



June 28, 2020

Greetings Neighbor,

I hope you are well and managing okay. As has been widely reported, the City Council adopted its midterm budget amendments on Tuesday, June 23 – a full week before the expected decision-making date of June 30. Whereas our two-year budget was approved in 2019 with a unanimous vote, this important mid-term budget decision was an unnecessary blindside to those of us who believe in transparency and community engagement. While I appreciate the work that went into the adopted proposal by the City Administration and some of my colleagues, I am disappointed that the decision was made on a budget proposal that was not shared in sufficient time for all Councilmembers and the public to fully analyze and review.

I and two of my colleagues (Councilmembers Thao and Bas) urged that we use the one additional week available to explore and negotiate budget amendments that could further respond to the concerns of the thousands of Oaklanders who have been calling for rethinking public safety in Oakland. **While the budget adjustments did include the additional funding for homeless encampment cleaning and trash collection that I had fought for, overall there was still more work to do.**

The final adopted budget document can now be found on the Oakland website at this page: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/budget>.

It is unfortunate that we were not able to agree unanimously on the mid-term budget amendments. Nevertheless, I will continue to work with my colleagues on the Council and with city staff to explore how public safety can be thoughtfully revitalized in Oakland.

I am bringing to the Council on June 30th a policy directive that will require the City Administration to: (1) undertake a full review of 911 and non-emergency police calls for service to determine the categories and relative volume of such calls; (2) evaluate various alternate responder models that would be more appropriate to the nature of the service requests; and (3) review other strategies to reduce or re-direct 911 call volumes. I will continue to step up our efforts to hire more dispatchers while we work to put into place alternate responder models that will ensure a safe and responsive city for everyone.

**Want to share your thoughts/concerns? Sign up for my monthly community 'office' hours - now virtual**

You can always send an email to my office at [dkalb@oaklandca.gov](mailto:dkalb@oaklandca.gov) or call us and leave a voicemail message at 510-238-7001. But if you would like to talk to me directly about any local matter, please sign up for my July Community Office Hours to be held by phone on Saturday, July 11. My August Community Office Hours will be on August 1st. Contact Deidra Moss at [dmoss@oaklandca.gov](mailto:dmoss@oaklandca.gov) to schedule a time slot. Due to shelter in place, my community office hours--which normally take place at cafes throughout the district--are now conducted by phone.

-Dan

## COVID-19 - Latest from Alameda County Public Health Department:

With its updated [Shelter in Place order](#) issued on the evening of June 18, Alameda County has moved further along the reopening path by authorizing [modified resumption of retail, outdoor dining, and religious and cultural services](#). County Health Officials have relied on data to help inform these decisions and will continue to balance risk, safety and the socioeconomic needs of the community. Nevertheless, please keep in mind that the COVID-19 pandemic is still very active in Alameda County and each of us must adhere to the County and State health and safety protocols. My staff and I are in regular contact with County officials during the COVID crisis. Additional info here: <http://www.acphd.org/2019-ncov/health-officer-orders.aspx>.

Alameda County COVID-19 Indicators					
6.22.2020					
Indicator Movement					
■ (-) ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ (+)					
	Cases & Hospitalizations Flat or Decreasing	Sufficient Hospital & Surge Capacity	Sufficient Testing Capacity	Sufficient Disease Containment	Sufficient PPE
Indicator Status	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■
Trends & Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4,805 cases</li> <li>Cases rising in last 7 days</li> <li>80 cases hospitalized</li> <li>Hospitalizations flat in last 7 days</li> <li>7-day daily hosp change &lt;1% (goal &lt;5%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1,062 (46%) inpatient hospital beds available</li> <li>868 (100%) surge beds available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Positivity rate: &lt;4% (goal &lt;8%)</li> <li>~2500 tests/day (goal 3,100)</li> <li>1.2 tests/1,000 over 7 days (goal 1.5/1000)</li> <li>75% of residents w/in 30min drive to site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>90 case investigation &amp; contact tracing staff (goal 300)</li> <li>830 isolation/quarantine rooms operating (goal 1,203)</li> <li>Special settings teams: LTCF, Outbreaks, Encampments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>41 requests for PPE in last 14 days (goal 0)</li> <li>158 requests for PPE in last 30 days (goal 0)</li> </ul>



Alameda County  
Health Care Services Agency



Alameda County Public Health Department  
Celebrating Healthy People in Healthy Communities

### Trends in Cases and Hospitalizations

Case rates have increased over the past week, while hospitalization rates have remained stable since the end of May. This **indicator remains a 'three'** (with one being the lowest and five being the highest - see graphic).

As of June 24, there were [5,382 reported cases](#) of COVID-19 and 128 deaths in Alameda County (including Berkeley). This represents 7.4 deaths per 100,000 people, compared to 14.5 deaths per 100,000

people in California overall.

As of June 24, there were 89 [hospitalized patients](#) (the highest was 105 on 5/30), including 31 ICU patients (the highest was 46 on 4/11) with confirmed COVID.

## Hospital Capacity and Surge Planning

**As of June 24**, 3.7% of the patients in hospital beds across Alameda County were confirmed COVID-19 positive, which is well within the County's goal of 50% or less. This **indicator remains a 'five'**.

## Testing

Testing has made significant progress and is now around 2,500 tests conducted per day, which is 80% to the County's goal of 3,100 tests per day. The positivity rate has remained low at less than 4% overall, but much higher positivity rates persist in disproportionately affected communities. This indicator has been **upgraded to a 'four'**.

## PPEs

Not all health care providers have 30-day supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) and are still requesting assistance from the county, though there are no general shortages of PPE at this time. Our goal is for 30-day supplies of PPE to be maintained without county assistance. This **indicator remains a 'three'**.

## Case and Contact Investigation, Isolation and Quarantine

Over 10,000 people have been reached since the beginning of the outbreak in Alameda County. The number of contact tracers has increased from 70 to 90 over the past month and the county has continued to add staff. This indicator **remains a three**.

Case investigation and contact tracing challenges occur when people are reluctant to talk to contact tracers because they don't trust the process. Please know that contact tracing is confidential. No immigration information is requested and resources are offered as needed. If you test positive you will receive a call from the Health Department; it is critically important to answer the phone.

## Other updates

The definition of close contact for a person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection has been updated. It was previously defined as being within 6 feet of the individual for at least 10 minutes; now it is defined as being within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes.

Updated clinical guidance is now available for [testing at Skilled Nursing Facilities](#), including guidance for all staff and residents who frequently leave the facility to get tested at least monthly.

## Staying Safe!

Keeping contact with others as low as possible is a crucial part of pandemic control. Effective use of preventive measures such as [universal face covering](#) and [distancing, testing](#), and [isolation](#) can significantly reduce hospitalization rates and save lives. **Your support with these efforts is critical for our community health and safety.**



## First we got Slow Streets; now we get 'Flex Streets'

### Covid has devastated many of Oakland's small businesses

The economic impacts of COVID-19 are being felt throughout Oakland, and Oakland's small businesses have been particularly hard hit. The Department of Economic and Workforce Development recently conducted a survey of more than 1,000 Oakland businesses about the impacts of COVID-19. Over 80% of responses were from small businesses with 10 or fewer employees, with 55 percent of business owners identifying as low- or very-low-income. Almost 70 percent reported a decline of more than 40 percent in gross receipts year-over-year for March 2020.

The surveyed businesses also accounted for 2,780 jobs lost, with the majority of the reported job losses in the restaurant and retail sectors, and more than half located in low-income areas of Oakland.

Unemployment insurance data for Oakland confirms the extent of job loss in Oakland. The number of weekly unemployment claims has skyrocketed in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis. The average weekly number of unemployment claims in Oakland prior to the COVID-19 crisis was 300, compared to 12,633 claims the last week of March.

Against this backdrop, local legislative changes are needed to help businesses quickly and safely take advantage of the changes to the County's Shelter-In-Place order to allow for increased outdoor business activity and physical distancing.

## Using Private Outdoor Spaces, the Sidewalk and Parking Lanes or ‘parklets’

On June 18, 2020, Alameda County announced that it will allow outdoor dining, and indoor and outdoor retail, but at reduced capacity to ensure physical distancing. And we have all learned that outdoors is better where Covid is concerned.

The fees and lengthy processing timelines required under normal circumstances to use City sidewalks and streets or private outdoor spaces to serve meals or sell goods are not appropriate for the anticipated large and immediate demand from businesses that need outdoor space to physically distance their customers during the Covid-19 Local Emergency.

The Flex Streets Program will still require businesses to demonstrate how they will use private outdoor spaces and the public right-of-way as well as indemnify the City for their use of public spaces, but it will minimize the time needed for the City’s review. Furthermore, it will provide standard designs for businesses to reference and utilize to expedite the application process for the display of merchandise or outdoor dining on the sidewalk and parking lanes. Finally, the Flex Streets Program includes no fees to ensure that it is financially accessible to as many businesses as possible.



Businesses interested in using private parking lots and other adjacent private outdoor areas should refer [to this page](#).

Businesses interested in using public sidewalks or parking lanes for ‘parklets’ should refer [to this page](#).

Finally, businesses can help shape the initiative by taking the [Sidewalk and Curbside Use Survey for Restaurants & Retailers](#).

Community can also provide input by taking [this online survey](#) or by texting text FLEX to (510) 380-7360

### Closing a Traffic Lane

After soliciting input from business owners and community leaders, and considering requirements for transit access, traffic flow and emergency response, city engineers are developing a roster of potential street closures. If you represent a group of businesses that are interested in closing a street for outdoor dining or retail, please complete the [Flex Streets Initiative Street Closure interest form](#).





## Police Reform - Now and in the Future

On Tuesday June 30<sup>th</sup>, I am asking the City Council to vote to ban chokeholds and carotid restraints by the Oakland Police Department. Currently the Oakland Police Department has listed carotid restraints as an example of lethal force in the Use of Force Policy. There is no mention of chokeholds. My legislation urges the Oakland Police Commission to develop a policy banning the Oakland Police Department from using both chokeholds and carotid restraints.

This legislation is the first in a number pieces of police reform legislation I am putting forward. I am also working on legislation imposing a duty for Oakland Police officers to **warn people before shooting**, and to make it definitively clear that officers have a duty to **intervene when they observe misconduct** and an absolute duty to **report misconduct**. Finally, I support requiring the city to conduct a full 360 review of our police academy recruitment and training processes and standards. Additionally, I know our Police Commission is working on use of force reforms that will help us comply with our federal oversight requirements while keeping the public safe.

## Grizzly Peak Safety

Neighbors on Grizzly Peak have long been concerned about unsafe behaviors – drinking, outdoor smoking, speeding, driving under the influence, and the setting off fireworks and firecrackers – occurring

along Grizzly Peak Blvd and at parking turnouts. My office has worked with city staff to attempt various interventions from signs warning about fire risks to increased patrols by OPD. A plan was in place to place permanent signage this year. Then the Shelter in Place led to greater numbers of people to enjoy the views and socialize at the parking turnouts.

After much urging from my office and increased demands from the community – including the Board of the North Hills Community Association, which sent a letter to the city requesting closure of the parking turnouts during fire season – Oakland Fire, Police and Transportation departments have now prioritized this area for new interventions to increase safety.

In the immediate term the City has decided to close Grizzly Peak Boulevard to all non-local automobile and pedestrian traffic on July 4th. In the longer term, the parking turnouts will be officially closed to parked cars, at least during wildfire season. The logistics and details of this longer term plan are still be worked out. My staff and I have been instrumental in these discussions and will keep the community updated.

### **Grizzly Peak Safety Virtual Community Meeting – July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6:00pm**

To engage the community in a discussion about the short- and longer-term plans, I will be holding a virtual community meeting on Thursday, July 2 at 6pm. For more information and to participate, please contact Lisa Jacobs at [ljacobs@Oaklandca.gov](mailto:ljacobs@Oaklandca.gov). Representatives from OFD, OPD, and OakDOT will participate.

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## **New Local News Outlet!**

Local news is a mainstay of an open and transparent democracy. But the news business has suffered devastating contractions as more and more local news sources are drying up. Covid may be accelerating this contraction.

But there is good news to report: The [Oaklandside](#) is a new online nonprofit news outlet in Oakland, started by the people who created Berkeleyside. I encourage Oakland residents to support this new venture.

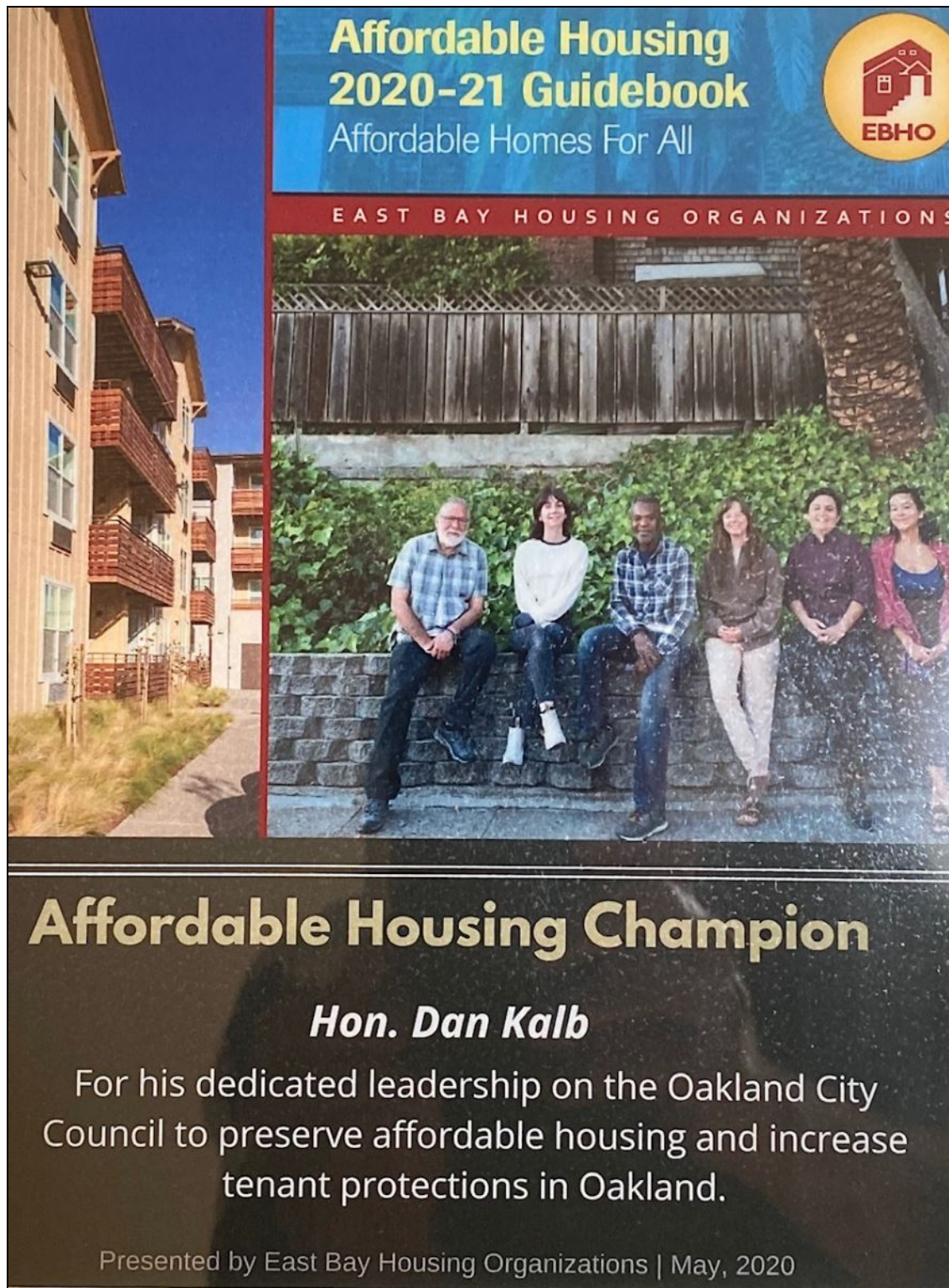


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## **New Tenant Protections**

In order to the reduce the potential for displacement and protect renters from harassing behavior, City Attorney Barbara Parker and Councilmembers Kalb and Bas have [introduced legislation to strengthen our city's Tenant Protection Ordinance](#) (which Dan authored back in 2014) and other local renter protection laws. The proposal will be heard in the Council's Community and Economic Development Committee on Monday, June 29th at 1:00pm.

# East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO) Recognizes Councilmember Kalb's Good Work



Dan received one of EBHO's Affordable Housing Champion awards the year because, according to Gloria Bruce, EBHO's executive director, he "has stood up consistently for tenants' rights, affordable housing and good government." This includes securing tens of millions of dollars into our Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Councilmember Kalb will continue to make creation and preservation of affordable housing in Oakland as a top priority.



# Upcoming Fine Legislation

I am working with city staff to address major transgressors getting away with violating local law with impunity. We are working to address everything from illegal dumping to fire code enforcement to planning & building code violations. The two-part plan involves legislation to eliminate the decades old \$1000 fine limit in the Charter followed by a City Council-adopted ordinance to set specific fine parameters. The Charter legislation is scheduled for the Council Rules Committee on July 7th. Stay tuned.

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## Reminder: Parking Meter Enforcement begins July 6

As Oakland businesses work to safely reopen under the terms of Alameda County's shelter-in-place Order, the City of Oakland announced that it will support economic recovery and enable easier access to businesses by reactivating all parking meters citywide, effective July 6. As a courtesy to educate the driving public of the change, during the month of July each vehicle in violation will receive one warning ticket. After the initial courtesy warning, vehicles in violation will receive a regular parking citation. The single courtesy warnings will be given only during July.

Metered parking is used to encourage turn-over of parking spots to better ensure availability for shoppers, both on-street and in off-street garages and lots. The City will maintain standard pricing at all street meters and in City-owned garages and lots.

The City **still is *not* enforcing residential parking permits and street sweeping** (Note: Street sweeping operations are continuing, and the City urges vehicle owners to voluntarily comply to allow street sweeper vehicles to access the curb.)

The City continues to enforce all other parking regulations in service of public safety and public health.

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## Dan's Latest Reading

One of my favorite activities is reading to Oakland children at our public elementary schools. That has not changed while we shelter in place. I was proud to participate again in The Oakland Public Education Fund's virtual story times. June is Pride month, and The Oakland Public Education Fund, with OUSD, is celebrating with LGBTQ themed read-in videos. Click [here to see my reading of "The Great Big Book of Families"](#) by Mary Hoffman.



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## Fireworks:

The Oakland Fire and Police Departments are working together to help our community members safely celebrate the 4th of July. Illegal fireworks and celebratory gunfire have no place in our City! Fireworks, explosives, and celebratory gunfire are illegal and can cause injuries, fires and fatalities, putting our community at serious risk.

The use of illegal fireworks has been unusually prevalent this season. And the nightly deafening noise can be very disturbing for many residents. Firefighters are educating our community members regarding safety and illegal fireworks. Those caught using illegal fireworks can be cited and/or fined up to \$10,000, and jail time can be imposed for the most serious offenders.

OFD now has roving patrols to maintain high visibility and deter illegal firework activity. **To report illegal firework activity, sales, or persons with a large cache of fireworks, call the Fireworks Tip Line at (510) 238-2373 or OPD non-emergency number at (510) 777-3333.**

In efforts to get illegal fireworks off our streets--and prevent fires--the Oakland Fire Department has set up fireworks collection barrels at the following fire stations:

- Station 1: 1603 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
- Station 3: 1445 14th Street
- Station 4: 1235 International Boulevard
- Station 5: 934 34th Street
- Station 18: 5008 Bancroft Avenue
- Station 20: 1401 98th Avenue

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**Wildfire Season is upon us - Please be safe!**

See [here for helpful informational guides](#) on Oakland Community Preparedness and Response.

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## 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

Oakland Recycling/Waste Collection Hotline - (510) 238-7283 ([recycling@oaklandca.gov](mailto:recycling@oaklandca.gov))

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~ **[Read COVID-19 Updates and Recent Newsletters here](#)** ~



**[Read Councilmember Kalb's Pre-COVID Newsletters here](#)**

## DAN KALB

**Oakland City Councilmember - District 1**

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