

**DAN KALB**

CITY COUNCILMEMBER – DISTRICT ONE

CITY HALL • ONE FRANK OGAWA PLAZA • 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR • OAKLAND, CA 94612

(510) 238-7001 • dkalb@oaklandca.gov

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## **Dan Kalb's 2023 Safety Plan for Oakland (Second Update)**

Earlier this year, I developed a Safety Plan for Oakland and outlined a number of Budget and Service Priorities. Now that the City Council passed the City of Oakland Biennial Budget in June and I drafted a Public Safety Resolution in September, I have updated my Safety Plan a second time. This new Plan is informed by the newly adopted City Budget and my Public Safety Resolution. Both Budget and Service Priorities are expanded while Collaboration Efforts are significantly enlarged.

There have been a number of violent assaults, robberies, property crimes and other criminal activity in parts of North Oakland and in several neighborhoods throughout our city. The City of Oakland must be and is committed to fully investigating these serious incidents and working to substantially reduce this horrible criminal activity throughout the city through actions by the Oakland Police Department (OPD), the Department of Violence Prevention (DVP) and the Mobile Assistance Community Responders of Oakland (MACRO) program.

My staff and I continue to meet regularly with the OPD Area Captain and DVP senior staff to discuss recent crime trends in D1 and the city as a whole, OPD response and investigation, and implementation of DVP short and long-term strategies. I remain committed to supporting strategies and policies that prevent violent behavior, reduce recidivism, take violent offenders off our streets, and enhance overall public safety in Oakland.

I have consistently supported the programs housed in our Department of Violence Prevention, and in 2021 successfully advocated for doubling what, at the time, was their rather modest budget. Additionally, I drafted, along with Council President Bas, the initial legislation to create the city's MACRO program, which is in its pilot stages, to both enable a timely response to low-level, nonviolent incidents and free up sworn officers to focus on more serious criminal activity.

As a City, we must strive to do more to create actual safety for the people who live, work and visit here. Our Police response times are often lacking and criminal behavior continues to affect many of our neighborhoods. To address these realities, I have developed a number of budget and service priorities. Budget priorities include funds that

the City Council dedicated during the budget process. Service priorities outline ways in which the Oakland Police Department and other departments/offices can focus resources to better ensure public safety for all. I've outlined these priorities below.

## **City Budget Priorities**

1. Restored funding to the Department of Violence Prevention (DVP) program strategies. This funding provides money for violence interrupters, gender-based violence reduction programs, youth violence prevention and other helpful services and programs. During the budget process, I was able to successfully restore \$750,000 to already approved grant programs administered by DVP.
2. Retained basic police services and funded six police academies. The freezing of some vacant positions that would not be filled anyway, will reduce to some extent the total funds available for overtime. While overtime supplements the sworn staffing we have and allows flexibility for OPD to cover essential functions, the six academies included in the FY 23-25 budget are critical to the service delivery system. For example, while overtime can be used to assign walking officers on a rotating basis into a dozen or more neighborhoods, increased officer staffing will allow these roles to be filled with officers working their regular shift and create increased opportunities for community policing instead of forcing officers to rotate. We will continue to monitor 9-1-1 response times, and meet with OPD staff to better understand OPD's ability to provide basic police services. I am also recommending that we authorize a Lateral Police Academy during this cycle to bring on some experienced officers to OPD.
3. Prioritize hiring and retention of 9-1-1 dispatchers to improve response time. Currently, calling 911 may or may not lead to a quick phone response in large part due to the lack of dispatchers. It is critical that we prioritize hiring, training and retention of 911 dispatchers immediately to address this essential function. These positions are in the budget, we just need to continuously recruit for and fill them, and then retain those who we do hire. I successfully pushed to include this critical prioritization as a Budget Directive during the budget process. Additionally, I have drafted a Council resolution directing the City Administrator to return to City Council with an actionable report no later than December 2023 evaluating options and feasibility analysis to implement additional measures and procedures to increase recruitment and retention of 9-1-1 dispatchers, with the focus on retention of trained dispatchers, addressing the Grand Jury's recommendations, and reducing 9-1-1 hold time so residents can access emergency services in a timely fashion. As a result of this prioritization, we expect to see robust hiring of 9-1-1 dispatchers and a subsequent reduction in 9-1-1 response time.
4. While the Council did not include my recommendation for a lateral academy in the 2023-2025 Budget, the recent Resolution I wrote authorizes a Lateral Police Academy class during this current FY 2023-25 two-year budget cycle, with appropriate safeguards as to who is accepted into the lateral academy, and directs

the City Administrator to return to City Council with legislation to fund such an academy.

## **Service Priorities**

1. Ensure a sufficient number of officers in the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) to help guarantee that serious and violent crimes are fully investigated. Serious and violent crimes must be investigated and OPD needs adequate resources to do so. As I have advocated for repeatedly over the past several years, this also involves having a sufficient number of civilian police evidence technicians and expert crime lab staff in order to best investigate crimes. These positions are in the adopted Budget. I also am calling for additional FBI investigators to help solve violent shootings in Oakland.
2. Ensure that CeaseFire and the Criminal Investigations Division are fully staffed or as close to fully staffed as practical and direct the City Administrator to explore and analyze an expansion of the CeaseFire program and report back the findings, options and actionable recommendations no later than December 2023
3. Institute on-going, rotating walking beat officers in crime hot spots. Walking beat officers can be a deterrent to crime and improve community relations and good will. I am asking the Council to direct the City Administrator to evaluate and analyze the development of a permanent walking beat officer deployment plan, and report back on the findings, options and recommendations no later than December 2023.
4. Increase visible patrol, particularly in business corridors such as Piedmont Avenue, Rockridge and Temescal in District One and in many other commercial corridors around Oakland such as Fruitvale, to deter criminal behavior.
5. Continue to monitor and build the Mobile Assistance Community Responders of Oakland (MACRO). MACRO enables a response to nonviolent, low-level crimes and non-criminal behavior and transfers the responsibility for responding to such calls from the Police Department to the Fire Department where MACRO is housed. Direct the City Administrator to analyze the use of MACRO teams, compare to other jurisdictions with similar programs, determine if substantially fewer calls are being referred to MACRO than otherwise should be, suggest ways to increase the number of appropriate calls referred to MACRO, and return to City Council with a report including options and recommendations.
6. Direct the City Administrator to return to City Council no later than December 2023 with options and actionable recommendations for the creation of a City grant program for chambers of commerce, merchant associations, Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), and other groups of neighborhood businesses to purchase and install high quality security cameras in commercial areas of greatest need that can assist in OPD's ability to investigate and solve crimes in Oakland. I also am supporting

## **Collaboration Efforts**

We must engage with our partners to work together to improve public safety in Oakland. I am in communication with the Alameda County District Attorney's Office and other relevant government agencies regarding appropriate consequences, reentry services and more, and look forward to working with all local agency and elected officials to reduce crime and violence in and around Oakland. To that end, I submit a number of collaboration efforts here.

1. Direct the City Administrator to: (1) request that the California Department of Transportation work with the City of Oakland to place high quality security cameras on freeway on-ramps (and possibly off-ramps) to improve OPD's ability to investigate and solve serious crimes in Oakland, and (2) ensure that any applicable legal requirements for the City are addressed.
2. Direct the City Administrator to urgently request that the FBI expand the number of FBI investigators working with OPD to solve violent crimes in Oakland.
3. Direct the City Administrator to ask the California Highway Patrol (CHP) to expand the number of CHP officers available to provide assistance to OPD to deter crime in Oakland and to ticket drivers who are engaged in reckless driving and dangerous speeding on our streets.
4. Direct the City Administrator to contact Alameda County and regional government bodies, community-based organizations, and law enforcement agencies to request collaboration on regional prevention, intervention and law enforcement strategies.
5. Focus OPD and outside agency work on getting guns off our streets. This requires coordination with relevant agencies at all levels of government including directing the City Administrator to request additional assistance from the appropriate federal agencies and other local jurisdictions to step up coordinated operations in confiscating illegal guns.
6. Have the City Council shall send a letter to federal and state elected officials requesting additional resources and funding to Alameda County and the City of Oakland for reentry services and programs.
7. Have the City Council shall send a letter to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors requesting Alameda County allocate more resources and funding to the County Probation Department and to the City of Oakland and Oakland nonprofit organizations for reentry services and programs.
8. At the recommendation of Council President Bas, I support directing the City Administrator to return to City Council no later than December 2023 with options and recommendations for neighborhood and business trainings on de-escalation and conflict resolution.

By focusing on these budgetary, service and collaborative activities/priorities, I support both the ability of the Police Department to focus on responding to and investigating violent crime, and at the same time, resourcing the reduction of violence short and long term. Prioritizing sufficient overtime, improving 911 dispatch hiring and retention, and having regular walking beat officers emphasizes the Police Department's role in public safety and gives the Department the tools it needs to be more successful. Restoring the budget of the Department of Violence Prevention, building MACRO over time and collaborating with the CalTrans, the FBI, the California Highway Patrol, the Oakland business community, Alameda County and our federal and state elected officials all support public safety both immediately and in the long term. All of these policies resource the reduction of violence. As always, we must take a comprehensive approach to public safety.

These policy efforts can give OPD, DVP and MACRO, and the City of Oakland at large, the resources we need to be successful and free up some resources to respond to violent crimes, and help to create a safer Oakland.

We need substantially greater investments in rehabilitation programs in our state prisons in order to reduce recidivism and help those in need. Likewise, we need a stronger commitment at the County level, which would include expanding programs at the County Jail and helping the probation department with their reentry efforts.

Our City Administration must monitor all these efforts and activities and evaluate their efficacy. Let us continue to dedicate ourselves to making Oakland a safe and vibrant city for all.



Dan Kalb  
Oakland Councilmember, District 1