

RESOLUTION NO. 45-11

RESOLUTION OF THE RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL RECOGNIZING THE EXTREME IMPORTANCE AND POTENTIAL BENEFIT THAT A MUNICIPAL ID PROGRAM COULD PROVIDE TO MANY RICHMOND RESIDENTS, AND DIRECTING STAFF TO REVIEW A PROPOSAL BY THE RICHMOND MUNICIPAL ID COALITION, PREPARE PERTINENT MODIFICATIONS, AND PREPARE AN ORDINANCE FOR THE COUNCIL’S REVIEW ON JULY 5th, 2011.

WHEREAS, many Richmond residents – including but not limited to immigrants, children and students, the homeless, transgender, the indigent, the disabled and elderly, runaway youth and adult survivors of domestic violence, and others – currently suffer from the lack of official identification, which restricts their access to law enforcement, financial institutions, jobs, housing, and home and workplace protections; and

WHEREAS, many marginalized communities lack a valid form of identification and without identification are afraid to report crimes to the police; and

WHEREAS, those who lack a valid form of identification are also often afraid to report labor and housing violations – such as blighted properties, slum landlords, and workplace health, safety, and wage violations – to the appropriate authorities; and

WHEREAS, without appropriate identification, it is difficult to open bank accounts, and immigrants carrying large amounts of cash are therefore specifically targeted for robbery and other violent crimes; and

WHEREAS, lack of a valid form of identification translates into limited access to financial institutions and fear of police and other city officials, thus resulting in decreased participation in the formal city economy and other civic matters; and

WHEREAS, a Richmond Municipal ID Card will make it easier for all residents to participate in local and regional commerce – by opening a bank account, establishing credit, and accessing loans and the housing market; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond Municipal ID Card will fill a void by providing an official form of personal identification for the many Richmond residents who currently lack one; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal ID card will unify the Richmond community, make it safer and more secure, benefit the local economy, and facilitate participation in public and private City activities; and

WHEREAS, the Cities of New Haven, Connecticut and San Francisco, California have implemented such municipal ID programs and have reported an increase in reporting of crimes in those cities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland, California approved a Municipal ID Card program and selected a vendor to implement such a program at no cost to the City of Oakland; and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond will like to consider a Richmond Municipal ID Card program that is unique to the City of Richmond, produced with the highest privacy and security measures built in to protect the public safety and against counterfeit reproduction, and that is fully cost-covered with no subsidy from the City; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to create a reliable form of identification for all its residents.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the council of the City of Richmond recognizes the extreme importance and potential benefit that a Municipal ID program will offer our community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of Richmond hereby directs City staff to review the attached draft Municipal ID Ordinance, to propose modifications, to meet with the Richmond Municipal ID coalition and others and to prepare a final ordinance for review of the Council on July 5th, 2011.

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 June 7, 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. 45-11**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on June 7, 2011.