

## RESOLUTION NO. 6-15

### A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND GRANTING THE RICHMOND RECREATION DEPARTMENT'S APPEAL OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION'S DETERMINATION TO LIST THE FORMER AMERICAN RED CROSS ADMINISTRATION BUILDING LOCATED AT 3230 MACDONALD AVENUE ON THE RICHMOND HISTORIC REGISTER (PLN14-212)

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**WHEREAS**, the applicant, the Richmond Recreation Department, filed Planning Application PLN14-212 with the City of Richmond requesting demolition of the former American Red Cross Administration and Annex Buildings (the 'buildings') located at 3230 Macdonald Avenue (Assessor's Parcel No. 516-240-002) (the 'subject site'); and

**WHEREAS**, the buildings are over 64 years old; and

**WHEREAS**, Richmond's Historic Structures Ordinance (Richmond Municipal Code Section 6.06.074) requires the city to determine whether any building over 45 years of age is eligible for listing on a historic register prior to its demolition; and

**WHEREAS**, a Historic Resource Evaluation Report (HRER) was prepared for the buildings by Elizabeth Graux, an architectural historian with the firm Carey and Co., Inc., to assist the city in determining whether the buildings are eligible for listing on any historic register; and

**WHEREAS**, the HRER recommended that the buildings were ineligible for listing on the state and national historic registers; and

**WHEREAS**, the HRER recommended that the Administration Building was eligible and the Annex Building ineligible for listing on the Richmond Historic Register; and

**WHEREAS**, the Historic Preservation Commission considered the HRER at a properly noticed public hearing on December 12, 2015, concurred with the recommendations of the HRER, and determined that the Administration Building was eligible and the Annex Building ineligible for listing on the Richmond Historic Register; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 16, 2014, the Richmond Recreation Department filed a timely appeal of the Historic Preservation Commission's decision; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council considered the Richmond Recreation Department's appeal at a properly noticed public hearing on January 20, 2015 and finds as follows:

- The buildings do not meet current building codes and are not included in the vision for the restoration and improvement of Nichol Park; and
- The buildings are in very poor condition and do not have a current or future purpose that would justify seeking funding to pay for the substantial cost of their preservation, restoration, or relocation; and
- The buildings have experienced numerous break-ins and have been occupied by vagrants despite the lack of power, heat, or water supply; and
- The buildings are considered 'attractive nuisances' that have been repeatedly vandalized; and
- The Administration Building blocks the view of the area behind it and creates a safety hazard for users of Nichol Park and the Recreation Department Building; and

- The buildings occupy space that could be more efficiently used to create additional parking supply for users of Nichol Park and the Recreation Department Building; and
- The Administration Building’s architectural integrity was compromised by past tenants who made unauthorized alterations that replaced the building’s unique window systems with plywood; and
- Demolition of the buildings will eliminate blighted conditions in the vicinity and allow the Recreation Department to expand amenities for Nichol Park and the Recreation Department Building consistent with the city’s Parks Master Plan and the General Plan Parks and Recreation Element.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council hereby grants the Recreation Department’s appeal of the Historic Preservation Commission’s determination to list the former American Red Cross Administration Building on the Richmond Historic Register.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Planning Director may approve demolition of the Administration Building pursuant to R.M.C. 6.06.074, subject to preparation by the Recreation Department of a ‘Level II Historic American Buildings Survey’ (HABS) for the Administration Building prior to its demolition.

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I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting thereof held on January 20, 2015, by the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmembers Bates, Beckles, Martinez, McLaughlin, Vice Mayor Myrick, and Mayor Butt.
NOES:	None.
ABSTENTIONS:	None.
ABSENT:	None.

DIANE HOLMES  
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND  
(SEAL)

Approved:  
TOM BUTT  
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. 6-15**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on January 20, 2015.