



The Richmond Transparency and Accountability Project (RTAP) was established in 2017 and works to build safer, healthier communities by disrupting mass incarceration and police violence at its source: police policies and procedures. We organize Black and Brown people, legal experts, policy analysts, and community members to achieve policing practices that reduce physical, economic, and emotional trauma in the most policed neighborhoods in the city.

We want to make the community and supporters aware of some urgent updates regarding the organization and our efforts.

1. In June 2020, in the early weeks of the Richmond Uprisings, a GoFundMe fundraiser was started on behalf of the Richmond Transparency & Accountability Project to support our efforts to fight for civilian oversight and a Marcus Alert system (named after Marcus-David Peters, who was killed by a Richmond Police officer two years ago). As of July 22, 2020, the organizer of the fundraiser is no longer affiliated with RTAP. The fundraiser was created, published, and disseminated on RTAP's social media accounts by this former member without the consent of the family of Marcus-David Peters and without the endorsement of RTAP's Core membership. When we first learned of the GoFundMe, we believed that these actions were in good faith; however, the organizer of the fundraiser has refused to provide RTAP and the family of Marcus-David Peters with access to the GoFundMe account. On July 31, 2020, we discovered that this former member updated the GoFundMe to indicate that a single individual is the beneficiary. The listed beneficiary has up until this point been unresponsive to our communications. We are working to have the money returned to the donors, since it has become clear that these funds will not be released to RTAP nor the family of Marcus-David Peters.
2. No RTAP member currently has access to our social media accounts through Instagram and Twitter, nor to our MailChimp database. Our handle names and mission statement on our social media sites have now been changed by the previously-mentioned former member. The community should be advised that the Instagram account @defundrpd and the Twitter account "Richmond Transparency and Accountability Project" under the handle "@defundrpd" were co-opted and are no longer controlled by RTAP. We will update you if we must create a new handle. In the meantime, any information being disseminated on those platforms are neither formal endorsements nor reflections of the organization. Please follow our Facebook and website for updates until further notice.

We understand the trust that is given when supporters invest in a valued organization. We are working diligently to resolve this situation and to return the funds. We thank the community, locally and otherwise, for their consistent dedication to a freer, safer, more transparent Richmond. Our mission remains vitally important, and we deeply appreciate the support. We apologize for any damage done by this deeply unfortunate situation.