



TO: HONORABLE MAYOR & CITY
COUNCIL

FROM: Edward D. Reiskin
City Administrator

SUBJECT: Resolution to Reallocate OPD Budget

DATE: December 20, 2021

INFORMATION

The Rules Committee on December 16, 2021 scheduled an item to the December 21, 2021 Special City Council meeting that would amend the Fiscal Year 2021-23 Adopted Budget to reallocate funds within the Police Department. I am providing input to the Council via this memo, as there was not time to submit a report into the packet.

Increased Resources for East Oakland

I appreciate the sponsors' desire to increase police patrols in East Oakland. There is no question that East Oakland is disproportionately impacted by violent crime, and I concur with the sentiment of the proposed amendment by Vice Mayor Kaplan and Councilmember Fife that increasing police presence would be an effective way to address violent crime.

As the Administration has shared with the City Council numerous times over the course of this year, sworn police staffing is significantly below what is needed to fully staff patrol, investigations, and other critical functions of the department. While the department is prioritizing needs on a daily basis, the limited number of available Officers presents significant challenges. Freeing up dollars that fund civilian staff to fund sworn deployment does not change the fact that there are not sworn employees to assign to new, additional functions. Put more directly, the proposed action will have little practical impact on staffing in East Oakland.

Nevertheless, the department is taking steps to both increase the number of Officers coming into the department (a class of 26 new Officers graduates this week) and restructuring its operations to address the critical needs of East Oakland.

Starting in 2022, the department is moving to a six-area patrol structure, which will optimize patrol resource deployment based on violent crime, increasing patrol staffing positions from 240 to 288, which will be filled as new academy classes graduate. This increase will provide for more officers in East Oakland to more comprehensively address the issues raised in the report accompanying the proposed resolution. Details of this plan are attached to this memo (see **pages 1-3 of Six Area Patrol Deployment**).

Police Department Public Communications

As to the public information function proposed to be reduced by two-thirds, such a reduction would adversely impact the department's ability to communicate with the general public directly, correspond with the media, and distribute internal information.

The department has a responsibility for providing the public with accurate, timely, and consistent information. When engaged in regular, transparent communication, the department promotes public trust. The department recognizes the importance of public outreach and has linked it to the strategic plan.

The public information officer (PIO) is a central point of distribution for many types of information including safety messages and requests for assistance on critical issues (e.g., missing persons, criminal activity, or investigative support). The PIO also proactively pushes out public documents, media releases, crime videos, and other important/critical material, and releases material of public interest, including NSA mandated documents (stop data reports, use of force reports, and audits) and legislative mandated information (i.e., officer-involved-shooting video).

Each day, the PIO responds to approximately 20 media requests for information. In addition to providing information, the PIO serves as a liaison to the media to during critical incidents and major events. In the Independent Investigation to the Occupy Oakland Response by the Frazier Group, the report noted importance of a PIO stating, "a public relations professional moves the department into a more proactive position, and into alignment with other major police departments with regards to taking control of community perceptions of their activities." The report also recommends that the PIO be a "command level individual (sworn or civilian)". Recognizing the importance of public communication, for comparison, San Francisco PD assigns 9 PIO members and San Jose PD assigns 3 PIO members.

Internally, the PIO assists with providing employee safety information and serves as a conduit for department-wide messaging. The PIO also serves as a resource for department staff and as a primary spokesperson for on-scene interviews.

Finally, the proposed resolution would eliminate funding for a filled position, thus necessitating the layoff of a City employee. Item 11 on the City Council's December 21, 2021 meeting is a proposed resolution declaring that "The City Council does not support layoffs of any City employees".

The proposal to remove funding from a filled position seems inconsistent with the proposal to not layoff City employees.

Respectfully submitted,



Edward D. Reiskin
City Administrator

In 2020 and 2021, the City of Oakland saw a dramatic increase in violent crime. This year, the City experienced more combined shootings and homicides not seen in over a decade. There have been 132 lives lost to violence in Oakland (22% increase), which is likely to be the highest in at least nine years. Gunfire, in general, has also significantly increased (37%). The surge in violence has included reckless driving and gunfire brought on by Sideshow activity and caravans of armed individuals engaged in mass looting and robberies. Further, individuals have engaged in an increasing number of armed robberies (43% increase) and carjacking robberies (77% increase). The ongoing violence has inflicted a tremendous amount of trauma on our community

Although the entire City has been plagued by violence, East Oakland, particularly Area 5, has been disproportionately impacted. In Area 5, year to date, 46 lives were tragically taken, 190 individuals suffered firearm related assaults, and another 946 people were victimized in aggravated assaults, all more than any other police area. Further, Area 5 has seen more gunfire incidents than any other police area (2,151 YTD Shotspotter activations). East Oakland has also been the focus of Sideshow activity and the armed caravans. The following tables provide year to date crime for each police area and Shotspotter activations for each police area.

Citywide Crime Stats – Crime by Area					
Part 1 Crimes	Area 1 01 Jan to 12 Dec	Area 2 01 Jan to 12 Dec	Area 3 01 Jan to 12 Dec	Area 4 01 Jan to 12 Dec	Area 5 01 Jan to 12 Dec
Homicide – 187(a)	16	10	25	27	42
• Homicide – all other	1	1	2	2	4
Aggravated Assault	577	304	603	711	1,136
• With Firearm	81	47	126	124	190
Rape	35	20	26	22	27
Robbery	342	291	788	551	529
Burglary	3,138	2,613	1,240	559	1,283
Motor Vehicle Theft	1,109	1,294	1,753	1,894	2,295
Larceny	1,158	1,363	1,184	831	1,033
Arson	30	18	31	33	52
Total Part 1 Crimes	6,406	5,914	5,652	4,630	6,401

Shotspotter Activations – Citywide and Area			
Shotspotter Activations	YTD 2020	YTD 2021	YTD % Change 2020 vs. 2021
Citywide	6,226	8,559	37%
Area 1	568	880	55%
Area 2	243	308	27%
Area 3	1,150	1,547	35%
Area 4	1,571	2,151	37%
Area 5	2,694	3,673	36%

*As of 12 Dec 21

In addition to the increase in violent crime, the Department noted an increase in police officer response to Priority 1 calls for service (approx. 17%), involving the more serious incidents. Priority 1 calls, which include shootings and high risk events, can take extensive police resources to manage and investigate. Often, officers on high priority calls are unavailable to respond to other calls for service, delaying response time, creating a backlog of pending calls,

and preventing neighborhood patrols. Due to the amount of high priority calls for service, the Department will frequently have hundreds of pending calls that receive a significantly delayed police response or no police response. As with violent crime, East Oakland (Area 4 and Area 5) burdens a disproportionate amount of the pending calls with no available police officer to respond.

For many years, the Department deployed officers using a 35-beat plan, which was divided into five geographic police areas. The Bureau of Field Operations One [West / North Oakland] included Area 1 (Beats 1-7), Area 2 (Beats 8-14), and Area 3 (Beats 15-22). The Bureau of Field Operations Two [East Oakland] included Area 4 (Beats 23-28) and Area 5 (Beats 29-35).

To minimally staff the 35-beat, five area patrol plan, the Department deployed 30 patrol squads (1 sergeant and 8 officers per squad) over the five areas to provide 24/7 coverage. The following table provides the police officer staffing per police area and shift.

Five Area Patrol Deployment							
Area (Beat)	First Watch		Second Watch		Third Watch		Total
	A side	B side	A side	B side	A side	B side	
Area 1 (Beats 1-7)	8	8	8	8	8	8	40
Area 2 (Beats 8-14)	8	8	8	8	8	8	40
Area 3 (Beats 15-22)	8	8	8	8	8	8	40
Area 4 (Beats 23-28)	8	8	8	8	8	8	40
Area 5 (Beats 29-35)	8	8	8	8	8	8	40
Total Officers	40	40	40	40	40	40	240

Although the number of supplemental Tac Squads (also referred to as surge units) have expanded and reduced year to year, the additional staff have not been consistent to adequately support patrol. Throughout the years, the five area patrol deployment of 240 patrol officer positions has been the consistent staffing plan in patrol responsible for around the clock public safety and police response.

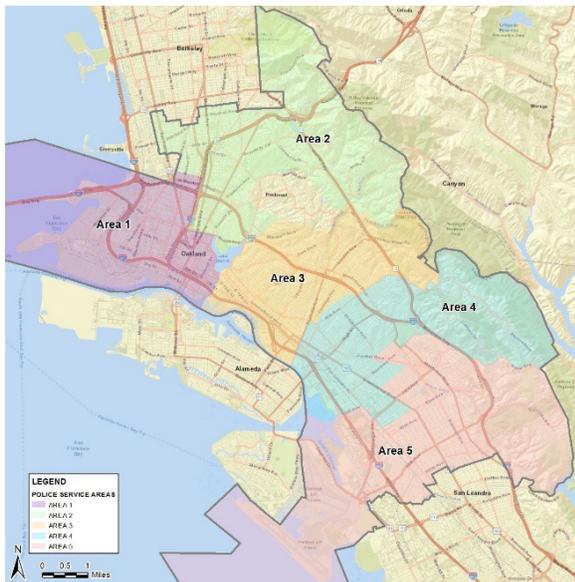
Given the increase in violent crime and priority calls, it is apparent that the five area patrol deployment is inadequate to provide the necessary service in Oakland, particularly East Oakland. To ensure consistent and adequate staffing in patrol, the Department will be creating an additional police area to support a six area patrol deployment. The Department will continue use the 35-beat plan; however, the beats will be divided into six geographic police areas. The Bureau of Field Operations One [West / North Oakland] which will include Area 1 (Beats 1-7), Area 2 (Beats 8-13), and Area 3 (Beats 14-19). The Bureau of Field Operations Two [East Oakland] which will include Area 4 (Beats 20-25), Area 5 (Beats 26-30), and Area 6 (Beats 31-35). The Community Resource Officers will maintain their current beat assignments.

To minimally staff the 35-beat, six area patrol plan, the Department will deploy 36 patrol squads (1 sergeant and 8 officers per squad) over the six areas to provide 24/7 coverage. The following table provides the police officer staffing per police area and shift (288 total patrol officer positions).

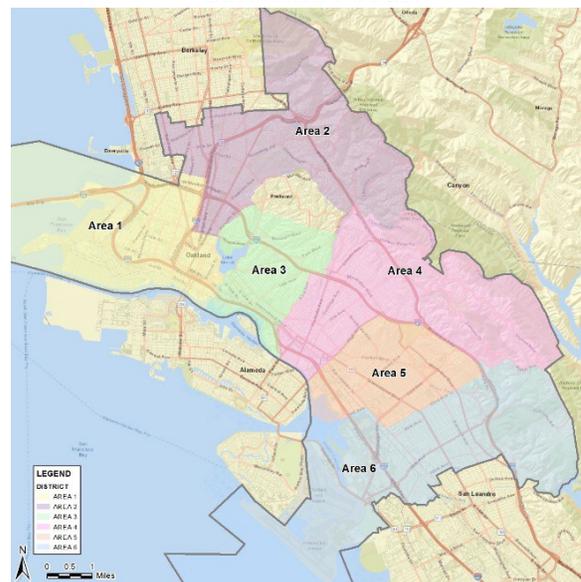
Six Area Patrol Deployment							
Area (Beat)	First Watch		Second Watch		Third Watch		Total
	A side	B side	A side	B side	A side	B side	
Area 1 (Beats 1-7)	8	8	8	8	8	8	48
Area 2 (Beats 8-13)	8	8	8	8	8	8	48
Area 3 (Beats 14-19)	8	8	8	8	8	8	48
Area 4 (Beats 20-25)	8	8	8	8	8	8	48
Area 5 (Beats 26-30)	8	8	8	8	8	8	48
Area 6 (Beats 31-35)	8	8	8	8	8	8	48
Total Officers	48	48	48	48	48	48	288

In addition to the 48 patrol officers, East Oakland will be assigned more patrol sergeants and commanders (an additional 6 sergeants, two lieutenants, and one captain). The following maps provide the geographic boundaries of the five area model and the six area model:

Five Police Areas



Six Police Areas



The six area patrol deployment will go into effect on the Department’s annual watch change, which will occur on January 22, 2022. On that date, the following commanders will be assigned to the six areas:

- BFO 1: Deputy Chief Chris Bolton
 - Area 1: Captain Bobby Hookfin
 - Area 2: Captain Randy Wingate
 - Area 3: Captain James Beere
- BFO 2: Deputy Chief Angelica Mendoza
 - Area 4: Captain James Bassett
 - Area 5: A/Captain Sean Fleming
 - Area 6: A/Captain Casey Johnson

With the six area patrol deployment, the Department will provide more officer positions and command and control over smaller geographic police areas. Further, this deployment model will bring the consistency of much needed resources and support into East Oakland, an area that experiences more violent crime and priority calls for service.

