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## **West Contra Costa County Mayors Discuss Business Growth Addresses from Congressman Mark DeSaulnier and Supervisor John Gioia Keynote from Ilia Papas of Blue Apron \*Media Release\***

**Richmond, CA** - On October 24, 2018 the East Bay Economic Development Alliance (East Bay EDA) and the Richmond Chamber of Commerce will host the annual West Contra Costa Economic Summit at the Craneway Pavilion in Richmond.

**What:** 2018 West Contra Cost Economic Summit

**When:** Wednesday, October 24, 2018

10:30 am – 11:30 am Business Expo featuring information from 27 business assistance providers  
11:30 am – 1:55 am Congressional and County Addresses, Keynote featuring Blue Apron and  
Mayoral Panel with Mayors from West Contra Costa County

**Where:** Craneway Pavilion [www.craneway.com](http://www.craneway.com)  
1414 Harbor Way South, Richmond, CA 94804

**To Attend:** Late registration at the door will be available at the event. \$20 for Chamber members; \$30 for non-Chamber members

- Over 200 business, government and elected representatives are expected to gather at the annual West Contra Costa Economic Summit to learn about the potential for business growth in the West Contra Costa region of the East Bay. The audience will be addressed by Congressman Mark DeSaulnier and Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia, followed by a presentation from Ilia Papas, Founder and Chief Technology Officer of Blue Apron, a successful business in the region benefitting from a local workforce and socially-minded consumer base. “Blue Apron is proud to have established a presence in Richmond, California over five years ago. From Blue Apron’s formative years, the employees in our fulfillment center have played a pivotal role in the evolution of our business,” said Ilia Papas, co-founder and Chief Technology Officer, Blue Apron. “I am honored to participate in the 2018 West Contra Costa Economic Summit and discuss our connection to this community that has been integral to our growth.”
- Mayors Gabriel Quinto (El Cerrito), Chris Kelley (Hercules), Timothy Banuelos (Pinole), Tom Butt (Richmond) and Genoveva Garcia Calloway (San Pablo) will also participate in a panel discussion on how their respective cities are supporting businesses, and the challenges and opportunities they perceive. The Mayoral panel will be moderated by Sharla Sullivan, Community Affairs Representative for EBMUD and a board member of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce.

Attendees have the opportunity to engage with 27 business assistance providers from city programs, government resources, local chambers and nonprofit organizations - including federal, state and local organizations. “This Summit will be a great opportunity for our entrepreneurs to connect with experts who can help their businesses grow. The inspiration they will gain from a company like Blue Apron is invaluable,” said James Lee, President & CEO of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce. Darien Louie, the Executive Director of East Bay EDA remarked, “It is East Bay EDA’s pleasure to bring our network of business assistance providers to this Summit, and to work in partnership with the Richmond Chamber of Commerce to promote economic development in West Contra Costa.”

The Summit is sponsored by the Chevron Corporation, Mechanics Bank, Kaiser Permanente, the Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union, Southwest Airlines and others.

**Media should contact [info@EastBayEDA.org](mailto:info@EastBayEDA.org) for event access and press packets.**