



As we are each impacted by the COVID-19 crisis and shelter-in-place order in different ways, we must acknowledge that some of our neighbors are more seriously impacted than others. Some of us know people close to us who've contracted the virus and fell ill. Many others have been impacted financially due to the shelter-in-place closures of so many businesses. And still others are working on the front lines in health care, or are employed in one essential service or another.

I hope you are staying safe while managing the difficulties of this crisis for yourself and your loved ones. Below you will find my most recent update including information about carefully measured efforts to re-open portions of our economy.

-Dan

City Council to Discuss City Budget

Next [Tuesday, May 26 at 1:30pm, the Oakland City Council](#) will hold a special virtual Council meeting on Oakland's Budget. Like most cities, along with its citizens, the City of Oakland is facing a challenging financial future for the next couple of years. Our mid-cycle budget decisions -- typically used to make small adjustments and additions -- will instead require difficult and weighty decisions.

Background documents on the budget can be found [on this page](#). Meeting details, and instructions for listening by phone or

computer, and making public comments, can be found on the [Agenda at this from this link](#).

County Eases Restrictions on Some Businesses

On Monday May 18 the Alameda County Health Department issued a [new Order](#) that eases restrictions [certain businesses](#) throughout the County to resume operations: curbside or storefront pickup at retail stores, and manufacturing, logistics, and warehousing. During this “Early Stage 2,” these businesses must follow the State’s [Retail Industry Guidance](#) and [Manufacturing Guidance](#), including keeping customers from blocking pedestrian access or causing vehicle congestion while picking up goods.

Businesses and activities authorized under previous orders may continue. **Public or private gatherings of any size – indoor and outdoor – remain prohibited.** It's important to remember that the virus is still highly contagious and spreads easily. The best way to protect yourself and others is to [stay home](#). When out in the community, please wear [face coverings](#), stay six or more feet away from each other, and practice good [hand hygiene](#) with frequent hand washing or use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer when you can't get to a sink.

Given exposure and incubation rates, each new rule change requires at least two weeks for health officials to assess the impact and decide on further adjustments. I strongly support Alameda County Health Officials’ cautious approach. They have protected our communities with their deliberate, science-based thinking and this caution is the very reason we have not suffered as other areas have.

Every organization and business, regardless of when it will be permitted to open, should prepare for reopening by working on plans that include:

- [Social distancing protocol plans](#) for employees and customers
- Administrative controls to stagger employees, breaks, and teleworking for those that can work remotely
- Training for employees on limiting spread of COVID-19 (temperature and/or symptoms screening, hand washing technique, and face covering requirements)
- Disinfection protocols for routine and deep cleaning
- Industry-specific best practices
- Protocols for notification of COVID-19 positive cases, compliance and documentation

State guidelines, including industry-specific checklists are here <https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/>. Click [here for a state analysis on federal assistance for businesses](#), and [here for the State's Covid-19 GO BIZ resources](#) page.

County resources for businesses, including fillable social distancing protocol templates in multiple languages are here: <http://www.acphd.org/2019-ncov/covid-recovery.aspx>

City resources and information are here: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/resources/re-opening-resources>.

Retail businesses: Need temporary loading zone?

As noted above, Stage 2 of re-opening allows retail businesses to open for curbside and storefront pick-up. The Oakland Department of Transportation (OakDOT) created a program to provide restaurants and retail stores with temporary loading zones; it is managing this program through 311. To request a temporary loading zone in front of your business, [submit your request via 311](#).

Tips: Select "Parking (Change)" as the issue category and "Yellow Curb" as the parking change. In the description explain that you need a temporary loading zone for food/retail pick-up due to County Health regulations. Include a photo of clearly indicating the location of your requested temporary loading zone.

Businesses allowed to use sidewalk space – up to 3 ft

For a limited time, no permits or fees will be required for the use of frontage space - the **first three feet** of public space directly in front of a business -- provided that the use:

- Allows/enables safe physical distancing;
- Respects the pedestrian path, so people may walk and roll freely; and
- Does not create a safety hazard

Business owners can start using frontage spaces *today*. Contact the OakDOT permit office for more information/questions at (510) 238-3891.

Easing Rules on Outdoor Eating to Support Oakland's Restaurants

I strongly support measures to help Oakland's restaurants operate successfully in an environment that is going to be extremely challenging for months to come. Easing rules about use of public space for more outdoor restaurant seating and retail use is a great idea being looked at in a lot of cities during this unusual time – including [Cincinnati](#), [Indianapolis](#), [Tampa](#), and [Vilnius](#). You may have heard that [Berkeley](#) and San Jose elected leaders have directed their respective staff to develop programs.

Oakland is considering same. The City is working to streamline permits for parklets, café seating and other uses to help businesses operate under the new physical distancing requirements by using larger portions of the sidewalk, adjacent parking spaces, and the broader street space. Doing it right will require creativity, flexibility, and a lot of community input. My office will be working with staff to support these efforts. Let us know your thoughts – email Lisa Jacobs at ljacobs@oaklandca.gov.

Of course, this kind of program is only one small part of the support Oakland's small businesses need. And, we are still some time away from allowing dine-in eating, according to the Alameda County Health Officer Erica Pan. Dr. Pan did not commit to a timeline, but we do not see this happening in Oakland for several weeks.

Businesses that have questions about when and how to facilitate re-opening may contact the County directly at covidrecovery@acgov.org.

Feeding Vulnerable Oaklanders

The [Great Plates Delivered Program](#), a new partnership between FEMA, the State of California, the City of Oakland, and non-profit World Central Kitchen, has started delivering meals to seniors in the City of Oakland. Seniors can apply [at this link](#).

The City is seeking restaurants to assist in this initiative. Interested restaurants should complete [this short survey form](#) and send a scan or photo of their menu to kwilliams@oaklandca.gov. Meal service program staff will be in touch with restaurants that are the best fit. For more information see [this page](#).

This latest initiative boosts the tremendous effort to feed our most vulnerable residents since the onset of the pandemic in mid-March. Over 25,000 meals are now being distributed weekly through the City's Transitional Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing programs, unsheltered and encampment outreach, community cabin and RV safe parking programs, Head Start centers, Aging and Adult Services, and libraries.

In addition, as of May 7, the Oakland Unified School District had provided over 1.5 million meals to Oakland families. Councilmember Kalb has volunteered at the North Oakland Sankofa Elementary School site helping to prepare meal bags for families.



For more information about all food distribution programs in Oakland see [this page](#).

The City is accepting donations and in recruiting volunteers to help support the *Great Oakland Check-in*. Visit [How to Help Oaklanders](#) for more information.



Feeding East Bay Pets

Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society's **free [Pet Food Pantry](#)** provides food to families who may be struggling financially and are in need of some assistance in caring for

their pet. Last year they distributed around 5,000 lbs of food; they are now exceeding that amount every two weeks.

On Friday they received of over 26,000 lbs of dog and cat food and we are now established as a Northern California distribution hub for donated pet food. Dog, puppy, and cat food is distributed from its shelter location at 2700 Ninth Street at Carlton, Berkeley. For more information visit the [website](#) or call (510) 845-7735.

Wildfire Season Starts

Oakland Fire Department – along with CalFire and other fire departments throughout the region – declared the official start to wildland fire season on Friday, May 15th. After a less devastating fire season in 2019 than previous years, this season is expected to be normal or above. Less precipitation and higher temperatures means that fuels have started to cure; the number of wildfires in California since January 1 is already [up roughly 60% compared to last year](#).

Oakland will keep Fire Danger Signs will at HIGH throughout fire season to keep citizens aware of the potential danger. On Red Flag Days, signs will be changed to EXTREME.

Vegetation Management Inspections

If you missed our May 11 Virtual Town Hall on WildFire Prevention (co-sponsored by Districts 1, 4, 6, and OFD) the video can be [viewed on Facebook](#) here: <https://tinyurl.com/ydcssa5w>. Acting Vegetation Management Supervisor Travis Hansen shared an exceptionally helpful presentation on how residents can prepare their parcels with great photos and clear explanations. Full guidelines can be found here on the City's website here: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/topics/compliance-standards-for-vegetation-inspections>.

Timing

OFD **has already started** vegetation abatement on **City-owned** parcels, and private property inspections for those properties that required 3 or 4 inspections last year.

For most residents, inspections will commence **mid-June**; specific schedules will be posted on the 'Accela' Citizen Access website here: <https://aca.accela.com/oakland>. More information about the process will be updated here: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/services/wildfire-district-inspections>.

Change to fee structure this year

According to Oakland's [Master Fee Schedule](#) there is no charge for initial vegetation management inspections; only re-inspections due to non-compliance incur the fee [see 'Hazardous Fire Area' Re-inspections on page G12]. In past years, OFD waived the fees if the property was found in compliance at the first Re-inspection.

A new legal review and opinion by the City Attorney's Office has led the Fire Marshal to create a new process this year: If a property does not pass first inspection, the property owner may correct the issues and provide OFD with photos and other evidence within 45 days – by mail or electronically. If deemed sufficient, the property will not require a re-inspection, thereby avoiding any re-inspection fee.

If the owner does not follow the self-reporting mechanism, an inspector will need to visit the site to re-inspect, thereby incurring the \$409 re-inspection fee. OFD is hopeful that extending the compliance window to 45 days will reduce the need for in-person re-inspections.

We have heard concerns from some residents in the high fire severity zone about incomplete information and other problems, on a case-by-case basis, with the inspection process. We make sure that our fire department officials receive all inquiries and expressions of concern that comes into my office on this important public safety matter. OFD has assured residents that they are addressing these concerns and anticipate a smoother process forthcoming.

We welcome feedback on how the inspection process goes this year. Please contact Lisa Jacobs at ljacobs@oaklandca.gov in Councilmember Kalb's office.

City Tackles Backlog of Dumped-On Streets & Sidewalks

After several weeks of reduced capacity to [clean Oakland's streets](#) and sidewalks due to Covid-19, Oakland Public Works is restoring and reinforcing clean-up work with returning staff and some support from Waste Management of Alameda County, Inc. (WMAC).

The City asks that community members help identify new or on-going hot-spot areas by continuing to [report illegal dumping](#) to OAK311 [online](#), by [email](#), by calling 311 from any phone in Oakland (or 510-615-5566 from outside Oakland), or download and use the OAK311 smartphone app.

Resources for Artists

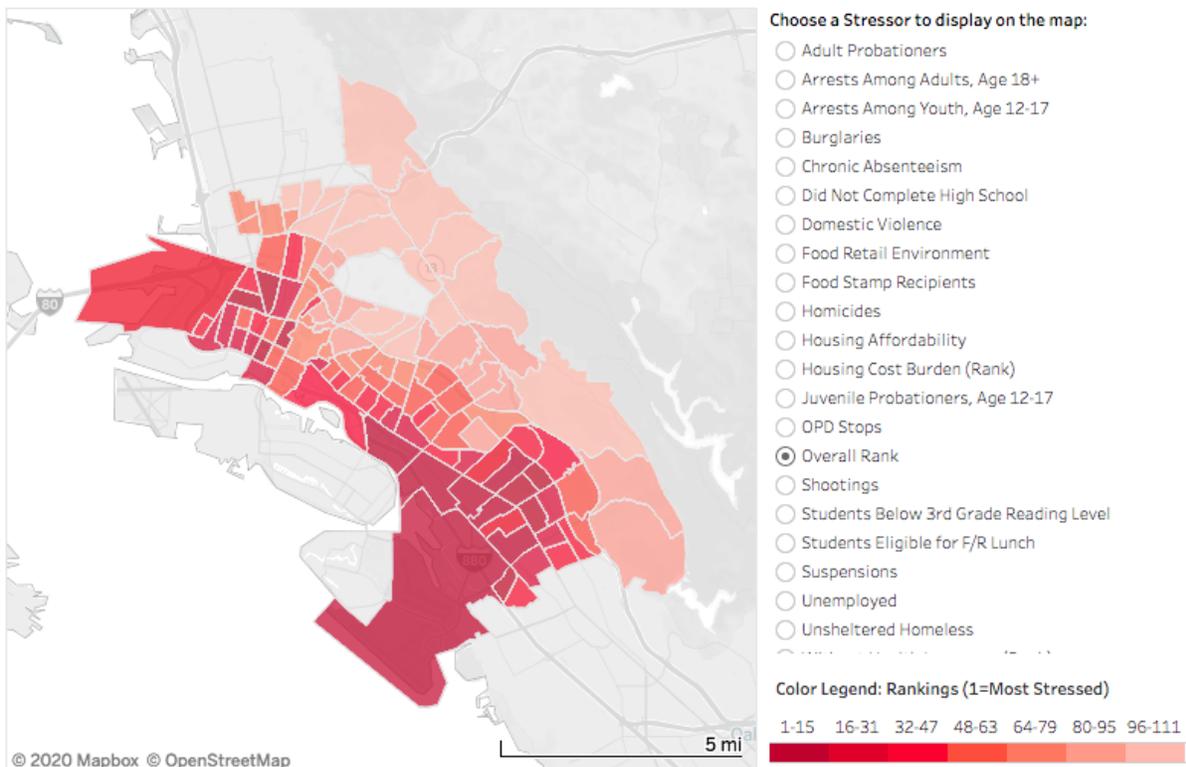
A coalition of East Bay arts funders has joined forces with the City of Oakland to create the [East Bay/Oakland Relief Fund for Individuals in the Arts](#). The fund now has \$625,000 to support artists and cultural works affected by the coronavirus pandemic, with at least \$300,000 dedicated specifically to residents of Oakland.

The Fund welcomes additional support. Please contact Laura Poppiti, CCI Grants Program Director, at laura@cciarts.org if you would like to help with a tax-deductible contribution, or donate online [here](#).

Oakland Stressor Map - By Neighborhood

This is not directly related to Covid-19 but given the inequitable impact the epidemic is having on communities of color, particularly our African American residents, we are sharing the [Oakland Stressors Map](#). This new resource shows various stressors – including Health and Environment, Housing, Education, Income, and Criminal Justice System Involvement – and their impact throughout Oakland.

City staff uses this as one of its data sources it to help apply for grants. [Take a look here](#).



Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN)

The Bay Area Regional Energy Network ([BayREN](#)) helps families, businesses and government leaders in the nine Bay Area counties increase energy efficiency and therefore improve affordability. BayREN has [expanded programs and services](#) to support small businesses, homeowners, renters, and contractors. Please visit [this page](#) for more information and resources.

Additionally, [click here for the East Bay Community Energy COVID response](#).

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)

~ [Read Additional COVID-19 Updates and Links here](#) ~



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

DAN KALB

Oakland City Councilmember - District 1

1 Frank Ogawa Plaza • Oakland, CA • 510-238-7001

Follow Dan on [Twitter here](#) and [Facebook here](#)

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please [{{UnsubscribeLink}}](#). Unsubscribing means that you will no longer receive Councilmember Kalb's e-newsletters or updates.