

# CITY OF OAKLAND



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## **BUDGET MEMORANDUM**

**DATE** March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
**TO:** Mayor Libby Schaaf, Oakland City Council, City Administrator, and Interim Finance Director  
**FROM:** Councilmember, Carroll Fife, District 3  
**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Year 2021- 2023 Budget Priorities

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My deep love of community and desire to create equity for residents of who are typically devalued is what called me to public service. Transparency and public education are key to ensuring that our constituents are aware of possible solutions to the issues they face so we can build a stronger Oakland post Covid; one that does not return to ‘normal’ but transforms our city into one that cares for all.

The existing plan is a blank check to use the federal funds as the Administration sees fit without any community input or oversight. We must do better. Before authorizing stimulus funds to eliminate the deficit, the public should understand how the City arrived where we are. There are far too many questions that remain unanswered around the following:

- What were the exact cuts that were made?
- What overspending was permitted and how?
- What is Oakland’s actual financial condition?

I’d like the Administration to work collaboratively with elected Council Members to ensure our constituents voices are heard and acted upon. In order to move Oakland forward and give people faith in this process, it is essential that they have access to information from their government and be allowed full participation in the decision-making process. The following is a list of personal priorities in addition to priorities lifted up by constituents and community groups.

## **HOUSING IS A HUMAN RIGHT**

### **Tenant Protections**

- Funding to enforce tenant protections. \$3M for legal services, tenant services, language access.
- Continued rent relief for struggling tenants

### **Affordable Housing**

- Preserving and acquiring affordable housing, through community land trusts, preventing displacement of Black and Brown residents,
- Boomerang Funds: Dedicated funds should go towards affordable housing development
- Impact Fees: Collect assessed impact fees in order to direct those funds to the production of deeply affordable housing
- Fund the utilization of all vacant city property for transitional housing with case management sourced from culturally competent community housing advocates; this applies to County-owned spaces within the City of Oakland with no immediate plans for use or warehoused for sale. This utilization applies to buildings currently warehoused for purchase with no offer in process should be included.

### **Homelessness**

- Expedite the hiring of the homeless services coordinator, fully staff the department.
- Emphasis on expenditures that prioritizes using a housing first model.
- Encouraging mixed use development
- Housing that includes supportive services, like mental health
- Expand use of hotels, RV lots and other public land for unsheltered encampments.
- Fully funded services for unsheltered/housing insecure residents, prioritizing Black and Brown residents, Domestic Violence Survivors, Foster and Queer Youth.
- Regular Trash pick0up (including Bio-Hazard Waste)/Porto Potties/Hand Washing stations for encampments.
- Increased staff to remove illegal dumping, from the city and around encampments also specifically focus on the short staffing of painters that remove graffiti from our small businesses districts.
- Maintain and expand access to public restroom access for all.

### ***Priority Encampment Areas:***

*7th and Peralta*

*Wood Street*

*Macarthur/Harrison - 580 Overpass*

*Grand and Harrison*

*Snow Park, Lake Merritt*

*23rd and MLK, near St. Vincent DePaul*

*30th and MLK overpass*

*City Hall Plaza*

*Mosswood Park*

### **DIVEST FROM POLICE/INVEST IN COMMUNITY**

Refund/Reinvest/Reimagine - reallocate OPD funds towards social programs including housing, health, education.

### **MACRO**

- Fully fund MACRO for 24/7 operations by redirecting money away from OPD in a manner that does not reduce civilian staffing.
  - Violence Interruption: Fund organizations on the ground that have relationships with community to prevent gun violence.
  - Trauma Responders: Fund a unit of trauma responders that are on the scene every time a murder takes place to offer healing support services to the community
  - Fund non-police first responders for mental health crisis/encampment interventions to decriminalize the unhoused/unsheltered people's crisis
- Social workers be present at Domestic Violence calls

### **Walking Ambassadors in the following areas**

- City Hall
- San Pablo/Brockhurst
- Prescott Neighborhood
- Telegraph Avenue (Uptown/KONO)

### **Public Safety (general)**

- Fund work to support the decriminalization of youth of color by providing enrichment activities within their community.
- Restore the Summer Jobs for youth program, including arts and culture jobs.
- Fee evidentiary towing waivers for victims of violent crimes. The number they mentioned was \$200,000

## **SUPPORTING ESSENTIAL AND CITY WORKERS**

### **Restoring City Services**

- No Contracting Out of public employee services. Services the City currently provides should continue to be provided by City employees.
- No more cuts to public works & increase service/prioritize services for high-needs neighborhoods; services need to be equitable

## **OTHER REQUESTS**

### **Economic Development**

- Food security- expand access to healthy foods
- Additional aid to small businesses
- Black New Deal
- Reinvesting and Sustaining Arts and Culture
- Additional funding for Hoover Durant Public Library

### **Transportation**

- Street paving and pothole maintenance with a focus on the flatlands in West Oakland.

- Traffic Control/Street Calming with a focus on high traffic areas with frequent incidents of traffic injuries and fatalities.

**Measure HH** The 2021-2023 SSB Community Advisory Board Revenue Allocation Recommendations

- 20% City Agencies
  - 10% HSD
  - 10% OYRPD (Park Department)
- 12% OUSD
- 60% Community Investments (Direct assistance and Community based grants)
- 8% Admin, Evaluation and Communications

**Oakland Youth Commission**

- Allocate funding to staff and support the Oakland Youth Commission (\$140,400)
  - Youth Stipends (\$20,400)
  - Program Assistant PT (\$20,000)
  - Program Associate FT (\$75,000)
  - City-wide Youth Strategy (\$25,000)

I am available for any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Oakland City Councilmember  
Carroll Fife, District 3