



Richmond NOW Community Covenant

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, Richmond, California

As faith leaders and public servants, we are committed to building a better future for Richmond NOW. We are committed to the renewal and healing of our community. For these reasons, we pledge to do everything in our power to realize the vital proposals for change to increase safety and expand opportunity for all of Richmond.

SAFE SPACES

VISION & VALUES: Community centers need to provide safe and healthy spaces for young people to gather and should offer programs that meet the needs of the entire community. We believe that every Richmond resident—young and old—should feel safe, welcome and nurtured by our community centers.

ACTION: The Richmond City Manager and Richmond City Council need to allocate adequate funding in this year's budget to expand programming at the Nevin Center.

MENTORING

VISION/VALUES: We believe that every child in Richmond deserves to have a nurturing relationship and guidance with at least one adult outside of their family. There are no "throw-away" children in Richmond.

ACTION: WCCUSD needs to follow through on its commitment to adequately fund and staff the coordination of the program and to ensure that all students at Kennedy and Richmond High School who desire and need an adult mentor have access to one.

CEASEFIRE/ LIFELINES TO HEALING

VISION & VALUES: The community of Richmond is taking responsibility for protecting its youth and neighborhoods. Everyone has a right to feel safe in their own community.

ACTION: The Richmond City Council, the Richmond Police Department, the Office of Neighborhood Safety, and the broader community need to adopt Ceasefire/Lifelines as the comprehensive youth violence prevention and intervention strategy for the city of Richmond.

RICHMOND MUNICIPAL IDENTIFICATION

VISION & VALUES: We believe that in order to make our city a unified Richmond we must welcome all our residents into our larger society. We come from different backgrounds, experiences and cultures and we believe that we can come together and celebrate our diversity through our collective action to change our city for the better.

ACTION: We want the Richmond City Council members to adopt an ordinance enacting Municipal Identification for the City of Richmond.

LINKED LEARNING

VISION/VALUES: We believe that our youth can pave the way for a better tomorrow. The opportunity to get ahead and be prepared for college and a career is something that we value greatly. All children deserve the opportunity to succeed and fulfill their dreams.

ACTION: We need the West Contra Costa Unified School District Board needs to commit to finding ways to increase the number of mentors, job internships, and materials to the Academies at Richmond High School and Kennedy High School.

ADULT EDUCATION

VISION: We believe that all community residents must be afforded the opportunity to learn. Education is the cornerstone of our democracy because an educated adult population translates into an educated young population.

ACTION: We need the WCCUSD Board to commit to work with CCISCO to ensure that we prevent harmful cuts to Adult Education and to find creative ways to ensure that Adult Education does not disappear from our community.

PREDATORY TOWING

VISION VALUES: We are a community that believes in the financial and economic interdependence of all families. We also believe that a hardship to one group is a hardship to all. Richmond residents want to provide for their families.

ACTION: We have the commitment of Chief of Police Chris Magnus to work with CCISCO to create a towing policy that is fair and humane. We are asking our City Council representatives to support our effort in creating a policy that will not hamper our families' progress and financial independence.

SAFE RETURN

VALUES & VISION: We are a community that believes in renewal. We value restorative justice and the intentional work of re-connecting members of our community that are seeking ways to give of themselves to make our community better.

ACTION: We ask all of our public officials—particularly those in law enforcement, job development, adult education and city government to join the Safe Return Community Research Team and members of the community in establishing the appropriate ordinances, policies and funding initiatives that will lead to the development of a One-Stop Service Center (one offering services in housing, jobs, education, transportation, healthcare and other basic needs) for those returning from incarceration.

Faith Leaders of Richmond

Public Servants of Richmond