

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION No. 73311 C.M.S.

BLS:nl

RESOLUTION SUBMITTING, ON THE COUNCIL'S OWN MOTION, A PROPOSED ORDINANCE, ENTITLED, "ORDINANCE CREATING A SPECIAL TAX TO FUND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES," TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE ELECTORS AT THE JUNE 3, 1997 SPECIAL ELECTION; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO FIX THE DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF ARGUMENTS AND TO PROVIDE FOR NOTICE AND PUBLICATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE JUNE 3, 1997 SPECIAL ELECTION

WHEREAS, the citizens of Oakland rely on the City and County to provide emergency medical services, both for individual events and on the occurrence of large-scale events such as earthquakes and fires; and

WHEREAS, the County has collected a special assessment to fund county-wide emergency services; and

WHEREAS, the County submitted this assessment to the voters and the voters approved the assessment; and

WHEREAS, the County has over time increased its assessment to \$21.14 per parcel, which funds services including the trauma centers available to save the lives of those suffering injuries which require special treatment or equipment not readily available at medical centers and hospitals; and

WHEREAS, the City has collected a supplemental Emergency Medical Services assessment in the amount of \$9.00 per benefit unit, which is used to offset the costs of providing a dispatch service for the County-wide emergency medical services and the provision of limited City provided emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, at the general election of November 5, 1996, the voters of the State of California amended the state constitution, adding Article XIII D, which requires that all new, increased, or existing assessments be brought into compliance with the terms of Article XIII D, and

WHEREAS, the County has scheduled a special election for June 3, 1997, and is submitting a special tax to replace the revenues of the former Emergency Medical Services assessment to preserve the same level of services within the County; and

WHEREAS, Article XIII D imposes additional requirements which, in the opinion of the City Council, make it prudent to reconstitute the Emergency Medical Services assessment as a special tax, and

WHEREAS, at the general election of November 5, 1996, the voters of the State of California amended the state constitution, adding Article XIII C, which requires that all new or increased special taxes be submitted to the voters prior to becoming effective, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the City Council of the City of Oakland does hereby submit to the voters at the next scheduled special election, scheduled for June 3, 1997, the text of the proposed ordinance, which shall be as follows:

Section 1. TITLE AND PURPOSE.

(A) Title. This ordinance may be cited as the Emergency Medical Services Retention Act of 1997.

(B) Purpose. The tax imposed under this ordinance is solely for the purpose of raising revenue necessary to retain and enhance emergency medical services in the City of Oakland.

This special tax is not an ad valorem tax on real property, nor a transaction tax, nor sales tax on the sale of real property.

Section 2. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this ordinance only, the following terms shall be defined as set forth below:

(A) "Single Family Residential Parcel" shall mean a parcel zoned for single family residences, whether or not developed.

(B) "Non-Residential" shall mean all parcels that are not classified by this ordinance as Single Family Residential lots, and shall include, but not be limited to, industrial, commercial and institutional improvements, whether or not currently developed.

(C) "Owner" shall mean the Person having title to real estate as shown on the most current official assessment role of the Alameda County Assessor.

(D) "Parcel" shall mean a unit of real estate in the City of Oakland as shown on the most current official assessment role of the Alameda County Assessor.

(E) "Person" shall include individuals, and for profit and nonprofit organizations, including, but not limited to, corporations, partnerships, business associations and trusts.

(F) "Possessory Interest" as it applies to property owned by any agency of the government of the United States, the State of California, or any political subdivision thereof, shall mean possession of, claim to, or right to the possession of, land or improvements and shall include any exclusive right to the use of such land or Improvements.

Section 3. IMPOSITION OF PARCEL TAX.

There is hereby imposed a special tax on all parcels in the City of Oakland. The tax imposed by this Section shall be assessed to the Owner unless the Owner is by law exempt from taxation, in which case, the tax imposed shall be assessed to the holder of any Possessory Interest in such parcel, unless such holder is also by law exempt from taxation.

The tax hereby imposed shall be at the following rates:

(A) For all Single Family Residential Parcels, the tax shall be at the annual rate of \$9.00 per Parcel, subject to annual adjustment as provided in Section 4.

(B) All Parcels other than Single Family Residential Parcels shall be taxed at rates adjusted as follows:

Small Multiple Residential (2-4 units)	\$18.00
Large Multiple Residential (5 or more)	\$45.00
Commercial	\$18.00
Industrial	\$36.00
Rural	\$ 9.00
Institutional	\$ 9.00

The rates for these land uses shall be adjusted at the same percentage change as for Single Family Residential Parcels.

Section 4. REDUCTION IN TAX; RATE ADJUSTMENT

(A) Subject to paragraph (B) of this Section 4, the tax rates imposed by this ordinance are maximum

rates and may not be increased by the City Council above such maximum rates. The tax imposed by the ordinance may be reduced or eliminated by the City Council for a subsequent fiscal year upon a vote of the City Council on or before June 30th in any year in which the City Council determines that after such reduction or elimination there will be sufficient revenues available to balance the City Council's Adopted Policy Budget. Such reduction or elimination shall be effective for the fiscal year following such vote.

(B) Beginning in Fiscal Year 1998-1999, and each year thereafter, the City Council may increase the tax imposed hereby only upon a finding that the cost of living in the immediate San Francisco Bay Area, as shown on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all items in the San Francisco Bay Area as published by the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, has increased; the increase of the tax imposed hereby shall not exceed such increase, using 1997 as the index year. It is further provided that in no event shall the tax rate adjustment imposed hereby exceed, on an annual basis, five percent (5%) of the tax rates imposed by the City of Oakland pursuant to this ordinance during the immediately preceding fiscal year.

Section 5. ANNUAL AUDIT

The City Auditor will perform an annual audit to assure accountability and the proper disbursement of the proceeds of this tax in accordance with the objectives stated herein.

Section 6 DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE; NOTICE OF DECISIONS

It shall be the duty of the Director of Finance to collect and receive all taxes imposed by this ordinance, and to keep an accurate record thereof.

The Director of Finance is charged with the enforcement of this ordinance, except as otherwise provided herein, and may prescribe, adopt, and enforce rules and regulations relating to the administration and enforcement of this ordinance, including provisions for the re-examination and correction of returns and payments. The Director of Finance may prescribe the extent to which any ruling or regulation shall be applied without retroactive effect.

Upon disallowing any claims submitted pursuant to this ordinance, the Director of Finance shall mail written notice thereof to the claimant at his/her

address as shown on the Alameda County Assessor's property tax rolls.

Section 7. EXAMINATION OF BOOKS, RECORDS,
WITNESSES; PENALTIES

The Director of Finance, or his/her designee, is hereby authorized to examine assessment rolls, property tax records, records of the Alameda County Recorder and any other records of the County of Alameda deemed necessary in order to determine ownership of Parcels and computation of the tax imposed by this ordinance.

The Director of Finance or his/her designee is hereby authorized to examine the books, papers and records of any person subject to the tax imposed by this ordinance for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of any petition, claim or return filed and to ascertain the tax due. The Director of Finance, or his/her designee, is hereby authorized to examine any person, under oath, for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of any petition, claim or return filed or to ascertain the tax due under this ordinance and for this purpose may compel the production of books, papers and records before him/her, whether as parties or witnesses, whenever s/he believes such persons have knowledge of such matters. The refusal of such examination by any person subject to the tax shall be deemed a violation of this ordinance.

Section 8. COLLECTION OF TAX; INTEREST AND PENALTIES

The City Council of the City of Oakland is authorized to have the taxes imposed by this ordinance collected by the County of Alameda in conjunction with the County's collection of property tax revenues for the City of Oakland. In the event that the County of Alameda collects the taxes imposed by this ordinance, the imposition of penalties, additional fees and interest upon persons who fail to remit any tax imposed by this ordinance, or who fail to remit any delinquent remittance under this ordinance, shall be subject to and governed by the rules, regulations, and procedures utilized by the County of Alameda in its collection of property taxes for the City of Oakland and its collection of this additional tax for the City of Oakland.

In addition to any other penalties otherwise imposed, a one-time penalty at a rate set by the City Council, which in no event shall exceed 25% of the tax due per year, is hereby imposed by this ordinance on all taxpayers who fail to timely pay the tax provided by this ordinance, in addition, interest shall be assessed

at the rate of 1% per month on the unpaid tax and the penalty thereon.

Every penalty imposed and such interest as accrues under the provisions of this ordinance shall become a part of the tax herein required to be paid.

Section 9. COLLECTION OF UNPAID TAXES

The amount of any tax, penalty, and interest imposed under the provisions of this ordinance shall be deemed a debt to the City. Any person owing money under the provisions of this ordinance shall be liable to an action brought in the name of the City for the recovery for such amount.

Section 10. REFUND OF TAX, PENALTY, OR INTEREST PAID MORE THAN ONCE; OR ERRONEOUSLY OR ILLEGALLY COLLECTED

Whenever the amount of any tax, penalty, or interest imposed by this ordinance has been paid more than once, or has been erroneously or illegally collected or received by the City it may be refunded provided a verified claim in writing therefor, stating the specific ground upon which such claim is founded, is filed with the Director of Finance within one (1) year from the date of payment. The claim shall be reviewed by the Director of Finance and shall be made on forms provided by the Director of Finance. If the claim is approved by the Director of Finance, the excess amount collected or paid may be refunded or may be credited against any amounts then due and payable from the Person from whom it was collected or by whom paid, and the balance may be refunded to such Person, his/her administrators or executors.

Section 11. SAVINGS CLAUSE

The provisions of this ordinance shall not apply to any Person, or to any property as to whom or which it is beyond the power of the City of Oakland to impose the tax herein provided. If any provision, sentence, clause, section or part of this ordinance is found to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, such unconstitutionality, illegality, or invalidity shall affect only such provision, sentence, clause, section or part of this ordinance and shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions, sentences, clauses, sections or parts of this ordinance. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City of Oakland, that this ordinance would have been adopted had such unconstitutional, illegal or invalid provision, sentence, clause, section or part thereof not been included herein.

Section 12. MISDEMEANOR VIOLATION

Any Person who fails to perform any duty or obligation imposed by this ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment for a period of not more than one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

The penalties provided in this section are in addition to the several remedies provided in this ordinance, or as may otherwise be provided by law.

Section 13. BOARD OF REVIEW

Any person dissatisfied with any decision of the Director of Finance adversely affecting the rights or interests of such Person made by the Director of Finance under the authority of this ordinance, may appeal therefrom in writing to the Business Tax Board of Review (the "Board") within sixty (60) days from the date of mailing such decision by the Director of Finance. All filings with the Board relating to appeals or otherwise shall be made to the Chairperson of the Business Tax Board of Review in care of the Revenue Department, One City Hall Plaza, Oakland, CA 94612. The Board may affirm, modify or reverse such decision or dismiss the appeal therefrom, as may be just, and shall prescribe such rules and regulations relating to appeals as it may deem necessary. The Board's decision on appeal will become final upon mailing notice thereof to the Person appealing the Board's decision at such Person's last known address shown on the Emergency Services Medical Retention Tax Records.

Any tax, penalty or interest found to be owing is due and payable at the time the board's decision becomes final.

The Board shall approve, modify or disapprove all forms, rules and regulations prescribed by the Director of Finance in administration and enforcement of this tax; such forms, rules and regulations shall be subject to and become effective only on such approval.

All decisions rendered by the board shall be final, and no further administrative appeal of these decisions is provided or intended.

Section 14. REGULATIONS

The City Council is hereby authorized to promulgate such regulations as it shall deem necessary in order to implement the provisions of this ordinance.

Section 15. NO AMENDMENT

This ordinance may not be amended by action of the City Council without the applicable voter approval.

and be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council of the City of Oakland does hereby request that the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County order the consolidation of the Oakland Municipal election with the special election of June 3, 1997, consistent with provisions of State Law; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Council hereby authorizes and directs the City Clerk of the City of Oakland (the "City Clerk") at least 88 days prior to June 3, 1997, to file with the Alameda County Clerk certified copies of this resolution; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Council does hereby request that the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County include on the ballots and sample ballots the recitals and measure language contained in this resolution to be voted on by the voters of the qualified electors of the City of Oakland; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Clerk is hereby directed to cause the posting, publication and printing of notices, pursuant to the requirements of the Charter of the City of Oakland, the Government Code and the Elections Code of the State of California; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Council does hereby request that the Registrar of Voters of the County of Alameda perform necessary services in connection with said election; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Clerk is hereby directed to obtain printing, supplies and services as required; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Clerk is hereby authorized to provide such other services and supplies in connection with said election as may be required by the Statutes of the State of California and the Charter of the City of Oakland: and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That in accordance with the Elections Code and Chapter 11 of the Oakland Municipal Code, the City Clerk shall fix and determine a date for submission of arguments for or against said proposed ordinance, and said date shall be posted in the Office of the City Clerk; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That each ballot used at said municipal election shall have printed therein, in addition to any other matter required by law the following:

PROPOSED ORDINANCE

**ORDINANCE CREATING A SPECIAL TAX
TO FUND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

MEASURE _____

Measure _____. May a special tax be imposed for Emergency Medical Services Special Tax, at a rate of \$9.00 per single family residential parcel, to replace an existing assessment of the same rate, adjusted according to the Consumer Price Index for the San Francisco Bay Area or five percent, whichever is lower, as proposed in Resolution _____, a copy of which is in the Voter Information Pamphlet?	Yes	
	No	

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Clerk and City Manager are hereby authorized and directed to take any and all actions necessary under law to prepare for and conduct the 1997 special election and appropriate all monies necessary for the City Manager and City Clerk to prepare and conduct June 3, 1997 special election, consistent with law.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, **FEB 25 1997**, 19____

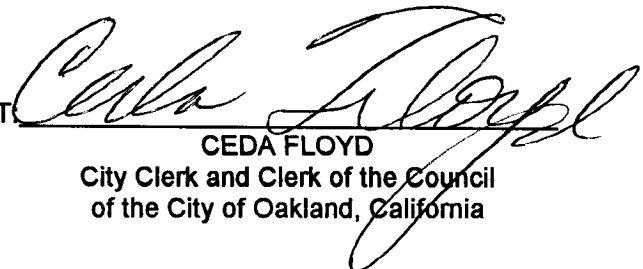
PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES- BRUNNER, CHANG, DE LA FUENTE, MILEY, NADEL, REID, RUSSO, SPEES, and
PRESIDENT HARRIS - 9

NOES- *None*

ABSENT- *None*

ABSTENTION- *None*

ATTEST 
 CEDA FLOYD
 City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
 of the City of Oakland, California