

RESOLUTION NO. 24-13

RESOLUTION OF THE RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE CONFERENCE “DEVELOPING THE HOMELESS WORKFORCE,” JUNE 17-18 AT THE RICHMOND MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond has one of the highest concentrations of homeless people in Contra Costa County and throughout the San Francisco Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, many public agencies and groups already address the most urgent needs of Richmond’s homeless for food, shelter, and health care, but in order to reduce homelessness, many more of the homeless must improve their employability, re-enter our local workforce, and achieve gainful and sustainable employment; and

WHEREAS, Saffron Strand, Inc. is a Richmond-based 501(c)(3) non-profit membership organization founded in 2009 which builds the job skills and increases employment of homeless adults and youth in Richmond and which currently has a membership of 150 homeless people of whom 82 are employed and 37 have been in jobs for two years or more; and

WHEREAS, Saffron Strand’s mission includes public education and professional training, such that Saffron Strand’s conferences in 2010, 2011, and 2012 attracted to Richmond hundreds of professionals in social services, public health, and workforce development agencies as well as other stakeholders, including education, non-profit, faith-based, and elected leaders from other Bay Area communities and seven other states and one Canadian province; and

WHEREAS, these visitors brought new business to Richmond and had the opportunity to enjoy our 32 miles of bay shoreline, revitalized city center, and multi-cultural hospitality, as well as the opportunity to explore one of California’s Green Cities, witness our environmental stewardship, and become aware of our extraordinarily diverse and increasingly talented and determined workforce; and

WHEREAS, the professional training and public education that result from these annual conferences benefit Richmond directly and significantly by helping to reduce homelessness in our City and by showcasing Richmond as a center of research and best-practice dissemination, forward thinking, and pioneering innovation in the effort to reduce homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the most cost-effective and reliable way to reduce homelessness in Richmond and other communities -- and to conserve public funds for unreimbursed emergency, medical, and law enforcement services -- is for the homeless who can work to enter the workforce with valuable, marketable skills and thereby achieve and sustain gainful employment; and

WHEREAS, Saffron Strand’s fourth annual conference – “Developing the Homeless Workforce: What Will It Take?” June 17-18 at the Richmond Memorial Auditorium – will:

1. Engage stakeholders in cost-effective, employment-focused solutions to homelessness, including the workforce of homeless and at-risk Richmond residents and members of other communities;
2. Identify gaps, incentives, and disincentives in existing housing, health care, and employment programs for the homeless and practical ways to integrate new solutions;
3. Explore application of traditional and new best practices in the continuum of care and transition out of homelessness;
4. Focus on programs to optimize employability and career potential of homeless persons; and
5. Use Richmond -- where the homeless face every possible challenge -- as the proving ground for new, employment-focused solutions to homelessness.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Richmond City Council declares support for the conference “Developing the Homeless Workforce: What Will It Take?” June 17-18, 2013 at the Richmond Memorial Auditorium; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Richmond City Council encourage all City departments, boards, and commissions that provide services or other help to Richmond residents who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to support and enable appropriate staff to participate in the “Developing the Homeless Workforce” conference; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Richmond City Council recommend that the City include the “Developing the Homeless Workforce” conference in “Mark Your Calendar” in the City’s website and promote the conference through other appropriate media; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Richmond City Council authorizes a grant of \$5,000 to “Developing the Homeless Workforce” conference organizer Saffron Strand, Inc. for City of Richmond co-sponsorship of this conference.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting thereof held on March 19, 2013, by the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmembers Bates, Beckles, Butt, Myrick, Rogers, Vice Mayor Boozé, 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:

BRUCE GOODMILLER
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. 24-13, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on March 19, 2013.