



CITY OF OAKLAND | POLICE COMMISSION  
250 FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA, SUITE 6302 • OAKLAND, CA 94612

News from the Oakland Police Commission

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Oakland Police Commission announces new leadership with Dr. Tyfahra Singleton Milele taking the mantle and celebrating Regina Jackson as Chair Emeritus**

Thursday Feb 24 was the first meeting for the newly elected Chair of the Oakland Police Commission. Dr. Tyfahra Milele assumed the position of Chairperson after a unanimous vote at the February 10th meeting, along with Marsha Peterson as Vice Chair, also unanimously elected to the role.

The new Chair takes over from Regina Jackson, a distinguished community leader who has led the Commission for the past three years. Of the change, Commissioner Jackson said; “Having worked closely with Dr. Milele on the Police Commission, I can say that I am so delighted to see her excellent work ethic showcased in this extraordinary leadership position. Similarly, I am also excited to welcome Marsha Peterson as Vice Chair, both with tremendous backgrounds to support this important work.”

Chair Milele used the Police Commission Special Meeting to recognize Commissioner Jackson’s dedication and service to the role and designate her as Chair Emeritus. During her statement at the meeting, Chair Milele noted of the former Chair; “During your time leading the Commission, you moved as the epitome of public service and the fiercest proponent for the City of Oakland and all who call this place home. To that, I ... we are indebted.”

Dr. Milele has a deep commitment to education and youth programs that serve communities of color. She is currently the Executive Director of Camp Phoenix, an Oakland-based nonprofit that provides no cost sleepaway summer camp and other nature experiences for Oakland middle school students to foster joy, healing, leadership, and community connection. She is also the founder of Humanize Us All, an equity and inclusion consulting and assessment firm.

Previously, she served as the Principal for an alternative high school for adults, and the Director of Data and Operations for an education reform organization. She was a lecturer at UC Berkeley, where she earned her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature in 2011. Her dissertation focused on jazz and trauma, specifically the trauma of lynching reflected in the song *Strange Fruit*, as well as the



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trauma of police killings of Black people, which she presciently described as a continuation of lynching.

She grew up in South Central LA and was the neighbor of Eula Mae Love, a Black mother and recent widow who was shot and killed by LAPD officers in front of her children in a dispute over a \$22 gas bill. Eula’s brutal killing inspired her longstanding interest in making policing humane and community-centered and healing its legacy of systemic and structural racism.

“I am honored and humbled by this opportunity to work with community members, the OPD and other agencies to shift policing practices toward true public safety for all,” said Dr. Milele. “As a resident of East Oakland, a mother of three and a Black woman, I will work to fulfill my vision of a city where all residents are treated with dignity and respect.”

Vice Chair Marsha Carpenter Peterson is an Attorney and a native of Oakland, California. She is a public-school graduate of Lowell Jr. High and Oakland Technical High School where in both she served in Student Body leadership positions. As a UC Berkeley honor’s student, she spent her junior year studying African Political Thought and Literature at Nairobi University, Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa and traveling throughout East and West Africa.

She earned her law degree at Georgetown Law Center, Washington, DC and began a distinguished legal career in the honors program of the U.S. Justice Department, Civil Division, Commercial Litigation Branch, Washington, DC.

In 2014, she retired from the active practice of law as the Labor Advisor to the Executive Director and Board at the Port of Oakland. She will tell you that the “retirement” is illusory because she continues to volunteer and consult in the private legal sector. She has served the Oakland Bay Area and Alameda County as an Oakland Parks and Recreation Commissioner, Alameda County Civil Grand Juror, and held local and national positions in civic and philanthropic organizations.

“I look forward to working with Chair Milele to deliver to the City of Oakland a police department that equally protects and serves all residents under the principles and objectives of 21st Century National Standards of Constitutional Policing.”

*For a full roster of current Oakland Police Commissioners please visit:*

<https://www.oaklandca.gov/teams/police-commission>

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