professionals are first responders to citizens in the midst of a mental health crisis;
5. Dropping all the charges against protestors;
6. Firing all officers involved in tear gassing protestors before curfew on Monday, June 1; and,
7. Removing all confederate statues in the City - not just the ones on Monument Avenue.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Lough
[REDACTED]

From: [Margot Brown](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment for Richmond City Council, June 8, 2020
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 3:53:15 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members:

My name is Margot Brown and I live at [REDACTED]. I am submitting a public comment in support of:

1. Creating a civilian review board as an oversight measure of the Richmond Police Department;
2. Reducing the budget of the Richmond Police Department by 75%;
3. Reallocating those funds to Richmond Public Schools and Libraries, community programs assisting with mental health resources for Black and Brown communities, and additional community building in Black and Brown communities in Richmond;
4. Implementing the Marcus Alert, so that mental health professionals are first responders to citizens in the midst of a mental health crisis;
5. Dropping all charges against protestors;
6. Firing all officers involved in tear gassing protestors before curfew on Monday, June 1; and,
7. Removing all confederate statues in the City - not just the ones on Monument Avenue.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Margot Brown

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Cassandra Ellison](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 4:02:33 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members,

My name is Cassandra Ellison and I live at [REDACTED]. I am submitting public comment in support of:

1. Creating a civilian review board as an oversight measure of the Richmond Police Department
2. Reducing the budget of the Richmond Police Department by 75% and reallocating funds to Richmond Public Schools and Libraries, community programs assisting with mental health, substance abuse, and disability resources for Black and Brown communities, and additional community building in Black and Brown communities of Richmond.
3. Establishing a service of mental health professionals or Peer Supporters to deescalate situations in which a person is having a mental health crisis, is "acting strangely," or requires a welfare check.

I look forward to your response.

Thank you,
Cassandra Ellison

From: [Anya Shcherbakova](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: 6/8 City Council Meeting: Public Comment
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 4:31:58 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members,

My name is Anya and I live at [REDACTED]. I am submitting public comment in support of:

- a. creating a civilian review board as an oversight measure of the Richmond Police Department
- b. reducing the budget of the Richmond Police Department by 75% and reallocating funds to Richmond Public Schools and Libraries, community programs assisting with mental health resources for Black and Brown communities, and additional community building in Black and Brown communities of Richmond.

I look forward to your response.

Thank you,
Anya

From: [Andy Brown](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 5:17:06 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members:

My name is Andy Brown. I am a teacher and I live at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I am submitting a public comment in support of:

1. Creating a civilian review board as an oversight measure of the Richmond Police Department;
2. Reducing the budget of the Richmond Police Department by 75%;
3. Reallocating those funds to Richmond Public Schools and Libraries, community programs assisting with mental health resources for Black and Brown communities, and additional community building in Black and Brown communities in Richmond;
4. Implementing the Marcus Alert, so that mental health professionals are first responders to citizens in the midst of a mental health crisis;
5. Dropping all charges against protestors;
6. Firing all officers involved in teargassing protestors before curfew on Monday, June 1; and,
7. Removing all confederate statues in the City - not just the ones on Monument Avenue.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
Andy Brown

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Grey Swanson](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public comment
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 11:48:04 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members:

My name is Grey Swanson, and I live at [REDACTED]. I am submitting a public comment in support of:

1. Creating a civilian review board as an oversight measure of the Richmond Police Department;
2. Reducing the budget of the Richmond Police Department by 75%;
3. Reallocating those funds to Richmond Public Schools and Libraries, community programs assisting with mental health resources for Black and Brown communities, and additional community building in Black and Brown communities in Richmond;
4. Implementing the Marcus Alert, so that mental health professionals are first responders to citizens in the midst of a mental health crisis;
5. Dropping all charges against protestors;
6. Firing all officers involved in teargassing protestors before curfew on Monday, June 1; and,
7. Removing all confederate statues in the City - not just the ones on Monument Avenue.

I look forward to your response.

Best,
Grey Swanson

From: [Heather Jerabeck](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Attn: Cynthia Newbille
Date: Sunday, June 14, 2020 3:53:01 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members,

My name is Heather Jerabeck and I live [REDACTED]. I ask that apply pressure to Mayor Stoney to IMMEDIATELY fire and charge every single police involved in acts of violence against protestors.

Including Chief William Smith who's weak leadership condones these violent/racist behaviors. You must take responsibility for protecting Richmonds marginalized communities.

Thank you,

Heather

To: Candice D. Reid, City Clerk

Date: June 9, 2020

From: Marianne M. McKee

Subject: Distribution of letter to Mayor and Council Members

I have a letter for the mayor and for council members. Craig Bieber, Ms. Gray's liason, said that if I send it to you, you would make copies and distribute it to those individuals.

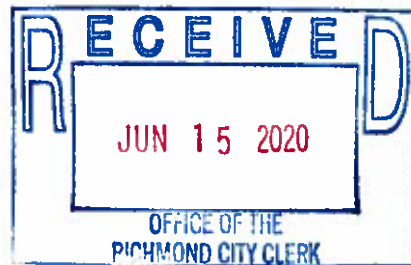
Enclosed are two copies of the letter, one for the mayor and one to be copied for each of the council members. If you need to contact me, my telephone is [REDACTED]

Thank you so much.

Marianne M. McKee



Richmond City Council Members
Richmond City Hall
Second Floor
900 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219



Dear Council Member:

I've lived in the city of Richmond since 1970. For these many years, I've travelled up and down Monument Avenue for a variety of reasons, not really paying attention to the statues. To be quite honest, it's difficult to pay attention to them while you are driving, trying to get around them without an accident.

I understand the need to move them, although I certainly thought they would have been put in context by now when that was agreed upon over two years ago. However, money to move the statues should be a great consideration. Over the years, projects such as the 6th St Marketplace, Main Street Station, Redskins training camp, etc., have displaced money from the public schools in the city. The monuments issue could also divert money and attention from one of our most important needs.

So more specific thoughts.

First, it would be helpful to move them with respect, which I think you plan to do. There is a lot of anger in regard to this issue, and I think the city needs to be thoughtful as it deals with this and other related issues and try to diffuse the situation.

Also, I don't think adding statues of people on Monument Avenue would help. I think it would just make citizens more angry and upset and, again, divert attention from education and other needs of the city. Leaving those statues north of Arthur Ashe Boulevard to remain would be an ideal opportunity and an example of putting both statues in context. Maury was a scientist, naval officer, and spent most of the Civil War abroad, and made many positive contributions to science, including charts of winds, whales, currents and ocean travel. Arthur Ashe's athletic contributions could be highlighted as well. Both Maury and Ashe could focus on education.

Suggestions for replacements:

- Primarily to make the areas educational beyond race, beyond the Civil War, even beyond people – a focus on Virginia and its geological and natural history.

- Extinct animals, e.g., the mastodon, 12,000 years old, found in Yorktown not too long ago; a pile of oyster shells as big as a man's foot (according to John Smith – but feet were smaller then), perhaps a nice vertical rendering of the state fossil, the *Chesapeake jeffersonius*.
- Some kind of map, e.g., on the ground like the one at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science which shows the Chesapeake Bay with different types of stone, but this one would show the James River area; perhaps a large rendering of John Smith's map of Virginia, which includes the presence of Native Americans; a globe showing Richmond in context of the world.
- Perhaps a small representation of the physical geography of Virginia, from the coast to the mountains, east to west.
- Local animals – what we see in our neighborhoods – possums, raccoons, squirrels, cats, dogs, etc., come to mind with a fountain (perhaps at the Jefferson Davis site) that could be enjoyed during the many gatherings on Monument Avenue, e.g., the Easter Parade.

Let people see our history – but a different kind of history. What Virginia has given and could give *to* the people – but NO people as monuments. History is yesterday, and we need to move on. This could be a cooperative project, engaging Richmond citizens, artists, and historians – and Richmond's young people in schools, bringing them together to resolve an issue of concern to many and an opportunity to appreciate the good things we have.

And there will be less misunderstandings in the future if there is better education and critical thinking now. Education should come first.

Thank you.



Marianne M. McKee

Copies sent to Council Members and Mayor

From: [Alex Caligiuri](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Regarding RPD
Date: Monday, June 15, 2020 3:32:30 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

To the Richmond City Council, Mayor Stoney, Chief Smith, and the entire Richmond Police Department,

I hope this letter finds you fearing the righteous wrath of God.

Once again, the RPD has attacked unarmed protestors with chemical weapons. Once again, the RPD has threatened the lives of citizens of this city. ***Once again, the Richmond Police Department sinks to a new low by taking hostage a young protester and attempting to leverage the end of the protest in exchange for her 'freedom' (though in truth, only so they could transport her to the jail and formally charge her with their FALSE felony charge!)***

I ***DEMAND*** that this blatantly false and abusive charge be dropped against this protester and I ***DEMAND*** that all charges be dropped against all other protesters and that any who are still imprisoned be released! And furthermore, I ***DEMAND THAT MAYOR LEVAR STONEY AND CHIEF OF POLICE WILLIAM SMITH RESIGN AS THEY ARE BOTH CLEARLY UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO REIGN IN THE RICHMOND POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THEIR INHUMAN AND BRUTAL TREATMENT OF UNARMED PROTESTERS AND UNAFFILIATED CITIZENS!***

And do not think I or anyone else has not forgotten that the citizens of Richmond are paying 138 million dollars for the privilege of being brutalized by a gang of racist thugs who think they're an army.

With *all* due respect,
Alex Caligiuri

From: [Nathan Grice](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Attn: Cynthia Newbille
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 12:39:40 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members,

My name is Nathan Grice and I live in Fulton Hill. I ask that apply pressure to Mayor Stoney to IMMEDIATELY fire and charge every single police involved in acts of violence against protestors.

Including Chief William Smith who's weak leadership condones these violent/racist behaviors. You must take responsibility for protecting Richmonds marginalized communities.

Thank you,
Nathan

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Alex Caligiuri](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office; Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#)
Subject: Not enough
Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 11:35:51 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

To the Richmond City Council in general and Councilwoman Kimberly Gray in specific,

Yesterday, Mayor Stoney announced that RPD Chief William Smith resigned, yet at the same time as his press conference where he condemned protesters resisting police violence and dog whistled about 'outside agitators', the Richmond Police Department constructed fortress out of one block of Grace Street. Photographic evidence shows that RPD is **STILL OUTFITTED AS AN OCCUPYING FORCE AND SEVERAL MEMBERS OF RPD COMPARED THE CITY TO A WARZONE DEPLOYMENT.**

THE RESIGNATION OF WILLIAM SMITH IS NOT ENOUGH.

It CANNOT be enough when a military-armed police force declare war on the community they are supposedly protecting. It cannot be enough when a military-armed police force continues to use tactics on **UNARMED CIVILIANS** which have been declared **WAR CRIMES** by the international community. It cannot be enough when the city government, in a clear petty retaliation of protesters not falling for the RPD's trap, installs concrete barriers around a public space in a **CLEAR ATTEMPT** to deter public gathering in public spaces and to make it easier for **MASS UNLAWFUL ARRESTS** by the thugs that make up the RPD.

I DEMAND THAT PUBLIC FUNDS NO LONGER BE SPEND ON THE RICHMOND POLICE DEPARTMENT. THIS ORGANIZATION IS ONE OF THE LARGEST CAUSES OF HARM TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND ATTEMPTS BY MAYOR STONEY TO DEFEND THEM AS WELL AS ANY CONSIDERATION OF THEM IN THE 2021 BUDGET IS COWARDICE AND AGAINST THE PUBLIC GOOD.

DEFUND THE RPD! I hope you drown in demands such as mine! I hope an ocean of letters bursts through your doors! I hope the phone lines smoke and spark under the weight of the voice of the people demanding justice!

Maybe then at last you will listen!

With all due respect,

Alex Caligiuri

From: [Hannah M](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Office](#)
Subject: Comments for City Council Meeting on 6/22/2020
Date: Saturday, June 20, 2020 5:57:30 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Candice D. Reid,

My name is Hannah McHugh. I represent no organizations. I am a concerned Richmond citizen, residing in the [REDACTED], and am commenting because I feel that it personally concerns me. It does not economically or professionally impact my relationships.

My comment is as follows:

"As a disturbed Richmond citizen who has witnessed a complete lack of leadership in my elected officials over the last month—from your coronavirus response, to the civil unrest and numerous cases of police violence—I would like to express and refocus your attention to some key concerns, which are essentially unacknowledged by any legislation on this current meeting's docket. Echoing the public demands of many other Richmond citizens, I strongly encourage you to:

- 1. Re-open the Marcus-David Peters Case.**
- 2. Defund the Richmond Police and Sheriff's Office entirely.** Reallocate these funds into Human Services and Education. Revitalize a Care Economy in a city that so desperately needs it.
- 3. Drop all charges against every protester, regardless of the charge's nature.** There can be no rightful or even lawful arrests when your officers have in-mass brutalized and agitated the general public so severely over the last month. They cannot be trusted, and therefore, you cannot punish citizens for their unique responses to these terrorizers and the wrongful legislation that further condoned this gestapo-esque behavior.
- 4. Establish a Civilian Review Board with subpoena powers, separate and completely independent of the Richmond Police Department and Sheriff's Office.** It goes without saying that these officers are trained to be afraid, violent, and essentially useless at their once core-duty: to *protect* and *serve* the *community*. Therefore, we need complete community oversight.
- 5. Release the names of the RPD officers that are currently under investigation for misconduct.**
- 6. Remove all confederate monuments.**
- 7. Give complete and total rent amnesty to those facing evictions, and**

suspend all future rent/mortgage payments for the duration of this global pandemic. Despite popular belief, the coronavirus will *not* be over by June 28th—the end of the eviction moratorium. Going through with these evictions and forcing vulnerable people into even more precarious financial/living situations during a viral epidemic is a health-risk to *everyone*. Please protect the people of Richmond. Stop punishing citizens who cannot even afford to live right now.

All that being said, there are a *few* items on this meeting's docket which vaguely intersect with the demands above. Those being:

ORDINANCE No. 2019-275 and No. 2019-276 — establishing a Technology Zone and giving bizarre tax breaks to these future tech workers—essentially outsourcing Richmond's current economy to profit-hungry businesses that have absolutely *no* interest in bettering our communities. It feels redundant to say that this is a sloppy, quick-fix attempt at economic revitalization. We already know what happens to cities *just* like Richmond that use this approach—paving the way for gentrification. No matter how well-intentioned this approach might be, how can you reconcile the outcome which will likely mirror that of Seattle, San Francisco, Boston, Houston, etc...? If your intentions are to revitalize our economy, why not invest in the business sectors and workers that already *carry* Richmond? Why not raise the minimum wage? Why not invest in affordable housing? Why not provide better safety nets for the Richmond citizens that are statistically most likely to be pushed out by this hasty decision? If what you view as a successful Technology Zone involves negatively impacting and displacing *any* percentage of the RVA population, where do your priorities truly lie as elected officials? I encourage city council to do much better, and find a different approach to this problem.

and finally,

RESOLUTION No. 2020-R043 — renaming the Lee Memorial Bridge. This is obviously the absolute *very least* you can do right now. How many more confederate statues do civilians have to tear down for you all to recognize there is a *general consensus* that Richmond abhors this disgusting history? We need to stop glorifying it. Be the progressive change this city desperately needs, in language and in action. Rename the bridge, and while you're at it, please come up with some better legislation that shows your commitment to progressive **action**."

Thank you.

-Hannah McHugh

From: [Jeffrey Clowes](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Problems with city government
Date: Sunday, June 21, 2020 9:53:42 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Gentlepeople,

The following are changes I would like to see made in light of recent events in the city.

First, the city should drop ALL charges and fines against protesters. If there is evidence of looting, robbery, etc, fine, but for those people involved in protests against the killing of George Floyd and so many other Black citizens at the hands of police, drop all charges.

Second, the city needs to begin investigations of all officers involved in pepper spraying, tear gassing, or assaulting a citizen with a vehicle, and remove from active duty any police officer currently under investigation for said activities. That investigation should be carried out with members of the public/community (i.e. not the police or current administration) involved.

Third, the city should institute a policy disallowing hateful tattoos on members of its force, such as that worn by Lt. Brian Prendergast on his left forearm quite openly touting Nazi ideology. Fourth, the city should ensure that the hiring process ensures that members of hate groups and similarly otherwise unfit officers are not recruited to the force. Fifth, the city should change its police policy in a number of ways, enumerated below.

First, use of force policies in general should be reviewed and significantly altered, so that citizen safety is prioritized over officer fear. Policy regarding crowd control should be codified if it is not already, and should disallow the use of tear gas, pepper spray, mace or other irritants; flash grenades, rubber bullets, and any other weapons which officers have used with remarkably poor judgement, likely due to poor training and discipline.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Clowes

From: [David McQuillin](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Input from a Fan District Resident | Upload the Rule of Law or Resign
Date: Sunday, June 21, 2020 9:16:08 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Richmond City Council,

You are suppose to support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the laws of Virginia.

You are in utter violation of your oath.

It is illegal to:

- Destroy public property
- Destroy private property
- Park unlawfully around Lee Circle
- Shoot off fireworks at all hours of the night
- Attack the police

And yet you and the Mayor do nothing.

“Fiddling while Rome burns.” comes to mind.

If is your job and duty to enforce the rule of law. Not kowtow to an angry mob. You are destroying our great city and with it economic prosperity for all races. Have you taken a look at Broad Street and down town recently?

Please enforce the laws or resign and let someone else do it.

My wife and I pay over \$40,000 in city and state taxes.

We will have no other choice than to leave the city and the state if you cannot regain law and order.

And from talking to my friends there is a very large, yet silent group that feels the same.

Peaceful protests fine - weeks of lawlessness no.

DavidM

From: [Heather McQuillin](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Vandalism and safety issues in the Fan
Date: Sunday, June 21, 2020 9:23:12 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

The protests have gotten completely out of control in the Fan. I am a resident and am all for peaceful protests but what we are experiencing on a daily basis is a far cry from peaceful. Mayor Stoney has blamed RPD and has forced the resignation of a great police chief when in fact he should have backed him up and worked hard protecting our city from the vandalism and destruction taking place daily and nightly. Statues being torn down, spray painting everything in site, illegal parking, firecrackers going off all night long, music at Lee circle well past hours that should be allowed and now closing down Stuart Circle for skateboarding, roller skating and lighting firecrackers on the monument. How is this safe and peaceful. If emergency vehicles need to get to those of us living in the fan getting around the neighborhood is difficult at Lee Circle and Stuart Circle as the protesters just shut the circle down and park illegally. There are no tow trucks or tickets happening.

I am embarrassed by our city and can't even imagine how long it is going to be to clean up the mess and have anyone want to come visit what was once a vibrant city with great restaurants and a cool vibe. It looks like a war zone and the profanity denouncing our police force sprayed everywhere on our city sidewalks, street signs, homes, brick walls and monuments is a disgrace.

I am fine with peaceful protests but that does not include breaking the law. Many folks I have talked to are wanting to sell and move out. What will happen to property taxes and city revenue. Please engage with the citizens of the Fan and listen to our voices as well as the protesters. We feel forgotten and unheard.

Heather M
Sent from my iPad

From: [Beth Rocheleau](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Current Situation with Protesting in the City
Date: Sunday, June 21, 2020 10:06:24 PM

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I have been a resident of the City of Richmond for the past 10 years residing at [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. The past two weeks have been a most unsettling time for me and many other residents in the Fan District.

I am disappointed beyond all measure at the lack of leadership provided by Mayor Stoney and other city officials. Mayor Stoney and other officials can show up at the rallies for the protesters but are they providing any measure of security for the neighbors in the area surrounding the Lee Statue? NO. I support peaceful protesting but is there not a noise ordinance in the City? (YES). Fireworks, music and protesting until the wee hours of the night plus tagging of personal property, ruining expensive street signs, trash overflowing from all the events held at the Lee Statue. Things are out of control and it seems the police have been told to "stand down" and no City ordinances are enforced.

We, the City residents pay taxes for City services but currently it appears that the protesters are in control, can and will do anything they wish without any interference. I am embarrassed now to say The Fan District is my home. Perhaps Mayor Stoney should come spend the night in his car to see if he could sleep through all the noise.

One last note - perhaps if the City had really been on top of this situation, they would have removed some of the smaller statues in advance of all this trouble.

Wake up City of Richmond -- residents are unhappy enough that many of them are considering moving out of the City. The tax base will erode and the situation will get worse.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Rocheleau
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Dnallin](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Re: My public comment for City council
Date: Sunday, June 21, 2020 11:05:04 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

If you would like to contact me, best email is [REDACTED] Thank you.

> On Jun 21, 2020, at 10:38 PM, Dnallin [REDACTED] wrote:

>

> Dear city council,

> I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to express my concerns about the spreading graffiti and destruction of property, and lack of utilization of police. I am not referring to the monument graffiti. Recently, profane and violent words have been sprayed on sidewalks, many street signs, post office boxes, neighbors' fences, and even the property of my children's preschool.

>

> As a citizen that follows the law, it is infuriating to see the widespread vandalism and destruction of public and private property without repercussions. It feels like we are setting the standard, that if you want something done, and it's against the law, just do it after dusk. Pull down a statue, break into a business, burn a business, tag public or private property... I am concerned at what comes next if city leadership does not step up and SPEAK OUT against lawlessness.

>

> I am also concerned that our police are not being supported, or that they are being told to stand down. I deeply understand the current climate. However, police are trained professionals. We need them to enforce the law and promote safety. If they don't, who will? It may not be cool, or "woke" to follow the law... but as people working and living together in a diverse community, we have to.

>

> My 5 year old is learning to read. He will start Kindergarten in the fall. Yesterday, he asked me what "F-U-C-K 12" meant, as he read those letters one-by-one off a city street sign. It broke my heart.

>

> Sincerely,

> Diana Lim

>

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From: [Barbara Williams](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Re: Virtual City Council meeting
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 12:41:39 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

As a resident of the [REDACTED], I have grave concerns over the handling of the current situation in our city. Where is the Mayor? Our beautiful city is being destroyed both physically and emotionally. Our reputation around the world is embarrassing. As taxpayers, our lives, property and sense of well being deserve to be protected. As taxpayers, I assume that we will be burdened with the cost of cleanup. This situation has been out of control for weeks now. Its time for leadership. If the Mayor can't handle the job, the City Council needs to step in. Back the police. Protect your citizens.

Barbara Williams
[REDACTED]

From: [Cherie Mehler](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Protestors vs rioters
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 6:45:17 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

The protests have spiraled downward into lawlessness. It is time to enact what should have been done a month ago to allow peaceful protests but without the negative repercussions.

The police need their hands untied by the mayor, and need to be able to do their jobs before things get out of hand.

*It's like a bad parent allowing bad behavior until the parent snaps. By not being proactive you are giving the entire police department a bad name.

The statues need to be covered until they can be removed and the areas around the monuments need to be treated as any other city park and closed down from dusk until dawn.

*You are currently allowing campers there without bathroom facilities during a pandemic.

*All the bad actors, riots, graffiti and vandalism are occurring after dark.

The neighborhood deserves to sleep at night without police helicopters and fear of [safety.to](#) body and property.

*You are allowing a group of 20 year olds who do not own property in the city to dictate your action or non action.

We own a home on [REDACTED] and recently bought in the [REDACTED] planning to make improvements and move. If things don't improve soon, we will sell both, cut our losses and leave this wonderful neighborhood which you have allowed to disintegrate into chaos and lawlessness.

From: [Mary Eure](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: For Today's City Council Meeting -- The so-called protesters are the threat to public safety
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 7:18:41 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

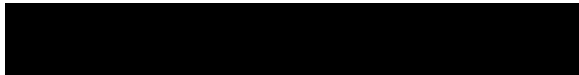
I am a law-abiding, tax-paying resident of Richmond. I have been angry and anxious for three weeks now, waiting for the government I pay for -- and I thought the government that looked out for the interests of law-abiding residents -- to do something.

The individuals who are called protesters are not law-abiding; they are disturbing the peace on a daily and nightly basis. They are destroying public and private property and nothing is happening to them. You are making people like me pay a dear, dear price for your lack of action. Soon, you will not have people like me to pay for the services this City so desperately needs.

I have supported the removal of the statutes since I moved here 5 years ago. I do not support their removal under current conditions. The statues are not a threat to public safety -- the so-called protesters are. If you give in to these people now, what will be next? George Washington and Thomas Jefferson? Mount Vernon and Monticello?

Mary Eure





From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Destruction and Violence in the Fan
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 8:29:42 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members,

I live on [REDACTED]. I am white, elderly but fit, and a widow. I am not from the South, but have lived in Richmond for 14 years, My sympathies are with My African-American neighbors in their quest for justice. But there is a certain element who are causing our neighborhood to feel like we are living in a war zone.

I just request that you endeavor to see that we at least we have a police presence to keep things on the peaceful side. I do not feel very safe here anymore, and I have never felt that way.

Sincerely, Theresa Singleton

From: [Suzanne Silitch](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Monument Avenue and the occupation of Lee Circle
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 9:23:23 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

To my elected city officials,

As you are elected to represent the people -- all people -- I implore you to take action and reinstate order in the City of Richmond. I certainly believe that people have the right to protest, to have their voices heard, and I think that many have done just that.

There are, however, other people in this City, who although they may be a minority, are not being heard. They are the people, like me, who would like order restored. Who would like to understand what our elected officials are doing to broker negotiations between protestors, police and the rest of the public. Why are some laws being enforced and others not? Why are we allowing people to spray paint the streets, signs, buildings, break the noise ordinance, and gather in large groups amid a global health crisis?

Or are these mass gatherings going to continue all summer while lives are put at risk? Will you allow these situations to continue to escalate until something truly terrible happens?

Please stand up and act.

--

Suzanne Silitch

From: [Jessie Gemmer](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Comments for tonight's meeting
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 9:30:13 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

To the Richmond City Council,

My name is Jessie Gemmer, and I am a lifetime resident of Richmond. These past few weeks are the first time I have been truly proud to be a Richmonder because it is the first time I have heard the voice of the people of the city. It is so much richer, stronger, and more passionate than anything I knew existed in Richmond. The more I learn from these voices, the more angry I am at how much needs to change and how little has been done to care for our most disadvantaged citizens. I include myself in this neglect.

People are protesting to get your attention. Don't ignore us. We would do anything to have the kind of power you have. We cannot boycott the police - we pay our taxes dutifully and you allocate where it goes. We have no recourse for economic sanctions so our only resort is to be annoying and loud enough that you will enact change just to get us to go away. I am optimistic, though, and I pray that this sea change of social activism will allow you all to act on your inner angels and do the things that made you want to be politicians. I hope and imagine that you want the best for this city, and that you are aware of the injustices forced on our Black community members and are actively working to correct those wrongs. I am excited for you to seize this opportunity to create real and meaningful change. Please do not let it pass by.

My husband is a teacher in Richmond Public Schools at Elkhardt-Thompson Middle School. You know what that means. He teaches classes primarily populated by children with IEPs to address their - predominantly emotional - disabilities. You know why they are traumatized. The school is rotting, and though I am glad it is moving to a new facility, it breaks my heart that they ever attended a school that showed them in such a clear physical demonstration that they are not important. When my husband started his school year last fall, I helped him decorate his classroom. We painted the peeling cinder block walls and rusty metal, brought in plants with grow lights to hide the fact that there were no windows, and hung colorful posters to distract from the mold and broken desks. Another teacher told us that the horrible appearance of the school was identical to the horror appearance of their homes, and that she beautified her classroom to give her students an hour a day where she could show that she cared enough about them to care for their environment.

As an architect, I believe that the physical appearance of our world forms us just as we form it. I see the city being shifted from a gritty post industrial landscape to a shiny and generic replica of every other city in America. We aspire to look successful in order to show that we have evolved. And on the fringes of that sparkling monotony are the people forced out by the development, living in squalor and horror. The same kids who get dragged out of the cafeteria by SROs go home and watch their parents get dragged out of their communities by police officers. They go from falling apart schools to falling apart homes. It seemed to me, until

these past few weeks, to just be the way the world works.

But right now, you all have a chance to change the way the world works. I listened to the last City Council and School Board meetings, and I saw the crack in the wall with light shining through. Do not compromise; do not incrementally roll out ideas that are palatable to the nameless majority. Be bold, be brave, and be loving in your decisions. Be good ancestors.

I know you're getting a lot of these letters, so I won't belabor the points about action. You know that the budget is being decided. You know that in order to improve the lives of your poorest constituents, you must take money from the police and redistribute it to social programs. You know that uniforms and weapons do not belong in schools. You know that allocating almost TWENTY NINE TIMES more money to the police than Housing and Community developments is a clear demonstration that you care more about cleansing society of people who aren't "acceptable" to society than supporting them so they aren't destined to live the same lives as their parents. (RPD's total general fund was \$95,403,743 while Housing and Community Development's was \$3,296,705). Where is the loving care for the homeless? Where is the empathy for the mentally ill? You can change it all.

I want to end this letter by strongly denouncing the actions of the RPD these last few weeks. I've talked to people who experienced their brutality. I've watched hundreds of videos and read dozens of accounts. I've also read the RPD's and Mayor's statements on those situations. They do not match up, and you know it. The police are human beings, just like the protesters, but they are allowed all the good faith and protection you have, while the protesters are condemned and lied about. These are not outside agitators - these are YOUR citizens. We are your people, and we are not going to allow the status quo to continue.

I hope someday to tell my children about this period in Richmond history with pride. I'd like to tell them your names, to relay how our city's leaders came together to set the example for the entire country for how to form a society for all people. I will do everything in my power to help create change. I insist you do, too.

Sincerely,
Jessie Gemmer

From: [Eileen Loria](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Re: Alarmed at violent protests in the city of Richmond
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 9:44:00 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Candice,

My husband accepted a faculty position at VCU medical center last June and we have been considering purchasing a home in the Museum District of Richmond. We had been enchanted by the culture and charm that Richmond has to offer; and were happy with our relocation plans from Northern VA. This has changed dramatically in the last few weeks as we contemplate what is going on and the destruction that is being tolerated. We hope that there is an end to the random violence, and intimidation tactics that are being tolerated and that through dialogue changes can be agreed upon, respecting all citizen's rights; and change can come about in a peaceful way.

Thank you,
Eileen Loria

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Lisa E. Byerly](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Comments for tonight's City Council Meeting
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 9:46:21 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

To Richmond City Council,

I respectfully request something be done to mitigate the lawlessness occurring in our city right now. While I respect everyone's right to lawfully protest, much of what is occurring in our city is not lawful and many are not feeling safe in the city we call home. There are many of us with young children in the city. We have chosen to live, work and play in the city. The vandalism, destruction of businesses, graffiti, and the walking around with with automatic weapons is not the kind of city where we feel safe nor where we want to live. We already have an older couple in our neighborhood who has lived in the city for decades talking of moving away from the chaos.

I saw an article online where a citizen was trying to clean off graffiti that was anti police and the police told him to stop. Where were the police asking the people to stop when they were vandalizing and writing the graffiti?

Many of the elementary school aged children are seeing the profanity on the monuments. This is not the example I want my child to see. Peaceful protests to make our city and world one of equality are absolutely an example they should see. Petersburg and Colonial Heights had a wonderful display of protest between these drastically different cities, where they walked across the Martin Luther King Jr. bridge, met one another and walked together back.

Please do something to make our beautiful and diverse city lawful and safer again.

Respectfully,
Lisa Byerly

From: [Diana Lim](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public comment, ADDENDUM to previous email
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 9:49:25 AM
Attachments: [ATT00001.txt](#)
[ATT00002.txt](#)
[ATT00003.txt](#)
[ATT00004.txt](#)
[ATT00005.txt](#)
[ATT00006.txt](#)
[ATT00007.txt](#)
[ATT00008.txt](#)

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Dear city Council,

Good morning, I am submitting additional photos, to the ones that I included with my email and public comment yesterday.

Just this morning, Monday, there's a significant increase in graffiti... All these photos are new graffiti that may have happened last night. Please include this photo addendum with my prior email and explanation.

Please NOTE the ESCALATION to homes, buildings, benches, and large sidewalk tags, as well as increased profanity and violent wording like "will kill cops for \$\$\$". Please see attached photos.

Sincerely,

Diana Lim




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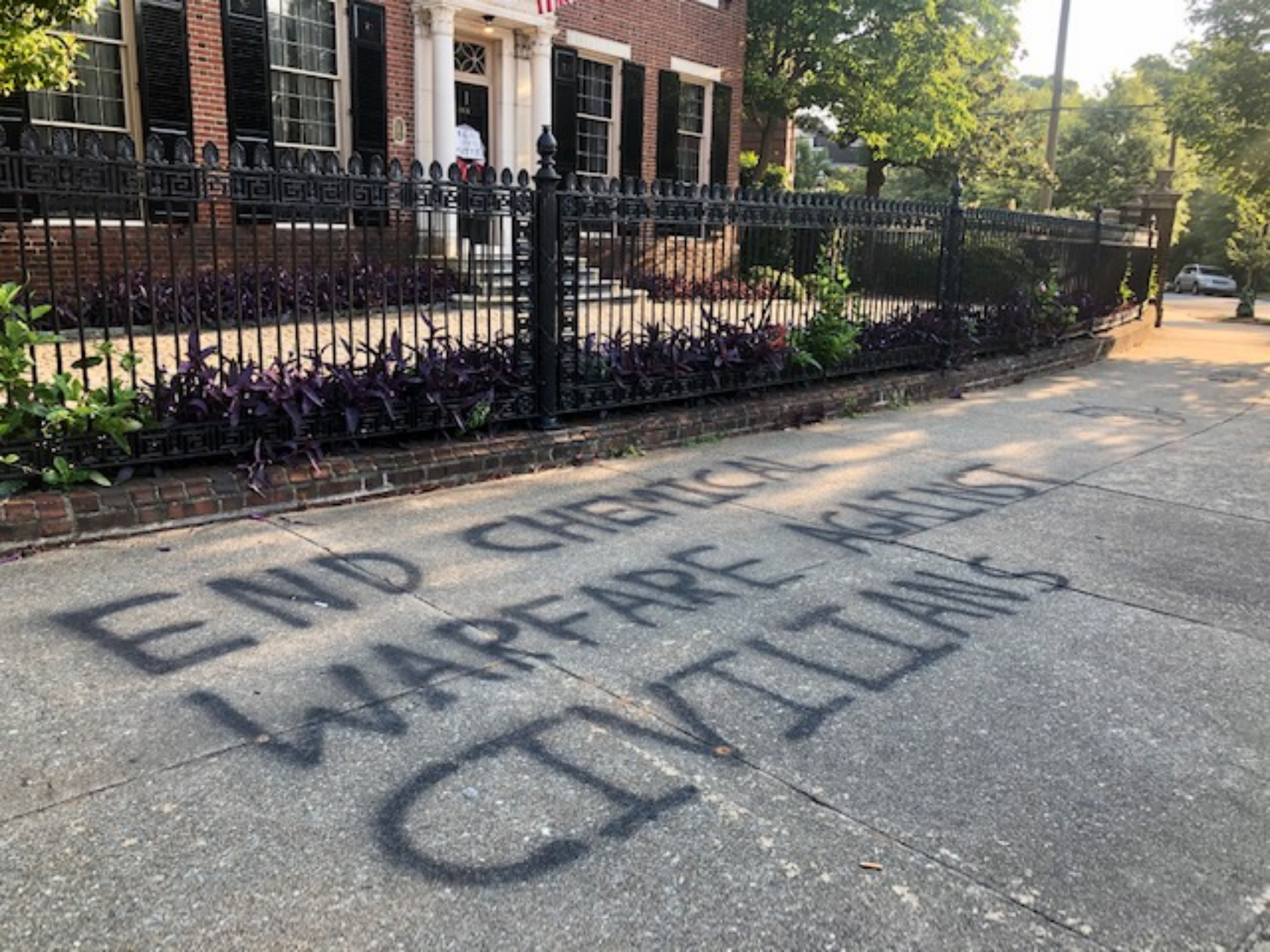
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LEAD CHEMICAL WASTE ARE KILLING CIVILIANS

WILL
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Fuck Trump



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B43 D346

From: [Kathryn Rowe](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment City Council
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 9:50:42 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Good evening councilmembers,

I am writing to stress, as strongly as I can, how excessive and unacceptable the response of the Richmond Police Force and their associates have been to the protests against police violence taking place in our city thus far. I, like many in this city and across the world, feel outraged at the current state of policing in this country. I was once under the impression that the purpose of a police force was to protect members of the community against those who may wish to harm us. It is now apparent to me, based on my own experience with the police combined with the countless filmed encounters of their interactions with others, that the largest and most terrifying source of violence in this city is the police department itself.

I have never been so fearful and so traumatized than I have while trying to exercise my First Amendment right to free speech and assembly when Richmond's police force is present. I have never seen such a grotesque false equivalence constructed whereby the smallest transgression by a civilian protestor seems to justify the limitless deployment of violence and destruction by the police. It has come to my attention that the reason the police chose to launch tear gas, rubber bullets, pepper bullets, paint balls, flash grenades, mace, and pepper spray indiscriminately across the crowd was because, according to them, water bottles were thrown in the direction of the force. I have never thrown anything at the police. I have never seen or heard of anything being thrown at the police. I, like the vast majority of the protesters on the street, remained entirely nonviolent during these interactions. So why do I get tear gassed? Why do I get shot at? Why do I get threatened with arrest? Why do I get traumatized trying to flee to safety while police shoot tear gas in the direction of every escape? My rights do not hinge on the behavior of others. But all it takes is a few moments on the ground at these protests to see how the officers on the line simply wait for a single civilian transgression so they can launch their attack on the entirety of the crowd.

Wherever any reasonable person would draw the line between reasonable and excessive police tactics, Richmond police has shown time and time again that that line has been crossed. There is a bounty of filmed evidence of each encounter showing an absolute overwhelming and violent response to protesters at the slightest provocation, if such a provocation occurs at all. Every time I leave these protests I feel confident that my elected officials will finally see how inappropriate and aggressive the actions of RPD have been that night. Every day I wake up to find that the media and the mayor have come to their defense, choosing to believe the word of the officers rather than the videos and testimonies made by civilians. To me, it is this clear message that the police allegations get the benefit of the doubt while civilian allegations get entirely dismissed that has been the greatest disappointment of all.

Mayor Stoney and Chief Blackwell continue to argue that protesters refuse to meet and speak to them civilly. I have called both of these officials' offices numerous times, nearly every day

since the start of these protests, requesting to do just that. I have yet to hear back from anyone.

At this time, I am urging City Council and Mayor Stoney to have the courage to grasp the full breadth of the cruelty and needless violence that the Richmond Police Department continues to wage against protesters with impunity. I am begging for someone, anyone, to acknowledge that no actions taken by the protestors justifies this sort of response by the police. I demand that Mayor Stoney take the explicit video evidence filmed from the ground with the same seriousness as he takes RPD's statements about chemicals and other substances being thrown at police. I demand such allegations made by police be verified publicly. I demand that the same respect and concern that the Mayor gives to the perspective of the police also be given to the perspective of civilian protestors, which heretofore have been entirely excluded from the Mayor's statements. I demand that City Council hold Mayor Stoney, Chief Blackwell, and the Richmond Police Department as a whole to a far higher standard than has been upheld thus far. All of you, each and every one of these entities, are supposed to be working to the benefit of Richmond residents. Time and time again my experience has been the opposite.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

Kathryn Rowe



From: [Kristin Lennox](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment for City Council Meeting 6/22
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 9:55:30 AM

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From: M. Kristin Lennox, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The continued brutalization of protestors by the hands of Richmond Police Department cannot be ignored or placated to through disingenuous photo opportunities with celebrities. The Mayor and Councilor Jones gave visitors and tourists a seat at the table to allegedly discuss police reform, and have yet to address or meet with any local organizers, in particular those who have been addressing the need for police accountability for over 2 years. Last night, the very same civilians used for your photo ops were brutalized with chemical weapons and projectiles. Projectiles that allegedly cost about \$20 per - which would amount to over 200 no.2 pencils before wholesale price, while we continue to ask our school's families to buy supplies for the year. The trauma and fearmongering inflicted on civilians for 3 weeks now (and beyond) will never foster the working relationship that you claim to be building with your constituents. This is a call to action for all Councilors and the Mayor to defund the police, hold police accountable for their violence, and address the list of demands released to you by grassroots organizers and civilians whom you have routinely denied a seat at the table.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Office](#); [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#)
Subject: Citizen Comment Submission, Monday June 22 Meeting
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 9:56:19 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council,

HELP! Resident, businesses, visitors, and protesters need your help.

Residents support peaceful marches, protests, and parades. Scheduled activities, that allow for the adequate amount of police/emergency officials, with notice to residents, proper street closures, and other safety measures are supported. These late-night events are none of these.

These are late-night groups of individuals seeking and creating civil disorder. They are breaking the law with their activities. There are visible signs of the damage and destruction. Fear and anxiety mount as residents never know what is coming next. This is what causes such fear and anxiety - the risk of the unknown, being at the whim of what the mob/crowds decide, and the potential that no one will be able to help (there haven't been enough police to respond timely to 911 calls).

Late-night unlawful individuals have been allowed to (1) openly and continuously vandalize both personal and public owned property, (2) break windows, damage cars, and damage businesses, (3) take-over streets by being on both sides with people crammed in the car and riding on top, driving wreck-less, yelling, screaming profanity, and honking until all hours, (4) release explosives and fireworks in residential alleys and on streets, on public roads and community owned areas, at all hours (4 AM on Saturday) (5) set up overnight sleeping without any health considerations, (6) openly use drugs and alcohol (just take a late night walk to Lee), and (7) openly display weapon (sticks, bats, and GUNS).

All elected officials have a moral, civic, and sworn duty to uphold the law. They must do this no matter their opinion or political position. This isn't just for residents and businesses. On multiple occasions, I have watched cars unknowingly drive into large groups of people, all in black, on skateboards and bicycles. This is an example of why protests must be lawful. The Mayor's failure to act is dangerous to everyone - residents, businesses, protesters, and the police.

I also want to specifically address Ms. Stephanie Lynch and Dr. Michael Jones. Both of you have repeatedly and publicly stated the protests are peaceful and you have verbally attacked the police. I was at Stuart Circle last night viewing the events. Your comments were not true. We witnessed an angry group, charging and running at police, throwing hard objects, and screaming/yelling trying to incite a riot. The police set up a perimeter and repeated the announcement the event was unlawful and asking the group to disperse. All these warnings were ignored. So what is your suggestion? How are the police to set reasonable and lawful boundaries to protect the City while angry groups do whatever they want at any hour of the night? I am not taking about future reform - I am asking about now, about tonight? If you are unwilling to act now, at minimum, be honest in your comments.

Lawlessness on streets at all hours, fearful residents, sheltered businesses, closed and damaged businesses, burned alleys, broken windows, the confiscation of many guns, condoned vandalism (including significant levels of hate and profanity), late-night parties in public streets and parks,

and uncontrolled street closures are all marks of failure. Our City is in catastrophic failure - socially, emotionally, and financially. And it is a public failure for all to see and watch across the world. Your residents and businesses are suffering, and will continue to suffer through more late-nights and through the recovery that we hope will eventually occur. I have heard some say - at least our homes weren't burned or at least more people haven't been injured or killed. Is that to come? And if it doesn't, is that really a good benchmark for our community? Is that how we will define success?

So I ask all of you, what will you do to step-in to ensure laws that serve to protect residents, businesses, and our community are enforced? What action will you take to ensure laws intended to provide safety for all are upheld? When will the noise ordinances be enforced? When will streets properly be closed; when will cars be removed that block traffic to create chaos or come down for the party that happens each night? When will park closures be enforced so large groups aren't taking them over at night? When will you put aside your political ambitions for praise and personal opinions to objectively review this situation for what it is and fulfill your duties? When will you ACT?

Sincerely,
Second District Resident
Name Removed for Retaliation/ Safety Concerns

From: [K Comly](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Written Comment for 6/22 6:00 Meeting
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 9:57:16 AM

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Candice D. Reid, City Clerk -

This email is to provide written comment for this evening's City Council meeting.

My name is Kevin Comly. I am a Richmond resident and a public school teacher. I am providing this comment in a tragic spirit of disappointment with this city's leadership. There are loud and incessant demands, and those in power, policymakers, seem paralyzed or bewildered.

What are you going to do about the constant abuse by police?

What are you going to do about the consistently unwarranted declarations of unlawful assemblies?

What are you going to do about the deliberate mischaracterizations of peace as violence?

What are you going to do about the outrageously misguided and ultimately violent choice of Interim Chief of Police?

What are you going to do about the Marcus-David Peters case?

There are brilliant minds and voices that have answers to these questions. I know that you've heard them, because you have allowed the police to respond by terrorizing them.

From: [Squeo, Rosemarie](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Assistance for safety, vandalism, destruction of property, late night unlawful gatherings, very loud noise firecrackers
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 9:57:43 AM

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To Whom it may concern:

I wanted to voice my concerns about the continuation of the protests at the monuments, the destruction to this property, the graffiti on walls, sidewalks, loud music, noise, excessive traffic, dangerous stopping of cars at the Lee Monument, and the attempts to topple statues throughout the city of Richmond.

We feel our safety is being jeopardized and are fearful that this destruction of property will continue unless the city acts to do something about it. Having picnics and parties, and continuing to deface the monuments is not acceptable. Do these people have permits to hang out at the statue putting up tents, and having cook outs on state property. Someone is going to get hurt trying to deface or take the statues down. There needs to be more control. Peaceful demonstrations are fine but all the other issues going on needs to stop. It will be a shame if we all decide to sell our houses and move out of the FAN neighborhood. There will be a tremendous loss of tax revenue when the area starts to go downhill.

RoseMarie Squeo
John Lees

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

This message is for the designated recipient only and may contain privileged, proprietary or otherwise private information. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete the original. Any other use of the email by you is prohibited.

[REDACTED]

From: [Amrit Singh](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Council Meeting Comment
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 9:57:54 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

As a member of this community, a business owner and a father to three young children in the City of Richmond these past several weeks have been both energizing to see the power in numbers in support of Black Lives Matter and disturbing to witness the brutality of the Richmond Police Department and State Police Department. I am emailing to demand that the RPD be defunded to fund our housing services, schools, teachers and local businesses. Furthermore, I demand the resignations of the current police chief.

I demand open discussions with Black community leaders to help better support the movement and allow for the protest to continue without Police surveillance and aggression. Tear gassing, rubber bullets, pepper spray are not the tools to support our city and our people.

These monuments are totems to a racist and troubled past in our nation and they should be torn down without question, Richmond should lead by example.

Sincerely,

Amrit Singh

[Redacted signature block]

[Redacted contact information]

From: [Casey Smith](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: For Today's Council Meeting
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 9:58:17 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Councilmembers,

I wish to extend my support and sympathy for all the protestors who continue to be brutalized by Richmond, Henrico, and State police. I call on the City Council to pass legislation which prohibits the use of chemical agents, projectiles, or other harmful weapons without clear and present danger and approval from the Chief of Police.

I also call on the City to removal ALL Confederate monuments and dedications throughout the city, regardless of any contracts which I consider null and void from the start. The council could easily cancel the contracts and/or pay whatever fines required. The monetary and moral cost of keeping these monuments up far outweigh the costs of removal. DO IT NOW.

Thank you,
Casey Smith



From: [Sarah Ewers](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: 6/22 City Council Meeting: Citizen Comments
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 9:58:40 AM

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As residents in the [REDACTED] and in response to what has transpired in Richmond City the past few weeks, we would like to submit these comments for consideration by City Council.

- 1) We ask that City Council and the Mayor bring law and order back to the city and enforce laws that have been dismissed the past month, including: breaking noise ordinances, assaulting police, vandalism, larceny, arson, trespassing, breaking and entering.
- 2) We would like to see more support of the police and rather than defunding, we support a reallocation of city services to support our police. We know our police work hard to keep our community safe. We support a civilian review board but do not support defunding.
- 3) If we do bring down the monuments around our city, we should consider a thorough thoughtful process for what replaces them. It should involve those who reside in the area and should reflect all races within Richmond and Virginia's history.

- Sarah & Thomas Ewers

From: [Megan Rickman](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Submitted Comment Re: City Council 6.22
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 10:01:27 AM
Attachments: [Comments Re Public Safety .pdf](#)

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Please see attached.

Best,

Megan Rickman Blackwood

Submitted for Public Comment
Delivered-to Candice D. Reid, City Clerk:
CityClerksOffice@richmondgov
22.6.2020

Good Afternoon,

It is out of an abundance of concern and absolute frustration that I find myself writing to you today. Throughout the past three weeks, and continuing even as you meet today, it has been my honor to stand beside my Black brothers and sisters as they protest to demand equal treatment under the law. In that time the egregious mismanagement, and, far too often, cruel implementation of Geneva convention barred "crowd control" measures by Richmond Police Department has been appalling. They have attacked innocent protestors, have countlessly disregarded their own protocol on crowd control threatening the safety of citizens exercising their first amendment rights (including children), and have lied repeatedly in the press as well as by way of their social media channel, to discredit, villainize, and misinform the people of Richmond, Virginia. Throughout this same time, as our elected officials and law enforcement officers continue to fail us, I have seen our community come together in ways unmatched by anything I have seen in this city. Medic teams, that care for injured protestors, often by placing their own bodies in harm's way, Bike Marshalls, that control the flow of people and traffic, standing between protestors and incoming, potentially lethal, vehicles such as the one that mowed through a crowd of peaceful protestors in Charlottesville in 2017, ending the life of ally Heather Heyer as she marched against racism and in honor of Black lives. I have seen supply tents, offering everything from masks and sunscreen to full meals, all donated from the deep hearts and personal bank accounts of citizens still facing daunting financial uncertainty as we continue to suffer the effects of COVID-19. I have witnessed the people of Richmond rise up and care for one another. They do so in your absence.

I would not be so presumptuous as to attempt to tell you how to do your job. It is with good faith each of you was elected to City Council, and with that, we have entrusted each of you with the job of caring for and protecting, all citizens in Richmond. Your constituents are in danger. Daily we face over-militarized police who use tax-funded weapons to terrorize the very people you, and they, have sworn to protect. Should you find yourself questioning how to better serve your community, I invite you to attend any of the marches. Do so without the press, or large contingencies of staff and security. Come as a citizen. Watch the work of the people as they re-learn what community looks like, and what it means to be a member of one that values and supports all members. I promise you will return to your office in City Hall with new eyes, softened hearts, and the same fire raging in all of our guts that reminds us we all can do better.

In the same openness and transparency with which you are invited, invite. There is a wealth of subject matter experts available to you as you reconsider Richmond City's relationship

with the Police. Make room at the table for the people. It is, after all, by the people, that you were entrusted with your own seat.

God Bless,

Megan Rickman Blackwood

From: [Margie Gray](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Protect our City, Please!
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 10:02:15 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council,

What began as a nuisance and inconvenience has become a matter of public safety and unlawfulness. For 30 years, I have been a tax paying, law abiding resident of the Fan, living just four blocks from the Robert E. Lee Monument. What I have witnessed over the last three + weeks has left me in disbelief. While I support the basic issues that are being protested and have even participated in a few of the peaceful marches, these protests have devolved into unlawful, vicious activities. Our mayor has been castrated and, in turn, he has castrated our police force who is sworn to protect the citizens of Richmond. Our City is in a state of anarchy and citizens are afraid.

Under the veil of Freedom of Speech, mobs are creating chaos with late night noise protests, shouting vulgarities and challenging public safety. Destruction and vandalism have been ignored by the Authorities and has escalated until I feel we are close to a tipping point. Is it going to take lives lost for anyone in power to step in and say "enough is enough?" If so, I fear we are close to that point.

Please uphold your sworn duties to to protect the rights of ALL the citizens that you represent.

Thank you,
Margaret Gray

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: ADDENDUM PLEASE READ!!!!Fwd: Comments for June 22, 2020 Meeting
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 10:10:57 AM
Importance: High

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After this email was sent we learned we are able to submit without name due potential retaliation. Please OMIT our name as indicated below.

Thank you.

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]
To: CityClerksOffice@richmondgov.com
Cc: Kimberly.gray@richmondgov.com
Date: June 22, 2020 at 8:49 AM
Subject: Comments for June 22, 2020 Meeting

Richmond City government has failed miserably in its most fundamental duty to protect the lives and property of ALL its citizens. Night after night, while our neighborhood and community has been ravaged by mobs, our mayor pursued a policy of placation and appeasement. He put his own personal ambitions and fears ahead of the safety and welfare of our community, its citizens and police by pandering to his voter base. When there should have been clear and unambiguous condemnation of this ongoing unlawful behavior, the balance of the mayor's message was muddled with expressions of empathy and personal identification with the mobs frustrations.

And where was our city council during this period of mob rule? Largely standing mute or joining our mayor in statements or omissions tantamount to supporting and encouraging this carnage. Where were the statements of outrage over the terrorizing of our citizens and the wanton destruction of our neighborhood, its history and art? They were cowering in fear and succumbing to the intimidation and extortion perpetrated upon the community by a rampaging mob.

Everyone has a choice as to what feelings they wish to assign to a statue or other inanimate object and whether they wish to gaze on it or avert their eyes but an attempt to sanitize our history is a pursuit of the ignorant. A society that fails to preserve their history, warts and all, will learn nothing from it. Where does it stop, should we also advocate the burning of books that advance a version of history you find uncomfortable?

As to the course of others, I could not tell you, but my wife and I, after many years and considerable expense devoted to restoring our home and investing in our community have begun a search for a home in other jurisdictions. I do not wish to invest another dollar in a community whose ineffectual leadership is guided solely by personal ambition at the expense of the public trust.

A soon to be former Fan resident,

From: [Ben Himmelfarb](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment for June 22, 2020 City Council Meeting
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 10:18:43 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

For inclusion in the minutes and distribution to City Council Members:

The continued belligerence and violence of the RIchmond Police Department in response to demonstrations and public assemblies, as well as RPD's response to the efforts of community organizers, activists, leaders, and even City Council Members is despicable. **The consequences for RPD's utter failure to show any willingness to reform or even temper their conduct must be severe and must come in the form of structural, budgetary changes.**

#DefundThePolice is not a merely a hashtag for online activists to communicate with each other, it is a statement of values and intent that, in Richmond, signifies the following demands:

- Creation of a Civilian Review & Oversight Board with subpoena power to ensure true democratic, people-first control of any law enforcement or public safety department
- Immediate creation of a #MarcusAlert in Richmond to make dispatch of mental health/carework professionals the first thing that happens when people report needs based on mental health crises or behavioral disturbances, so that people receive Help, Not Death
- The removal of School Resource Officers from Richmond Public Schools and use of funds saved to hire social workers, careworkers, support staff, and purchase needed material resources
- The dropping and dismissal of ALL charges brought against people involved in demonstrations in Richmond since the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis
- A comprehensive, democratic project to #DefundThePolice that examines how we can reallocate funds from the large "public safety" budget to other departments that do education, housing, health, social services, and recreation work and **then actually implements the changes.**

To this I would add a personal demand:

- That **every Council Member who has not been out in the streets or at the monuments with the people** over the past weeks immediately visit the demonstrations, performances, gatherings, political education events, and joyous assemblies that are regularly taking place in Richmond. Once there, I ask that they identify themselves as a City Council Member and listen more than they talk, unless they are needed to intervene to de-escalate situations between police and people. In that case, it is my demand that they put their bodies on the line to help protect demonstrators from police violence and use the power of their office (the power that Richmonders give them) to prevent the use of tear gas, pepper spray, or other methods of violence.

Ben Himmelfarb



From: [Mj Biedenharn](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: My city
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 10:27:08 AM

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City Council,

While the cause is just and long overdue, the cause is now lost, violence is not the answer. The city and residents need direction and leadership, where are you????

Mary Jo Biedenharn
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Nina Ford](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Citizen Comment
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 10:28:22 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Last night, RPD deployed chemical agents on residents on an otherwise peaceful day of community gathering and celebration. It was reported that RPD engaged residents in such a way "due to protesters [allegedly] attempting to pull down the J.E.B. Stuart statue with rope, which could have caused serious injuries". It is completely nonsensical for the police to injure residents with less lethal weapons in order to prevent citizens from being injured by a falling statue. If the central concern of the City of Richmond is the safety of its residents, it would act swiftly to remove the monuments that will continue to be treated as battlegrounds by the police.

From: [romerocs](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public comment for city council meeting
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 10:31:56 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

The following public comment is intended for the city council meeting at 6pm on 06/22/2020:

Police violence against our community needs to stop. I implore this council to take immediate steps to defund the Richmond Police Department. The people of this city have spoken. All of your legacy's are on the line RIGHT NOW. No one will remember anything else you accomplished in your tenure unless you all get this right.

Thank you,
Chris Romero

Sent from ProtonMail Mobile



Greetings Madam President,

My name is Allan-Charles Chipman. I am a resident of the 6th district. I am not able to join you in person today, as today is my one-year wedding anniversary. This past weekend we also celebrated Father's Day. I am writing today because in 2002 a father & soon to be husband, & air force veteran was approached & ultimately killed by two gunshots in the back. The man killed was named Jeramy Gilliam. The man that killed him is the current police chief William V. Blackwell. The police chief shot Mr. Gilliam despite Mr. Gilliam not matching the description and despite the fact that his prints were never found on the gun used to "justify" the shooting. The family of Mr. Gilliam was informed in 2002 that Officer Blackwell would no longer be with the Richmond Police Department. Yet much to the surprise of Jeramy's family, not only was Officer Blackwell not ousted by RPD, but now, per the selection of Mayor Levar Stoney, is now the Chief of Police. On June 20, 2020 the family of Jeramy stated "Jeramy loved his son & his son was robbed of his Father's Love." This is due to the actions of the current police chief & system of policing where if you take the black life of a father & veteran you can rise to the top of the ranks. Such has been the cry of the family of Marcus-David Peters for two years as well. As a trustbuilder, I often teach that the best thing one can do to gain trust is to display trustworthiness. The very presence of Officer Blackwell erodes trust. We face not only a crisis of trust but also a crisis of democracy. Just last night Andrew Ringle of the Commonwealth Times joined a long list of press assaulted by police. Ringle was tear gassed and thrown to the ground despite showing his press pass which also happened to Roberto Roldan recently. Yes even, two members of this body who have put forth legislation to begin the process of defunding police have been teargassed as well.

I stand in support of the process to begin defunding police and reallocating resources to our overpoliced and underfunded communities. However, it disturbs me greatly in the midst of this turmoil that the Public Safety Committee which is one of the few democratic processes with watch over the police has not met since February and has cancelled the June 23, 2020 meeting. I call on Council Members Hilbert, Trammell, and Gray to reschedule this meeting for June 23, 2020.

As an issue of public safety we must address

1. Reopening the case of Interim Chief Blackwell in the killing of Jeramy Gilliam
2. Demanding transparency on the disciplinary procedures of the teargassing of peaceful protestors that took place at the Lee statue.
3. Demanding transparency on the disciplinary procedures for the officers who ran over protestors with police vehicles. Especially, the case that occurred on 05/30/2020 where no investigation has taken place. I would like to add a special investigation looking into white supremacist ties of the officer given this happened within a string of days of white supremacists using vehicles to assault protestors in Richmond and Henrico.

4. Demand transparency on the origins of the “fireworks” and explosives that have been heard in residential areas in the city. This appears to be a nationwide attempt by police such as in Baltimore and other cities for police to be able to report a higher level of calls in the midst of a discussion to defund police. The mayor in his op-ed stated a higher level of calls being received by police. I would like a report to see how many of those calls have been in response to a sound of “fireworks” or “gunshots.”
5. Removing the requirement from the police use of force board to require appointment by the chief of police (since our current police chief killed a man in 2002) and the requirement of attending the citizen police academy.
6. Expressing the necessity of an Independent Community Oversight Board and requesting subpoena power from the Richmond delegation in the General Assembly and other state representatives.
7. Beginning to defund police and collaborating with Richmond Transparency and Accountability Project to redirect funds prioritizing the overpoliced communities.
8. Redirecting the funds gained by civil asset forfeiture and having those redirected to initiatives that will benefit over policed communities.
9. As stated by Councilmembers Lynch and Jones, to move expeditiously in removing the confederate monuments and other iconography dedicated to the ideology of white supremacy.
10. Restricting the use of tear gas and other chemical weapons of warfare that restrict respiratory capacity during a global pandemic such as Covid-19 that targets the respiratory system.

I strongly suggest and join in advocating for the demands put forth by the family of Marcus-David Peters since 2018 and reiterated in recent days. This includes advocating to free those who have been arrested while protesting police brutality. Many of these protestors were denied the rights to see lawyers and still have not had charges dropped. We are responsible for what we ignore.

Thank you,

Allan-Charles R. Chipman

From: [Allan-Charles Chipman](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Re: Speaking on Public Safety and Policing
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 10:00:30 AM
Attachments: [City Council Letter Concerning Police & Public Safety.docx](#)

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Corrections for slight grammatical errors.

Allan-Charles Chipman
Initiatives of Change USA

[REDACTED]
E: allan-charles.chipman@iorc.org
iorc: www.us.iorc.org TRHT: www.greaterRVA.org



Initiatives of Change
United States



From: Allan-Charles Chipman
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 9:57 AM
To: City Clerk's Office <CityClerksOffice@richmondgov.com>
Subject: Speaking on Public Safety and Policing

I am signing up to speak at tonight's City Council Meeting concerning police brutality and public safety. I have also attached my comments to be sent to all of council staff.

Thank you,

Allan-Charles Chipman
Initiatives of Change USA

[REDACTED]
E: allan-charles.chipman@iorc.org
iorc: www.us.iorc.org TRHT: www.greaterRVA.org



Initiatives of Change
United States



From: [Richard Hewitt](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Ordinance No. 2020-19 Amend special use permit for 5400, 5336 and 5348 Hull Street Road
Date: Thursday, June 18, 2020 4:21:04 PM

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In reference to the proposed amendment to the special use permit for the 3 parcels referenced in the subject line above I have the following comments:

1. The storm water detention basin(s) be placed away from Hull Street Road and behind the street scape apartments.
2. Landscaping be required along the property line shared by Meadow Creek Apartments and the proposed development as well as along the Hull Street Road frontage
3. I support the relocation of the senior housing to the Hull Street Road frontage as well as shifting the self-storage component to the rear of the proposed development

Thank you.

Richard B Hewitt

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Gray O'Dwyer](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: City of Richmond Short-Term Rental Ordinance - Council Hearing 6/22/20
Date: Thursday, June 18, 2020 5:16:03 PM

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I am writing to register a comment to be included in the record of this meeting.

I believe the 185-day residency requirement to be appropriate and the ordinance as a whole to be well-crafted to achieve its purpose of encouraging tourism while protecting affordable housing in Richmond. Short-Term Rentals (STRs) should be an accessory use that is incidental to the use of the property as a residence, not an excuse for investors to take long-term housing off the market in an already difficult and shrinking market.

Thank you,

Gray O'Dwyer



From: [Kathryn Oti](#)
To: [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#); [Wagner, Daniel M. - City Council Office](#); [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Office](#); [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [Townes, Lisa F. - City Council Office](#); [Larson, Kristen N. - City Council](#); [Bond, Aaron A. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robins, Amy E. - City Council Office](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Floyd, Tavares M. - City Council](#); [Cythnia.Newbille@richmondgov.com](#); [Patterson, Samuel - City Council Office](#); [Jones, Michael J. - City Council](#); [Morris, Summer A. - City Council](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Bishop, Richard K. - City Council Office](#); [City Clerk's Office](#); [Stoney, Levar M. - Mayor](#); [Gray, Jeff L. - CAO](#); [Olinger, Mark A. - PDR](#)
Subject: "Oppose ORD. 2019-343 Short Term Rental"
Date: Thursday, June 18, 2020 6:20:37 PM

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Short Term Rentals are helping to make the city of Richmond, and other cities around the world, affordable to stay in and attractive to tourists. The city should be doing everything in its power to attract visitors, not making their stay options fewer! Please do not be distracted by all the noise from the hotel industry etc and vote for this ordinance. Also, the city is going to be competing (and losing again) to the counties as they intend to make short term rentals viable and profitable for the good of everyone!

--

Kathryn Oti

[Redacted signature block]

[Redacted contact information]

From: [Joshua J. McFarlane, M.D.](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Short term rental legislation to be discussed 6/22/2020
Date: Friday, June 19, 2020 9:46:21 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-RIC300-PDR.png](#)

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council,

I am writing to voice my opposition to any short term rental legislation that does not require the owner to be in residence. I live at [REDACTED] and the house next door at [REDACTED] was purchased by a resident of the DC area with the intention to illegally turn it into a mini-hotel. We had repeated problems with rowdy guests and had little recourse beyond pressing the city to address the violation of the short term rental prohibition as there is nobody on site to whom we can appeal. Certainly a developer could not get away with building a hotel next door to me in my neighborhood, but to allow short term rentals with no requirement for owner residency is to allow houses to be turned into hotels. Please protect our neighborhoods and protect the quality of life of our citizens, I feel it is inexcusable to displace these priorities in favor of the financial interests of outsiders. We placed our faith in the city when we bought a home in its bounds, I exhort you to do your job in upholding that trust.

Sincerely,

Josh McFarlane MD
[REDACTED]

From: Pitts, Marianne G. - PDR <Marianne.Pitts@richmondgov.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 5:05 PM
To: Pitts, Marianne G. - PDR <Marianne.Pitts@richmondgov.com>
Subject: City of Richmond Short-Term Rental Ordinance - Council Hearing 6/22/20

Good Afternoon,

I am emailing you because you have attended a meeting or completed a survey regarding the City of Richmond's Short-Term Rental legislation. The [legislation](#) is on City Council Agenda on Monday, June 22, 2020. If you would like to provide public comment during the virtual meeting, please contact the City Clerk.

Office before 10am on June 22nd: 646 \$B!& (B€ \$B!& (B7955 (Option 3)
or CityClerksOffice@richmondgov.com. Additionally, citizens are encouraged to provide their
comments in writing to CityClerksOffice@richmondgov.com. All written comments received via
email prior to 10am on June 22 will be provided to all members of Council prior to the beginning of
the meeting and will be included in the record of the meeting.

I will follow up if we are informed that Council intends to continue the legislation to a future
meeting.

Thank you,
Marianne

Marianne Pitts
Department of Planning and Development Review
900 E. Broad Street, Room 511, Richmond, VA 23219
Marianne.Pitts@richmondgov.com
Ph. (804) 646-5207



[www.richmond300.com]www.richmond300.com

This email has been scanned for email related threats and delivered safely by Mimecast.
For more information please visit <http://www.mimecast.com>

From: [Tyler Rackley](#)
To: [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#); [Wagner, Daniel M. - City Council Office](#); [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Office](#); [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [Townes, Lisa F. - City Council Office](#); [Larson, Kristen N. - City Council](#); [Bond, Aaron A. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robins, Amy E. - City Council Office](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Floyd, Tavares M. - City Council](#); [Patterson, Samuel - City Council Office](#); [Jones, Michael J. - City Council](#); [Morris, Summer A. - City Council](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Bishop, Richard K. - City Council Office](#); [City Clerk's Office](#); [Stoney, Levar M. - Mayor](#); [Gray, Jeff L. - CAO](#); [Newbille, Cynthia I. - City Council](#); [Stacie Vanchieri](#)
Subject: Strong Opposition to ORD. 2019-343 Short Term Rentals
Date: Friday, June 19, 2020 9:54:16 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council President Newbille and Council Members,

I am writing to strongly oppose ORD. 2019-343 for short term rentals. The current ordinance will decimate the short term rental market, leaving out all renters who do not live in/on the rental property.

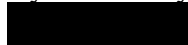
In addition to the overly restrictive rules, Planning and Development has mentioned NO path for taxation which the city could use for RPS, affordable housing and other underfunded projects for the city.

Lastly, this ordinance does nothing to improve oversight or provide consequences for bad STR landlords.

This is lose-lose legislation and should be voted down until a better plan is formed. I look forward to sharing my thoughts with you at Mondays council meeting.

Sincerely,

Tyler Rackley



From: [Emely Taveras](#)
To: [Bond, Aaron A. - City Council](#); [Robins, Amy E. - City Council Office](#); [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#); [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [City Clerk's Office](#); [Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Office](#); [Cythnia.Newbille@richmondgov.com](#); [Wagner, Daniel M. - City Council Office](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Gray, Jeff L. - CAO](#); [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Larson, Kristen N. - City Council](#); [Stoney, Levar M. - Mayor](#); [Townes, Lisa F. - City Council Office](#); [Olinger, Mark A. - PDR](#); [Jones, Michael J. - City Council](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Bishop, Richard K. - City Council Office](#); [Patterson, Samuel - City Council Office](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Morris, Summer A. - City Council](#); [Floyd, Tavares M. - City Council](#)
Subject: Oppose ORD. 2019-343 Short Term Rental
Date: Friday, June 19, 2020 10:35:39 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members & City Leaders,

I am writing to strongly oppose ORD. 2019-343 for short term rentals. The current ordinance will decimate the existing short term rental community by including the principal residency requirement.

In addition to the overly restrictive rules, Planning and Development has mentioned NO path for taxation which the city could use for RPS, affordable housing and other underfunded projects for the city.

Lastly, this ordinance does nothing to improve oversight or provide consequences for bad STR landlords.

This is lose-lose legislation and should be voted down until a better plan is formed.

Sincerely,

Emely Taveras

From: [Sean Pierce](#)
To: cynthia.newbille@richmond.gov
Cc: [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#); [Wagner, Daniel M. - City Council Office](#); [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Office](#); [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [Townes, Lisa F. - City Council Office](#); [Larson, Kristen N. - City Council](#); [Bond, Aaron A. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robins, Amy E. - City Council Office](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Floyd, Tavares M. - City Council](#); Cynthia.Newbille@richmondgov.com; [Patterson, Samuel - City Council Office](#); [Jones, Michael J. - City Council](#); [Morris, Summer A. - City Council](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Bishop, Richard K. - City Council Office](#); [City Clerk's Office](#); [Stoney, Levar M. - Mayor](#); [Gray, Jeff L. - CAO](#); [Olinger, Mark A. - PDR](#)
Subject: Oppose ORD. 2019-343 Short Term Rental
Date: Friday, June 19, 2020 10:38:20 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council President Newbille and Council Members,

I am writing to strongly oppose ORD. 2019-343 for short term rentals. The current ordinance will decimate the existing short term rental community by including the principal residency requirement.

In addition to the overly restrictive rules, Planning and Development has mentioned NO path for taxation which the city could use for RPS, affordable housing and other underfunded projects for the city.

Lastly, this ordinance does nothing to improve oversight or provide consequences for bad STR landlords.

This is lose-lose legislation and should be voted down until a better plan is formed. I look forward to sharing my thoughts with you at Mondays council meeting.

--

Sean Pierce



From: [Jude Schlotzhauer](#)
To: [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#); [Wagner, Daniel M. - City Council Office](#); [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Office](#); [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [Townes, Lisa F. - City Council Office](#); [Larson, Kristen N. - City Council](#); [Bond, Aaron A. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robins, Amy E. - City Council Office](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Floyd, Tavares M. - City Council](#); [Cythnia.Newbille@richmondgov.com](#); [Patterson, Samuel - City Council Office](#); [Jones, Michael J. - City Council](#); [Morris, Summer A. - City Council](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Bishop, Richard K. - City Council Office](#); [City Clerk's Office](#); [Stoney, Levar M. - Mayor](#); [Gray, Jeff L. - CAO](#); [Olinger, Mark A. - PDR](#)
Subject: oppose ORD. 2019-343
Date: Friday, June 19, 2020 11:26:17 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

I would respectfully like to voice my opposition to ORD. 2019-343, restrictions on short term rentals. I own a house in the arts district which I rent out to families and groups mainly in town for graduations, weddings, VCU events and the convention center. I hear over and over again from my guests that a house is a far better solution for them than a hotel because they can prepare meals and eat together, all stay in the same house to share child care and time together, where they don't have to worry about young children making noise or having different bed times. There are many reasons this situation works for groups where others don't. I have long said the City would gain so much by taxing these rentals, and airbnb has offered to collect and pay taxes the same way they handle all our money transactions. I agree that there should be restrictions on the number of properties one owner rents for short term, but what is the point of only allowing str in the home that one lives in? I have only one property that I rent out, and have never had a complaint from a neighbor or a problem with a guest. If a property has problems and complaints, there should be a way to restrict that rental, but when there are so many strs in the City which are operating successfully, there is an obvious need for this service. Please do not vote for this bill as it stands. It needs to be completely re- written. As it is, it is a bad bill. Thank you.
Jude Schlotzhauer

From: [Cori Vanchieri](#)
To: [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#); [Wagner, Daniel M. - City Council Office](#); [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Office](#); [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [Townes, Lisa F. - City Council Office](#); [Larson, Kristen N. - City Council](#); [Bond, Aaron A. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robins, Amy E. - City Council Office](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Floyd, Tavares M. - City Council](#); [Cythnia.Newbille@richmondgov.com](#); [Patterson, Samuel - City Council Office](#); [Jones, Michael J. - City Council](#); [Morris, Summer A. - City Council](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Bishop, Richard K. - City Council Office](#); [City Clerk's Office](#); [Stoney, Levar M. - Mayor](#); [Gray, Jeff L. - CAO](#); [Olinger, Mark A. - PDR](#)
Subject: ORDINANCE 2019-343 - Short Term Rentals
Date: Friday, June 19, 2020 12:06:30 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council President Newbille and Council Members:

I am a Richmond homeowner writing to strongly oppose ORD. 2019-343 for short term rentals. The principal residency requirement is horribly restrictive and will put an end to short-term rentals, which means less rental income from taxpayers, less tax income for the city and fewer options for visitors to this great city.

If you vote In Support of the ordinance as written, you will be bowing to a small group of complainers, when instead you could Enact a law with safeguards against bad actors that would support the needs of many constituents and bring money in to the government.

Please do not support this bill as written.

Cori Vanchieri

From: [David Goodwin](#)
To: [Wagner, Daniel M. - City Council Office](#); [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Office](#); [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [Townes, Lisa F. - City Council Office](#); [Larson, Kristen N. - City Council](#); [Bond, Aaron A. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robins, Amy E. - City Council Office](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Floyd, Tavares M. - City Council](#); Cythnia.Newbille@richmondgov.com; [Patterson, Samuel - City Council Office](#); [Jones, Michael J. - City Council](#); [Morris, Summer A. - City Council](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Bishop, Richard K. - City Council Office](#); [City Clerk's Office](#); [Stoney, Levar M. - Mayor](#); [Gray, Jeff L. - CAO](#); [Olinger, Mark A. - PDR](#)
Subject: Oppose ORD. 2019-343 Short Term Rental
Date: Friday, June 19, 2020 1:28:18 PM

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Members,

I strongly oppose the STR program that you are voting on. The logic behind your proposal is based thinking from another era. The American public is clear that they prefer new paradigms in our new culture such as Uber, Lyft, Airbnb and VRBO. This movement is the future of our society. We must embrace it, whether or not we like it. There are numerous issues that have not been vetted or explored. This rush to "pass" something does not make it right. I suggest you table the vote until there can be further meetings (in person) to cover the multitude of issues NOT addressed in this proposal.

I can appreciate the complexity that the city council is addressing at this point in time. But simply sweeping this under the rug will cause great heartache, and very little benefit to anyone.

These new ways of Americans doing business is not going away, and will in fact become MUCH larger as we progress as a society. The less time taken up front will cause bigger problems as we move forward.

David Goodwin



From: [Alexandra Leigh](#)
To: [Alexandra Leigh](#)
Subject: Oppose ORD. 2019-343 Short Term Rental
Date: Friday, June 19, 2020 2:06:56 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council President Newbille and Council Members,

I am writing to strongly oppose ORD. 2019-343 for short term rentals. The current ordinance will decimate the existing short term rental community by including the principal residency requirement.

In addition to the overly restrictive rules, Planning and Development has mentioned NO path for taxation which the city could use for RPS, affordable housing and other underfunded projects for the city.

Lastly, this ordinance does nothing to improve oversight or provide consequences for bad STR landlords.

This is lose-lose legislation and should be voted down until a better plan is formed.

Thank you,

--



Alexandra Leigh

[Redacted signature block]



From: [Allen Custer](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Oppose ORD. 2019-343 Short Term Rental
Date: Friday, June 19, 2020 9:49:36 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council President Newbille and Council Members,

I am writing to strongly oppose ORD. 2019-343 for short term rentals. The current ordinance will decimate the existing short term rental community by including the principal residency requirement.

In addition to the overly restrictive rules, Planning and Development has mentioned NO path for taxation which the city could use for RPS, affordable housing and other underfunded projects for the city.

Furthermore, this legislation while not only hurting people who are property owners it also serves to harm lower income people in our community. It is not uncommon for a short term rental to be cleaned 4 times a month, which, when eradicated could significantly hurt all cleaning professionals in the area.

On top of this. Is this really the time to put overly restrictive legislation on already struggling individuals in our community? Passing this legislation could serve to bankrupt many people who are barley holding on at the moment and are renting their houses out just to make ends meet due to the fallout from covid 19.

In conclusion not only is this terrible legislation from the get go due to the points stated above, it is also terrible timing to even be considering legislation such as this. With the current state of affairs such as unemployment this legislation should be sidelined, at least for now, then debate reopened when things go back to a more normal state so we can all come up with more sensible measures to take regarding this issue.

Lastly, this ordinance does nothing to improve oversight or provide consequences for bad STR landlords.

Sincerely,
Allen Custer



From: [Mark Lavery](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Opposed STR Bill
Date: Saturday, June 20, 2020 9:17:40 PM

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Short term rental

Motion to delay vote until after Pandemic/ lockdown

In the spirit of full disclosure Mark Lavery

I have voiced my opposition to the proposed legislation in the past.

The majority of the text before you was written by lawyers working for the hospitality industry (MR Hilton, MR Trump and friends) The sole purpose of this legislation drafted in California was to crush competition.

While I am still opposed and frankly disappointed that council is even

Considering this legislation.

It is not the reason I am addressing you today.

Because of my experience with my Airbnb property's since the virus and the resulting lockdown. I think it is imparitive this vote be delayed until things are back to normal.

I will let a brief summery of my experience speak for itself.

In January and February things were looking pretty good for my Airbnb business most weekends were booked thru September.

When the pandemic lockdown was announced every single booking canceled!!! I was sure there was no way I was going to make ends meet.

10 days into the lockdown I got a call from an elderly couple that were scared, they wanted to be close to family, their grandchildren, knowing it would be unwise to share the same house they contacted me.

Then a army contractor who didn't feel he could go home to his family after traveling abroad booked.

Three weeks into the lockdown I was contacted by another older couple that wanted to be close to family, then two young professionals that were finding it impossible to work at home with 3 other roommates all trying to Zoom at the same time.

In the middle of this my daughters all decided they wanted to come home, having the space to be together but still safe was an important factor in their decision to travel home.

I have since hosted a traveling nurse a family that found there apartment to small now that the entire family was home and working from home.

None of these guests wanted to go to a hotel and get in an elevator. They couldn't risk being exposed to large groups of people in confined spaces.

None of them wanted to leave their neighborhoods and disrupt there lives any more than they had already been disrupted.

These last months have given me new insight into the value these flexible short term rentals bring to a neighborhood and our city.

I have been in contact with other hosts during the lockdown, as we try to best accommodate our guests. I have learned my story is not unique in fact is seems to be the norm.

Thank you for you time and consider on this matter
Mark Lavery

From: [Colleen Good](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Short term rentals
Date: Sunday, June 21, 2020 12:09:14 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I wanted to give you my perspective on short term rentals in our city and describe certain instances where there have been numerous problems with the airBandB right next door to our home.

We, and our neighbors, have had to call the police numerous times over the last 2.5 years because of late night parties and noise at this airBandB. People rent it then invite many others over and it's a convenient place for them to party.

We have spoken with the owner numerous times and let him know what is going on. During one instance the owner replied to us that he was aware (because he has installed cameras) that there was a party going on and he was trying to make them leave but could not reach the person who rented it. One of our neighbors called the police at 12:15 a.m. as the party continued.

I have made complaints to the zoning commission and our council member Kristen Larsen, who has actually met with our neighbors and we appreciate her input.

The owner of this airBandB next to us does not live there. I believe he lives in another state. He has not been there since the first week of January 2020, and for many years before that he was only there sporadically.

It seems inevitable that the short term rental will pass, but I ask that you incorporate into the rules that the owner must live there at least half of the year. I also think you should be charging an occupancy tax and a higher fee for registration and a large fine imposed on owners who violate the rules.

It seems to me you will need this extra money in order to hire people or make a new department to oversee the short term rentals. As a taxpayer, my money shouldn't be going to help them run their short term rentals.

Also, I moved into a residential neighborhood, not a commercial or mixed use zone. Business is getting into short term rentals now, buying houses specifically for the purpose of making money. How is that not commercial use?

Sincerely,

Colleen Good

From: [2209 Carrington Street LLC](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#); Cythnia.Newbille@richmondgov.com
Cc: [Pitts, Marianne G. - PDR](#); [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#); [Wagner, Daniel M. - City Council Office](#); [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Office](#); [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [Townes, Lisa F. - City Council Office](#); [Larson, Kristen N. - City Council](#); [Bond, Aaron A. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robins, Amy E. - City Council Office](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Floyd, Tavares M. - City Council](#); [Patterson, Samuel - City Council Office](#); [Jones, Michael J. - City Council](#); [Morris, Summer A. - City Council](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Bishop, Richard K. - City Council Office](#); [Stoney, Levar M. - Mayor](#); [Gray, Jeff L. - CAO](#); [Olinger, Mark A. - PDR](#)
Subject: Oppose ORD. 2019-343 Short Term Rental
Date: Sunday, June 21, 2020 2:12:22 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council President Newbille and Council Members,

I am writing to strongly oppose ORD. [2019-343](#) for short term rentals. The current ordinance will destroy the existing short term rental community by including the principal residency requirement as stated in the ordinance.

In addition to the overly restrictive rules, Planning and Development has mentioned NO path for taxation which the city could use for RPS, affordable housing and other underfunded projects for the city.

Lastly, this ordinance does nothing to improve oversight or provide consequences for bad STR landlords.

This is lose-lose legislation that will hurt Richmond's tourism aspirations as well as the city's residents and homeowners and should be voted down until a better plan is formed.

I am voicing my opinion as a taxpayer and property owner in the 7th district. My property is located at [REDACTED]

-Raymond Hughey Jr
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Leslie Robertson](#)
To: [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#); [Wagner, Daniel M. - City Council Office](#); [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Office](#); [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [Townes, Lisa F. - City Council Office](#); [Larson, Kristen N. - City Council](#); [Bond, Aaron A. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robins, Amy E. - City Council Office](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Floyd, Tavares M. - City Council](#); [Cythnia.Newbille@richmondgov.com](#); [Patterson, Samuel - City Council Office](#); [Jones, Michael J. - City Council](#); [Morris, Summer A. - City Council](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Bishop, Richard K. - City Council Office](#); [City Clerk's Office](#); [Stoney, Levar M. - Mayor](#); [Gray, Jeff L. - CAO](#); [Olinger, Mark A. - PDR](#)
Subject: Oppose ORD. 2019-343 Short Term Rental
Date: Sunday, June 21, 2020 7:02:04 PM

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Dear Council President Newbille and Council Members,

I am writing to strongly oppose ORD. 2019-343 for short term rentals. The current ordinance will decimate the short term rental market, leaving out all renters who do not live in/on the rental property.

In addition to the overly restrictive rules, Planning and Development has mentioned NO path for taxation which the city could use for RPS, affordable housing and other underfunded projects for the city.

Lastly, this ordinance does nothing to improve oversight or provide consequences for bad STR landlords.

This is lose-lose legislation and should be voted down until a better plan is formed.

Sincerely,

Leslie Robertson


From: [John Albright](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Fwd: City of Richmond Short-Term Rental Ordinance - Council Hearing 6/22/20
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 7:37:05 AM
Attachments: [Agenda - 2020-06-22.pdf](#)
[Public Access Participation Instructions.pdf](#)

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Dear City Council,

I am writing to voice my opposition to any short term rental legislation that does not require the owner to be in residence. I own the home at [REDACTED] and the house next door to us at [REDACTED] was purchased a few years ago by a resident of the DC area with the intention to turn it into a short term rental. There have been periodic problems with renters there over the years and the neighbors contacting the owner have had little response requiring us to contact the city or the police when necessary.

Certainly a developer wouldn't have the ability to build a hotel next door to me, but to allow short term rentals with no requirement for owner residency would allow houses to be turned into hotels. I ask that you protect our neighborhoods and prevent homes in our beautiful Fan area from being used as mini hotels and require the owner to be in residence in order to have short term rentals for their property.

Sincerely,
John & Michelle Albright

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Pitts, Marianne G. - PDR <Marianne.Pitts@richmondgov.com>
Date: Thu, Jun 18, 2020 at 5:07 PM
Subject: City of Richmond Short-Term Rental Ordinance - Council Hearing 6/22/20
To: Pitts, Marianne G. - PDR <Marianne.Pitts@richmondgov.com>

Good Afternoon,

I am emailing you because you have attended a meeting or completed a survey regarding the City of Richmond's Short-Term Rental legislation. The [legislation](#) is on City Council's Agenda on Monday, June 22, 2020. If you would like to provide public comment during the virtual meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office before 10am on June 22nd: 646-7955 (Option 3) or CityClerksOffice@richmondgov.com. Additionally, citizens are encouraged to provide their comments in writing to CityClerksOffice@richmondgov.com. All written comments received via email prior to 10am on June 22 will be provided to all members of Council prior to the beginning of the meeting and will be included in the record of the

meeting.

I will follow up if we are informed that Council intends to continue the legislation to a future meeting.

Thank you,

Marianne

Marianne Pitts

Department of Planning and Development Review

900 E. Broad Street, Room 511, Richmond, VA 23219

Marianne.Pitts@richmondgov.com

Ph. (804) 646-5207



www.richmond300.com

From: [John Charlet](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: City Council Meeting Public Comment
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 8:53:13 AM

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To whom it may concern:

First, I would like to say how thankful I am to Marianne and Mark for always being communicative and transparent in this process even if we do not agree on aspects of the new ordinance.

I would like the council to consider addenda to the proposed ordinance that allows tenants, with the permission and cooperation of their landlords, to use their dwellings for short term rentals.

Those vulnerable and with the least capital (i.e. non-property/home owners) in these times should be considered first, not management companies and property owners. Please continue to table this ordinance until these changes have been made.

Thanks as always for your service.

John Charlet

From: [Casey Mulroy](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: City Council 6.22 Public Comment
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 9:59:25 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hello! I plan to attend the City Council meeting tonight and I would like to submit the following comment:

To this week's agenda, I fully support RES. 2020-R043 which requests a process for renaming the Robert E. Lee Memorial Bridge. Robert E. Lee is an oppressive symbol to African Americans and the deep history of slavery and racism in this country. Especially with a population of 48% Black people, Richmond should do more to accurately address our part in the Civil War. Renaming the bridge and removing confederate monuments is a proper first step.

Thanks, and see you tonight.

Casey Mulroy