

RESOLUTION NO. 58-11

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF WEST CONTRA COSTA ADULT EDUCATION AND
OPPOSITION TO AB 18**

WHEREAS, AB 18 (Brownley), if passed as currently written, would eliminate Adult Education as a specific program meeting the educational needs of adults in California, and

WHEREAS, Richmond's local adult school, West Contra Costa Adult Education, provides free or low cost Vocational Training, High School Diploma, GED and English as a Second Language classes, all of which help Richmond residents prepare to enter new jobs or qualify for better jobs, and

WHEREAS, the education and training provided by West Contra Costa Adult Education is vital to the economic health of the City of Richmond and must play an integral part in Richmond's recovery from the current economic downturn, and

WHEREAS, Richmond has a large immigrant population, and the West Contra Costa Unified School district website indicates that 33.8% of students in the district's K-12 schools are English Learners and more than 50% come from immigrant families, and

WHEREAS, research has established that the literacy of a child's parents is the single most important indicator of a child's success in school, and

WHEREAS, adult English as a Second Language classes offered by West Contra Costa Adult Education provide immigrant parents with the literacy skills they need to support their children's success, thereby playing a crucial role in the success of schools in the City of Richmond, and

WHEREAS, West Contra Costa Adult Education also provides classes for older adults at the Richmond Senior Center, providing social support and intellectual challenge that keep Richmond's elders healthy, vital and able to give back to the Richmond community through volunteering, and

WHEREAS, West Contra Costa Adult Education also provides life skills classes and coaching at sheltered workplace programs for adults with disabilities which allow these citizens of Richmond to work, support themselves, and contribute to the economic health of the City of Richmond, and

WHEREAS, West Contra Costa Adult Education also offers a rich variety of low-fee classes responsive to the changing interests and needs of West County residents, including classes in health and fitness, the arts, environmentally aware gardening, and computer skills, and

WHEREAS, with all of its course offerings, West Contra Costa Adult Education contributes to the economic vitality, physical and emotional health, cultural richness, technological aptitude and academic success of West County's diverse communities, and

WHEREAS, if AB 18 passes as written, the City of Richmond, along with all other California cities, will lose the vital services provided by its adult school, and

WHEREAS, loss of the adult school will impede the city's progress towards economic recovery and vitality, remove a crucial resource for Richmond's immigrant families, undermine the success of Richmond's schools by destroying opportunities for parents to gain literacy skills that support their children, and impair the health and well being of citizens of the City of Richmond.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Mayor McLaughlin, on behalf of the Richmond City Council, recognize that Adult Education is tightly woven into the life of California communities and into the life of the City of Richmond, and that the economic and cultural life of the state of California and the City of Richmond would be greatly impoverished without it. We declare our support for Adult Education in California, and opposition to AB 18 as

written and we request that the California legislature amend AB 18 to exempt Adult Education, and pass legislation that provides protected funding for adult education in the state of California.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, The City of Richmond will make this request in a letter to Assemblymember Nancy Skinner, State Senator Loni Hancock, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson, and California Governor Jerry Brown.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond, California at a regular meeting thereof held July 5, 2011, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Bates, Beckles, Booze, Ritterman, Rogers, Vice Mayor Butt, and Mayor McLaughlin.

NOES: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None.

ABSENT: None.

DIANE HOLMES
Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

GAYLE MCLAUGHLIN
Mayor

Approved as to form:

RANDY RIDDLE
City Attorney

State of California }
County of Contra Costa } : ss.
City of Richmond }

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of **Resolution No. 58-11**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on July 5, 2011.