

# Marina Bay Neighborhood Council Meeting (MBNC)

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

7:00-8:30 pm

**MBNC Attendees:** Rita Mitas, Amelia Berto Morgan, Kathy Watson, Laura Freeze Ho

**Presenters:** Officer Bashar Zeidan, Richmond Police Department; Councilmember Gayle McLaughlin, City of Richmond

## Announcements/Updates:

### 1.) Welcome and introductions

- Rita opened the meeting and introduced the committee members and speakers for the evening
- She announced that Dumpster Day will be August 10<sup>th</sup> this year

### 2.) Public safety update from Officer Bashar Zeidan

- Police department's challenges and successes in recruiting new officers
  - RPD is currently short about 40 officers
  - 5 officers are currently being trained and should be ready to go solo in the next couple of months
  - 8 people are in the academy now and will start the training program in April
  - 9 people are finishing up paperwork and will soon join the program
  - 2 new candidates are lateral moves from other police departments
  - While the recruiting drive is going strong, attrition is an issue
    - Approximately 8-10 officers are likely to retire this year
- Crime stats for Beat 1, Marina Bay's beat
  - From January 1 to March 12, 2024, crime increased 45%, but there were still only 61 calls for service, including:
    - 24 theft reports, 10 contempt of court reports, 4 car thefts, 4 vandalisms, 4 auto burglaries, 2 trespasses, 3 frauds, 1 sexual battery
  - Beat officers try to do night-time drive-bys to check on the area and the parks
    - Frequently the beat is left open, however, due to short staffing
- Speeding in Marina Bay
  - Rita noted problems of speeding in Marina Bay
  - Officer Zeidan said he has tried to pull over someone recently who was speeding, but the law does not allow officers to pursue someone who is speeding and will not pull over
  - If an officer catches a license plate number, then a judge may be able to issue a warrant for the car
  - Police Chief Bisa French plans to reinstate the traffic unit once staffing levels normalize

- Another resident asked about the possibility of installing an electronic sign on Marina Bay Parkway to avert speeding, to which Officer Zeidan responded he will ask Lt. Donovan Decious about installing a temporary sign
- Homeless encampments
  - A resident inquired about removing individuals from homeless encampments in Marina Bay
  - Officer Zeidan said officers cannot require individuals to leave unless there is a shelter bed available, which is usually not the case
  - Michelle Milam from the city had recently helped relocate an encampment
- Mail theft
  - Mail theft was a topic of discussion with Officer Zeidan as well
  - He noted this is primarily a problem to bring up with the postmaster
  - He also suggested installing a metal fence around community mailboxes to deter thieves, while also saying that renting a PO Box is also an option
  - Rita called out the lack of any follow-up or direction from RPD or the Postal Service, to which Officer Zeidan responded that the root cause can be traced back to lawmakers who have removed any deterrents to crime

### 3.) Community update from Councilmember Gayle McLaughlin

- Pickleball club at the Craneway
  - Councilmember McLaughlin understands this is a contentious issue
  - The city has sent a letter to Orton Entertainment LLC, which has a 55-year lease for the Craneway, about the status of the project
  - Any use must be approved by the State Lands Commission, and Orton is trying to change the usage of the Craneway
  - Orton's first application for an all-pickleball venue was turned down by the State Lands Commission and has since provided a new, but similar proposal focused on pickleball, other games, and a restaurant
  - The city has sent another letter to Orton to cease any work on this project until they have heard from the State Lands Commission about the modified application
  - This upcoming Tuesday, city staff will discuss this issue with the city attorney in a closed session
  - She is on board with community members who do not want to move forward with the pickleball club
- Farmer's Market at Marina Bay Park
  - The city has facilitated farmer's markets in the city since 1983
  - Will open on April 7, and operate every Sunday from 10 am-2 pm
  - Councilmember McLaughlin discussed the health, environmental, and cultural benefits of the market
  - She listed the initial group of 14 farmers and vendors who will participate
  - Two aisles of the parking in the Marina Bay Park parking lot will be closed off each Sunday for the farmer's market

- More info on city website: <https://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/4643/Richmond-Farmers-Market>
- Chevron refinery flaring
  - Councilmember McLaughlin addressed concerns over increased flaring from the Chevron refinery
  - She cited The Bay Area Air Quality Management Agency's (BAAQMD) new Rule 6-5, which just prevailed against lawsuits from Chevron and the Martinez refinery
    - Chevron agreed to pay \$20 million into a Community Air Quality Fund and another \$20 million to settle other violations
    - The community will have the opportunity to weigh in on how the funds are used
    - She indicated there are some aspects of flaring that will be addressed in the rule, but it will mostly involve monitoring and operator training
  - Chevron is also working on a community reduction plan that involves flaring, but she still wants to see more of an assessment of what is causing the flaring and what is being emitted from the flares
  - A few major environmental groups will hold a community meeting about Chevron at Peres Elementary School in Richmond on March 21 from 6-8 pm
- Astra Zeneca site
  - The previous city council approved a major housing development for 4,000 housing units without this site being properly cleaned up
  - Less than 1% of the toxins have been removed
  - The State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is allowing for a new treatment that has never been used before—an injection of bacteria is supposed to degrade the volatile organic matter
    - The DTSC will have its first annual report on this issue in July or August
  - Sea-level rise is also a major issue, as there is currently only a cap on top of the toxins, but not on the sides, which allows for the toxins to spread
  - The Southeast Area Community Advisory Group will hold a meeting on this issue on March 14, at 6:30 pm
    - The DTSC will attend the meeting
    - Zoom meeting ID: 826 0348 9820
    - Zoom meeting passcode: 742599
- Area FM
  - This is the lot next to Lara's that is also toxic, owned by the city, and monitored by the DTSC
  - This lot requires monthly reports from the city
  - There is a cap that is being redesigned there, but it's still a temporary solution
  - It is city surplus land and can only be sold for affordable housing, but it would have to be cleaned up

- It will have to be decided at some point if the city will keep it or market it to an affordable housing development agency
- Ultimate goal is to keep an eye on all these toxic sites, especially with sea level rise

#### 4.) Open forum issues

- Crosswalks
  - Several residents discussed the need for the city to add a crosswalk to the intersection by the Breakers at Breakers Blvd and Marina Bay Parkway
    - Right now pedestrians don't have a safe way to cross the street
    - Kathy Watson to coordinate with a couple of fellow Breakers residents on this issue
  - One resident noted that a crosswalk is needed at Marina Lakes Drive and Marina Bay Pkwy as well
- Rumble strips
  - One resident noted the rumble strips on Marina Bay Pkwy are starting to deteriorate, and his car was recently damaged by them
  - He believed a more appropriate measure would be speed bumps
- Traffic calming measures
  - Councilmember McLaughlin indicated Public Works has had almost a complete turnover in the past year, so the department is working to establish a new traffic calming program, which already has 200 requests
  - Residents may submit requests to Public Safety Traffic Calming: <https://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/4510/Traffic-Calming-Program>
- Hotel next to CVS
  - Councilmember McLaughlin said she will inquire about any updates to the years-old proposal to build a hotel next to CVS
- Moxion development
  - Councilmember McLaughlin recently asked Public Works about the potential impact of the project, but hasn't received a response yet

#### 5.) Adjournment

- Rita thanked members and speakers for their participation and concluded the meeting at 8:35 pm