



Greetings Neighbor,

A quick update to let you know about my District One COVID-19 Virtual Town Hall this Monday, April 20 at 5:30pm. Also, a new County Order on Face Coverings | Resources to Assist Unemployed Workers | Wildfire prevention | Resources for Small Businesses | City's financial situation | and OPD interim Chief.

I want to give my heartfelt thanks once again all our East Bay health care workers, first responders, grocery store employees, city workers performing essential city services, and volunteers who are helping those most in need during this public health emergency.

-Dan

~ The more we keep our distance, the sooner we can get back together ~

District One Virtual Town Hall - COVID-19

On **Monday, April 20 5:30 - 7:15** PM, I am happy to host a virtual District 1 Town Hall with key experts. We will focus on the following COVID-19 issues and welcome all timely questions:

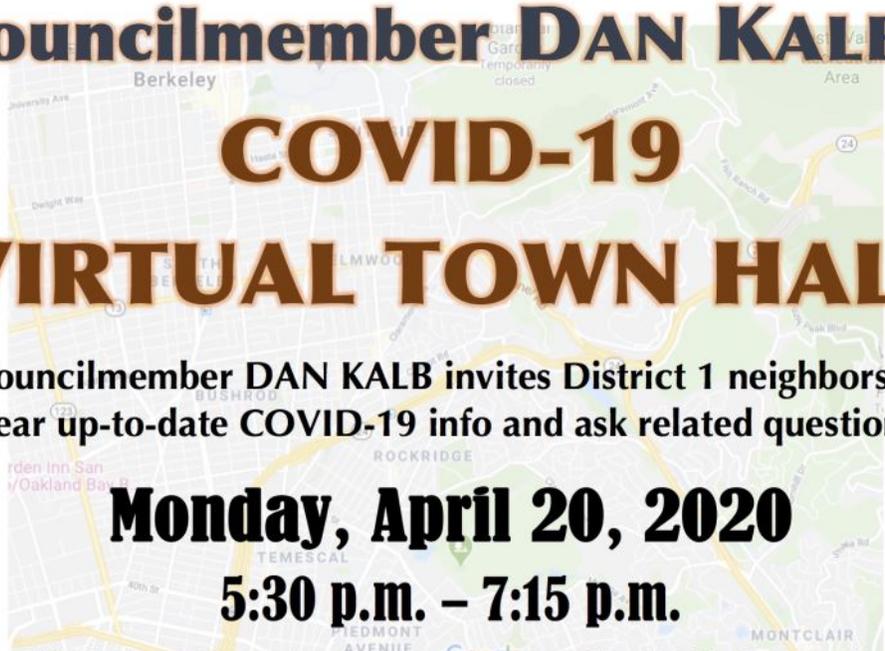
- **Shelter in Place Order, masks and all Public Health questions** -
- Alameda County Director of Public Health **Kimi Watkins-Tartt**
- **Resources for Small Businesses and Workers** -- Oakland Economic & Workforce Development Dept. **Marisa Raya**
- **Impacts and Needs of Seniors** -- Director, CA Department of Aging **Kim McCoy Wade**

- **Homeless Response** -- Oakland Homelessness Administrator **Daryel Dunston**
- **Public Safety** -- North Oakland OPD Commander Captain **Chris Bolton**

Monday, April 20th • 5:30 - 7:15PM

>Watch online: **Facebook /DanKalbCityCouncil**

>>Dial-in by Phone: **(408) 638-0968 | PIN: 9656 4151 764**



Councilmember DAN KALB's
COVID-19
VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

Councilmember DAN KALB invites District 1 neighbors to hear up-to-date COVID-19 info and ask related questions.

Monday, April 20, 2020
5:30 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.

Watch online: Facebook /DanKalbCityCouncil
Call in: (408) 638-0968, 96564151764#
Submit questions in advance: shorturl.at/gyFW3

Panelists

- Captain **Chris Bolton**, North Oakland OPD Commander (public safety)
- **Daryel Dunston**, Oakland Homelessness Administrator (homeless response)
- **Kim McCoy Wade**, Director, CA Department of Aging (impacts and needs for seniors)
- **Marisa Raya**, Oakland Economic & Workforce Development Dept. (resources for small businesses and workers)
- **Kimi Watkins-Tartt**, Alameda County Director of Public Health (County Order and public health questions)



Alameda County Order on Face Coverings

On Friday, April 17 the Alameda County Health Officer announced a [new order](#) requiring the wearing of face masks in certain situations. Previously wearing face masks was a recommendation; this new order makes this behavior enforceable. The

Order is effective at 11:59 p.m. on April 17, 2020 but provides for a grace period in enforcement until 8:00 a.m. on April 22, 2020. For more information [download the Order here](#).

Who must wear face coverings and when??

Members of the public must wear face coverings while inside or waiting in line to enter, any essential business, healthcare facility, or any public or shared transportation.

Employees, contractors, owners, and volunteers of all essential businesses including public and shared transportation must wear a Face Covering **when at work**.

Workers engaged in essential business and functions must wear face coverings in areas where the public is or may be present or nearby.

There are important exceptions to the rule: People **do not need to wear face coverings while engaged in outdoor recreation such as walking, hiking, bicycling or running** but social distancing *is still required*, and it is recommended that people have a face covering with them for times when social distancing is not possible. Children under 12 are exempt from the requirement and face coverings are not recommended for children under age 2 for safety reasons.

What does the County mean by Face Coverings?

A 'Face Covering' means a covering made of cloth, fabric, or other soft or permeable material, without holes, that covers only the nose and mouth and surrounding areas of the lower face. A Face Covering may be factory-made, or may be handmade and improvised from ordinary household materials. Examples of Face Coverings include a scarf or bandana; a neck gaiter; a homemade covering made from a clean t-shirt, sweatshirt, or towel, held on with rubber bands or otherwise; or a mask, which need not be medical-grade.

The Face Covering should be comfortable, so that the wearer can breathe comfortably through the nose and does not have to adjust it frequently, so as to avoid touching the face.

For as long as medical grade masks such as N95 masks and surgical masks are in short supply, members of the public should not purchase those masks as Face Coverings under this Order; those medical grade masks should be reserved for health care providers and first responders.

Resources to Assist Unemployed Workers

Update on unemployment insurance for freelancers. On April 15 Governor Newsom announced that the State will launch the [Pandemic Unemployment Assistance](#) program, which was established through the CARES Act, *beginning on April 28th*.

- The program provides unemployment benefits to independent contractors, sole proprietors, and others that do not otherwise qualify for Unemployment Insurance.
- The State is expecting to be able to process applications and issue payments within 24-48 hours of receiving a completed application.
- The funding that is available through the PUA can be retroactive to the beginning of February, if the applicant can demonstrate they were impacted by COVID-19.
- Those receiving PUA are also eligible to receive the additional \$600 per week unemployment benefit that was included in the CARES Act. This amount can also be applied retroactively.

New Call Center. On April 14, Governor Newsom announced that the California Employment Development Department (EDD) will launch a new call center on April, which will operate 7-days a week from 8:00am until 8:00pm, to assist with individuals seeking unemployment benefits. The call center will open on Monday, April 20th and will be staffed with over 1,300 state employees. The phone number should be posted on the [EDD Website](#).

The state's [Onward California website](#) has some helpful resources for those who have lost their job.

Assistance for undocumented immigrants: On April 15, Governor Newsom announced a new program aimed at providing aid to undocumented immigrants. The Governor indicated that \$125 million will be provided to the disaster assistance program, \$75 million of which would come from the State and the remaining \$50 million would come from philanthropic partners. The program will provide individual assistance of \$500 and household assistance up to \$1,000 for these residents/workers who may not be eligible for federal assistance.

Update on Support to Small Businesses

We know that many small businesses in Oakland are suffering. If you want one-on-one assistance please [take the City's COVID-19 Business Impact Data Survey](#) to get signed up.

***Skilled Oakland City Staff are trained and available to help answer questions, make referrals and guide you through the various processes to access available support.

To date, 1.6 million loans have been approved by the Small Business Administration (SBA). We learned that on Wednesday, April 15, the SBA temporarily stopped accepting *new* applications for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL)-COVID-19 program. The next day, the SBA said it is also unable to accept new applications for the Paycheck Protection Program. (note: Applications who have already submitted their applications will continue to be processed on a first-come, first-served basis.)

We knew that the \$250 billion appropriated for small businesses in the Federal CARES Act was not enough. *As of Friday April 17*, a deal on replenishing small business funding seems to be coalescing. Likely to be included:

- More than \$251 billion for the SBA PPP
- Additional money for the SBA EIDL
- \$75 billion for hospitals

Additional [SBA information and resources can be found here](#).

We are continuing to track the progress of these efforts.

***Please go to [this page for additional information on resources for businesses and nonprofits](#).

If you are not a small business owner, you still can help your local independent businesses by purchasing food for take out, or gift-cards on-line. The [Oakland Indie Alliance has additional info here](#) for local business owners and customers alike.

Wildfires Won't Shelter in Place

While many aspects of life seem to have stalled, wildfire season is fast approaching and a relatively dry winter means that trees, grasses and weeds will be dry soon.

Oakland Fire Department will start annual [Vegetation Management Inspections](#) in May as usual to reduce combustible, flammable vegetation in the hills that could contribute to the spread, growth, and intensity of a wildfire.

Properties that are non-compliant are re-inspected after 30 days. If the property is non-compliant on re-inspection, services charges accrue and a third inspection is scheduled. Inspections continue through the summer months until all parcels have been checked.

While some gardening and landscape work is not considered essential and therefore prohibited under the Alameda County Shelter-in-Place order, [property owners may hire gardeners/landscapers/tree contractors](#) to remove potential hazardous vegetation to meet OFD vegetation management inspection requirements.

As a guidance tool for homeowners, the [Oakland Firesafe Council](#) has compiled a [list of gardeners/contractors](#) available to provide estimates for defensible space vegetation management in Oakland. (The Oakland Firesafe Council does not guarantee that the contractors on this list are qualified to perform requested work; residents should verify that any services provider has current licenses and carries adequate insurance.) Remember to always request multiple bids from providers, and to interview potential contractors.

Oakland's Financial Situation

City Council is [meeting by video](#) on Tuesday afternoon, April 21 (for info on how to participate, [download the agenda](#)). The first item is one I requested: a [status report](#) from City Administration on the local financial impacts of the Covid-19 crisis. In his report, Oakland Finance Director Adam Benson provides an even more pessimistic outlook than I previously shared:

"The size and scale of these revenue shortfalls is like nothing Oakland has ever before experienced. In sum, we project that, absent rapid adjustments by the City Council, the COVID- 19 pandemic will result in a GPF budget shortfall over the next fourteen months of **approximately \$80 million** (\$26.17 million + \$53.78 million)..."

"The point is that – absent an unexpected State or Federal bailout – this problem will not be easily resolved, and it will not be fixed by tinkering at the margins. It will require significant action by City leaders."

Also this week, Oakland City Auditor Courtney Ruby published a [report](#) on the City of Oakland's financial activities and its financial health prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, looking at 2012 through 2019. In her cover note, Courtney poses two very good questions: (1) How will City officials move the needle quickly enough to place Oakland's financial future on solid footing in the midst of COVID-19? and (2) What are the opportunities COVID-19 affords us to work differently, more efficiently, and become more focused on the core government services our residents rely upon?

I thank Director Benson and Auditor Ruby for providing such important information for our difficult budget discussions ahead.

Oakland Earth Day



OPD Interim Chief

Last week Mayor Schaaf appointed **Susan E. Manheimer** to serve as Interim Chief of the Oakland Police Department as the search for a permanent chief is conducted. Chief Manheimer comes to OPD from the San Mateo Police Department where she served as chief for 19 years. Prior to that she served more than 16 years at

the San Francisco Police Department. Chief Manheimer has been at the forefront of developing several groundbreaking initiatives: Homeless Outreach Team, Quality of Life Beat Policing and a Juvenile Diversion and Referral Center.

Says Chief Manheimer, "I will focus on bringing stability and support to the Department. My goal is to bridge relationships and trust with the community and all of our various stakeholder groups. I look forward to our partnership as we move towards a seamless transition in leadership."

In her 35 year career, Chief Manheimer accumulated prestigious accolades at the state, regional and national levels. The Chief is a recipient of awards from the NAACP, the Anti-Defamation League, the California Police Chiefs Association and the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center. Chief Manheimer also received a Presidential appointment to the Office of Violence Against Women within the United States Department of Justice.

Councilmember Kalb and his staff are looking forward to working with Chief Manheimer this year.

Utilities

Here are updates from the [CA Public Utilities Commission](#), [East Bay Community Energy](#), and [East Bay MUD](#).

Contacts

Oakland SeeClickFix - Call 311 - <https://www.oaklandca.gov/services/oak311>

Alameda County Social Services and Referral - Call 211
<http://211alamedacounty.org/2-1-1-alameda-county-resource-finder/>

Councilmember Kalb's Office - 510-238-7001

OPD for Emergencies - 911 (or 510-777-3211) \ for non-emergencies - 510-777-3333

~ [Read Additional COVID-19 Updates and Links here](#) ~



[Read Councilmember Kalb's Past Newsletters here](#)

DAN KALB

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Follow Dan on [Twitter here](#) and [Facebook here](#)