

RESOLUTION NO. 15-15

A RESOLUTION OF THE RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE 2015 ANNUAL HOMELESS WORKFORCE CONFERENCE AT THE RICHMOND MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

WHEREAS, the economic growth and sustainable development of the City of Richmond depends on a skilled workforce of Richmond residents to meet the requirements of existing employers and attract new businesses; and

WHEREAS, Richmond also has one of the highest concentrations of homeless people, hard-to-employ people, and long-term unemployed 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, hard-to-employ, and long-term unemployed for food, shelter, and health care; and

WHEREAS, in order to reduce homelessness and poverty, many more residents of Richmond 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 200 homeless people of whom 150 are employed and 60 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 Annual Homeless Workforce Conferences since 2010 have 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 other states; and

WHEREAS, Saffron Strand's Annual Homeless Workforce Conferences offer unique, nationally-recognized public education and professional training that provides specialized expertise, confirmed by certificates of completion, to help the homeless and others re-enter the Richmond workforce for the long-term; and

WHEREAS, Conference participants bring new business to Richmond and have 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 Saffron Strand's Annual Homeless Workforce Conferences benefit Richmond directly and significantly by helping to reduce homelessness in our City, improving the quality and employability of our workforce, 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 Annual Homeless Workforce Conferences contribute to reduced violence, lower crime rate, greater community engagement, increased employment, improved business development, and higher quality of life in Richmond and other communities; and

WHEREAS, Saffron Strand's 2015 Annual Homeless Workforce Conference -- "Moving Beyond Barriers and Back to Work" June 15-16 at the Richmond Memorial Auditorium -- will:

1. Engage stakeholders in cost-effective, employment-focused solutions to homelessness, including the workforce of homeless, hard-to-employ, and long-term unemployed 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. Apply traditional and new best practices in the continuum of care and transition out of homelessness and poverty;
4. Focus on programs to optimize employability and career potential of homeless persons and those at risk of homelessness; and
5. Use Richmond -- where the homeless and other low-income residents face every possible challenge -- as the proving ground for new, employment-focused solutions to homelessness and poverty.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Richmond City Council declares support for Saffron Strand's Annual Homeless Workforce Conferences; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Richmond City Council declares support for "Moving Beyond Barriers and Back to Work" June 15-16, 2015 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 "Moving Beyond Barriers and Back to Work"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Richmond City Council recommend that the City include 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 waive the rental fee for use of the Richmond Memorial Auditorium for the 2015 Annual Homeless Workforce Conference and endorse and support City of Richmond co-sponsorship of this Conference.

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 February 17, 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. 15-15**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on February 17, 2015.