

CITY OF OAKLAND



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Council President Pro Tempore Sheng Thao
DISTRICT 4

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Date: 3/25/2021
To: The Oakland City Council and Members of the Public
From: Council President Pro Tempore Sheng Thao, District 4
Re: FY 2021-23 Budget Priorities

Mayor Schaaf, Council President Bas, Members of the Oakland City Council, and the Public,

Below, please find my list of budget priorities for both District 4, and the City as a whole. I have organized these priorities into several categories: wildfire prevention and public safety, youth and parks, infrastructure improvements and maintenance, economic development and opportunity, and capacity building. Many of these priorities belong in multiple categories. Both the categories and priorities within them are not ranked.

Wildfire prevention, public safety, parks maintenance, youth programming, and economic opportunity are all of vital importance to every Oaklander. Due to the ongoing effects of climate change, our fire seasons are longer, more severe, and more dangerous. Though some areas of the City are more vulnerable to wildfire than others, a catastrophic wildfire would put all Oaklanders at risk. It is imperative that the City expand its efforts to prevent, mitigate, and prepare for wildfire and other natural disasters.

Traffic corridors in District 4, specifically MacArthur Boulevard, 35th Avenue/Redwood Road, and Foothill Boulevard, all require traffic calming and/or streetscaping measures. These streets have seen serious and sometimes fatal traffic collisions, sideswaps, and pedestrian injuries and deaths. Funding for traffic calming and pedestrian safety measures such as speed bumps, stop signs, roundabouts, bollards, and other improvements is one of my top priorities in this year's budget.

As Oakland begins to recover from the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, we must reinvest in Oakland's youth and youth spaces, including our parks. Oaklanders deserve a clean, safe place to enjoy the outdoors and eventually reconnect with their community after an extended year of sheltering in place.

Finally, Oakland must use some of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to increase its capacity to provide long term services. We must invest in Oakland by allocating funds toward the creation of revenue-generating ballot measures, such as a progressive Equitable Business Tax to ensure our largest corporations are paying their fair share. Collecting this revenue will allow the City to provide the services Oaklanders require and deserve.

I look forward to listening to District 4 community members and all Oaklanders to enhance and refine the priorities listed below. With a transparent public engagement and the dedication of our elected officials and City staff, we can craft a budget to ensure Oakland not only recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic through a just recovery process, but thrives for years to come.

FY 21-23 Budget Priorities

Public Safety & Wildfire Prevention

- Allocate funds for hazardous tree and fuel removal
- Community Safety Ambassadors for Business Improvement Districts
- Enhance CORE/CERT training
- Enhance goat grazing
- Enhance roadside parcel clearance
- Provide home hardening assistance
- Restore the Tree Crew
- Restore Foot Patrol
- Restore Sideshow Enforcement Unit; enhance sideshow prevention and investigation capability
- Restore Community Resource Officers
- Restore full Ceasefire Unit
- Reopen all partially-closed fire stations
- Designated funding to support speed enforcement and pedestrian safety through environmental design, including possible roundabouts, speed bumps, etc.
- Fund wildfire prevention
- Unfreeze Police Evidence Technicians, Police Service Technicians
- Support Meals on Wheels
- Support the Seniors ASSETS Program
- Support the MACRO pilot
- Funding to support Public Safety Power Outage connectivity, such as for radios, generators, etc.

Youth and Parks

- Hire parks positions per Measure Q
- Allocate funds to create a Joaquin Miller Park maintenance Master Plan
- Add civilian Park Naturalists
- Enhance a robust youth summer internship program
- Allocate funds to ensure clean bathrooms and trash pickups for city parks
- Reopen Lions Pool, including unfreezing necessary positions

- Restore all Youth & Schools Services Program, including rec centers
- Support for the OK Program
- Illegal dumping response
- Support the Safe Time Program
- Dedicated funding for improvements to Joaquin Miller Park
- Dedicated funding for Sausal Creek Watershed, including for fencing and signage
- Dedicated funding for Courtland Creek Park repairs and improvements
- Dedicated funding for Brookdale Park repairs and improvements

Infrastructure Improvements/Maintenance

- MacArthur Blvd Capital Improvement Project for traffic calming and pedestrian safety
- A potential roundabout on Foothill/Fairfax
- Additional traffic calming/streetscaping in Melrose/High Hopes/Fairfax
- Enhanced abandoned auto enforcement
- Enhanced illegal dumping response and professional hazardous waste cleanup
- Permanent public trash cans for Foothill Blvd
- Unfreeze 1.0 FTE Electrical Painter in Graffiti Abatement and Rapid Response
- Speed Bumps or other traffic calming measures on Georgia Street
- Ascot Path Capital Improvement Project

Economic Development and Opportunity

- Designated funding to support the creation of affordable housing and deeply affordable housing
- Designated funding to explore Zoning Map changes to encourage small business growth
- Designated funding for a nexus study to explore increasing the Jobs and Housing Fee (linkage fee)
- Create a pilot Small Business Downpayment Assistance Program
- Restore 1.0 FTE Deputy Director of Workplace and Employment Standards
- Funding and hire staff to support the Homelessness Coordinator

Capacity Building

- Designated funding to aid the City Council in developing revenue-generating ballot measures such as the Equitable Business Tax
- Designated funding to support the creation of a Wildfire Prevention Assessment District
- Update the permitting and appeals portal

Sincerely,



Council President Pro Tempore Sheng Thao