



**For immediate release**

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

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**CITY OF RICHMOND ELIMINATES INVESTMENT OF CITY FUNDS INTO VIOLENCE, WAR, OPPRESSION, AND APARTHEID**

*Richmond city council passes vital resolution requiring city staff to review and modify the City of Richmond Investment Policy, eliminating the investment of City funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid with overwhelming community support.*

**Richmond, CA** – In the latest effort to express material solidarity with the people of Palestine enduring an ongoing genocide, the Richmond City Council voted to pass [resolution G.1](#) in a special City Council meeting last night to direct city staff to review and modify the City of Richmond Investment Policy. The new restrictions will eliminate the investment of City funds into industries that facilitate violence, war, oppression, and apartheid.

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, [Richmond became the first city](#) in the United States to pass a resolution in solidarity with Palestine. Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) Richmond organizers and community members were on the frontline organizing efforts to pass this historic resolution. Together with our allies at the Asian Pacific Environmental Network, we helped to mobilize our community to send over 6,500 letters to City Council members in just 24 hours before the vote on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Inspired by the City’s 1985 *Resolution Supporting Abolition of Apartheid South Africa* and *Resolution Establishing Anti-Apartheid Business and Investment Policies* (codified by an ordinance in February of 1986), the resolution passed last night will ensure that Richmond’s commitment to standing against the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people is material.

“The core intent of the proposed changes is to ensure that the City of Richmond does not invest in companies which consistently, knowingly, and directly facilitate and enable state violence and repression, war and occupation, and/or severe violations of international law and human rights” is articulated in the [text of the resolution](#).

# COMMUNITIES FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

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The **four restrictions** in the new policy include: **(1)** not to invest in a predetermined list of companies and their subsidiaries that are involved in Israel's violations of Palestinian rights; **(2)** not to invest in companies and their subsidiaries involved in the development and manufacturing of arms and weapons; **(3)** not to invest in companies and their subsidiaries that are involved in the border and mass surveillance industries; and **(4)** not to invest in companies and their subsidiaries that are involved in the mass incarceration and detention industries, nor those companies that use prison labor to manufacture products.

In the past 200+ days since Israel launched its assault Gaza, over 34,568 Palestinian people have been killed and at least 77,765 have been injured.<sup>1</sup> Gaza's Palestinian health authorities say that they can no longer count all their dead, meaning we do not have an accurate death toll.<sup>2</sup> 1.1 million Palestinians in Gaza are currently facing imminent famine, with the region's Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) now designated as "Catastrophic," which is the most severe designation.<sup>3</sup>

We want to thank Richmond Mayor Eduardo Martinez, Councilmember Gayle McLaughlin, and Councilmember Soheila Bana for introducing this historic and necessary resolution. We want to also thank Councilmember Doria Robinson, Councilmember Melvin Willis, and Vice Mayor Claudia Jimenez for voting in favor of resolution G.1. We applaud your moral clarity, courage, and leadership that have positioned Richmond as a national precedent for international solidarity and human rights advocacy.

As frontline environmental justice organizers and community members in Richmond, we understand firsthand how the violence from U.S.-funded war, occupation, and genocide decimates our communities and families. Many of our community members came to Richmond seeking refuge from violence from the Jim Crow South and countries from the Global South, from Honduras to Palestine to Laos. Our diverse Richmond community stands with the people of Palestine seeking justice and liberation.

We believe that clean water, clean air, access to healthy and nutritious foods, and the freedom of movement to navigate our communities without the fear of violence are **human rights**. These rights must be protected and honored for the **people of Gaza and Palestine**.

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1 <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2024/5/1/israels-war-on-gaza-live-un-chiefs-warn-israel-against-assault-on-rafah#:~:text=At%20least%2034%2C535%20Palestinians%20have,on%20Gaza%20since%20October%207.>

2 <https://www.wsj.com/world/middle-east/in-gaza-authorities-lose-count-of-the-dead-779ff694>

3 [https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC\\_Gaza\\_Strip\\_Acute\\_Food\\_Insecurity\\_Feb\\_July2024\\_Special\\_Brief.pdf](https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Gaza_Strip_Acute_Food_Insecurity_Feb_July2024_Special_Brief.pdf)

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We thank Richmond leadership for once again representing your Richmond community members and setting another bold and courageous precedent that we implore the rest of the country to implement.

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[Communities for a Better Environment \(CBE\)](#) is one of the preeminent environmental justice organizations in the nation. Founded in 1978, the mission of CBE is to build people's power in California's communities of color and low-income communities to achieve environmental health and justice by preventing and reducing pollution and building green, healthy, and sustainable communities and environments. CBE provides residents in heavily polluted urban communities in California with organizing skills, leadership training and legal, scientific, and technical assistance so that they can successfully confront threats to their health and well-being.