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MEDIA CONTACT: Christina L. Lee, Communications and Public Information Officer, City Managers Office, vallejodojpartnership@cityofvallejo.net



**Vallejo City Council Moves to Ratify Collaboration Agreement with Cal DOJ
*City Takes Major Reform Step With Outside Help***

VALLEJO, CA – The City of Vallejo held a closed session meeting for the City Council today, June 5. At the conclusion of the closed session, the City Attorney reported that Council members unanimously directed the City Staff to place an action on the June 9th City Council Agenda to ratify an agreement with the California Department of Justice (Cal DOJ). The Agreement will see the City of Vallejo collaborate with the Cal DOJ on a comprehensive policing plan in an effort to modernize and reform VPD's policies and practices and increase public trust. The review will aim to support effective policing through improvements in use-of-force procedures, anti-bias and community policing, and accountability by focusing on training, policy, and transparency in alignment with national standards, best practices, current and emerging research, and community expectations.

Over the last several months the City of Vallejo has been in a collaborative discussion with the Cal DOJ on the arrangement. It is a key step in a string of actions taken by city leadership to reform the Vallejo Police Department. Prior steps include engaging a third party (OIR Group, an independent, expert consulting group) to complete an audit of the Department, a public engagement process wrapped around the hiring of new Chief of

Police Shawny Williams, and engagement with the Federal Department of Justice Community Relations Service.

“Over a year ago the City of Vallejo launched major steps to bring about change in our Police Department that would both improve policing and improve the relationship our Department has with the community. We have seen progress with the implementation of new policies and our hiring of an excellent and well-respected new Chief of Police. I also thank our officers for their faith in the process and support for reforms. I know, especially lately, they have faced difficult circumstances, but they continue to focus on serving the community of Vallejo. While we have made progress, more needs to be done, and that is why I welcome the involvement of the California Department of Justice,” stated Vallejo Mayor Bob Sampayan. “The Cal DOJ has tremendous resources and insights, and our leadership embraces their effort to get involved.”

“I have long stated that we know not all the best ideas are in Vallejo, and our Council welcomes the involvement of the California Department of Justice in helping us implement better police practices in Vallejo,” said Vallejo City Manager Greg Nyhoff. “Our officers share our Council’s mission to keep our community safe and reflect the best of policing. We believe that collaboration with the DOJ and implementation of the suggestions from our recently completed external audits are an important step for everyone.”

“The City of Vallejo had launched a series of reform projects before I arrived in Vallejo that evidenced their desire to improve. It is one reason I was attracted to the role of Chief,” said Vallejo Chief of Police Shawny Williams. “As Chief, I have already implemented a stronger body-worn camera policy, an improved de-escalation policy, and a program to regularly analyze use-of-force data, but the biggest steps are ahead of us. I welcome all voices to the table. We are stronger together.”

A copy of the Agreement is available on the Cal DOJ Website here:

<https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/attachments/press-docs/Executed%20Vallejo%20Agreement.pdf>

The Agenda for the June 9th Council Meeting has been posted here:

<https://www.cityofvallejo.net/cms/One.aspx?portalId=13506&pageId=22200> Due

to the global coronavirus pandemic, the Council Meetings are held virtually, and members of the public can participate via the City's Virtual Town Hall. Details for public virtual attendance are available in the agenda.

Additional information on the agreement can be found here:

<http://www.ci.vallejo.ca.us/cms/One.aspx?portalId=13506&pageId=16788752>

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555 Santa Clara Street | Vallejo, CA 94590 | cityofvallejo.net

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