



October 2, 2020

Greetings Neighbor,

Please read the local updates in my newsletter. Topics in this issue include: Covid update; new homeless encampment policy; Oakland Slow Streets report; new grant opportunities for artists, small businesses, nonprofits and violence prevention organizations; Capital Improvement Plan survey; Telegraph/Temescal Picnic; wildfire safety efforts on Grizzly Peak; and the Re-imagining Public Safety Task Force, and more.

There are a couple slots left for my Community Office Hours tomorrow. Please contact Deidra Moss at DMoss@Oaklandca.gov immediately if you would like to meet with me (over the phone) on Saturday.

There are many state ballot propositions and local ballot measures on this year's ballot. I will be releasing my recommendations on those within the next week or so. Please read up on these measures before you cast your vote. Thank you.

-Dan

Make Oakland Better District 1 Clean-Up

When: Saturday, October 3, 9:00 am – 12 noon

Where: Manila Avenue Encampment - Meet at 40th and Manila

This is a citywide volunteer partnership effort to clean areas around homeless encampments and in adjacent neighborhoods in every district in the city. District 1 event sponsored by **Forever Oakland** - Make Oakland Better, Alameda County, and City Councilmember Dan Kalb.

All healthy volunteers welcome – face coverings required to participate. Social distancing will be practiced.

For more information please contact Seth Steward | ssteward@oaklandca.gov | 510-238-7013

Make Oakland Better



City Wide Clean-up: District 1

Saturday, October 3rd, 2020

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Manila Avenue Encampment

**Meet at: 40th St. and Manila Ave.
at 9:00 AM**

**All healthy volunteers are welcome • Masks/coverings are required
to participate • Tools will be provided • Social distancing will be
practiced**

For more information contact Seth at ssteward@oaklandca.gov or 510.238.7013



COVID Update from Alameda County

Last week Alameda County [progressed from 'purple' to 'red'](#) in California's [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) due to continued [downward trends](#) in COVID-19 cases, test positivity rates, and [hospitalizations](#) in Alameda County. However, County health officials are continuing to take a measured approach to reopening, announcing that there is no change to permitted or prohibited activities in Alameda County. They will monitor closely to ensure the trend is stable, and after October 6 will issue a [revised reopening plan](#). Ensuring the health and safety of residents will be paramount. [The latest County update can be found here](#).

[Hospital utilization data:](#)

- 4% of the patients in hospital beds were confirmed COVID-19 positive.

- 12% of ICU patients were COVID-19 positive.
- 38% of the staffed inpatient hospital beds and 39% of the ICU beds were available and within our goal of above 20%.
- 76% of the mechanical ventilators were available.

Disparities in infection rates and health outcomes: In Alameda County Latino communities continue to experience the highest **case** rates, and Black/African American communities continue to experience the highest **death** rates. Latinx people have **6.4 times** the case rate and **1.5 times** the death rate compared to White people. Black/African American people have **2.1 times** the case rate and **2.1 times** the death rate compared to White people. Native American people have 1.9 times the case rate and Pacific Islander people have 2.2 times the case rate compared to White people.

The highest case and positivity rates in Alameda County continue to occur in the Fruitvale and Coliseum zip codes in East Oakland, and the 880 corridor.

Covid and schools: According to the County, bringing students back for in-person learning is a top priority. Though counties in the Red Tier are permitted to open schools for in-person learning after two weeks in the Red Tier, the [Alameda County Health Officer Order](#) issued on August 28 indicated that the County will likely be following a more conservative approach. For more information on schools re-opening please [see this page](#).

Covid and Homelessness: Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) and Public Health teams, along with partners including Roots Community Health Center and others have conducted 1,277 COVID tests in homeless shelters and encampments. To date, there are 40 positive results from 60 different testing events and an overall positivity rate of 3.1%. HCH and Public Health have coordinated 304 tests to date at [Project Roomkey](#) hotel sites, with 29 positive results and a positivity rate of 9.5%.

For help with enforcement or report violations of workplace safety orders in Alameda County, please email: COVID19compliance@acgov.org.

OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP: (PAID Positions Available)

1. [California Health Corps](#): Register for the California Health Corps which is a State program for trained medical and healthcare workers to sign up and provide availability to assist in the COVID-19 response.
2. [Medical Surge Volunteer Sign Up](#): Register as a volunteer with the County of Alameda to assist with the COVID-19 response. Medically and non-medically trained volunteers will be needed.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteering is a great way to make a huge impact in a short amount of time. To sign up to help vulnerable Oaklanders during this crisis, please [fill out this form](#). Specific opportunities include:

- [SOS Meals on Wheels](#) offers a variety of opportunities. Whether you are looking to volunteer as a team with friends or colleagues, you are rolling solo, or even if you have a kid in tow, they've got something for you! Ready to help seniors stay healthy and independent in their own homes? Sign up [HERE!](#)

- Volunteer opportunities for **older adults** – see the new [Alameda County Age-Friendly website](#).
- City of Oakland opportunity in District 1 – at the [North Oakland Senior Center](#) - Grocery delivery for seniors at home! Pick ups are: Tuesdays and Thursdays – arrive at 1:00pm – deliveries take about 2 hours. Must have valid driver’s license, proof of insurance and use of a vehicle. Contact: Liz Hillen lhillen@oaklandca.gov or 510-238-3620.
- Bagging food for [Great Plates Program](#) at Lake Merritt Garden Center, 666 Bellevue. Monday-Saturday beginning at 9:45 am. Contact: Derrick McMay (ddemay@oaklandlibrary.org) or Dawn Samniego: (510) 326-4511.



City Council to Consider new Homeless Encampment Policy

On Monday September 21st, the City Council [Life Enrichment Committee](#) considered a [new policy](#) to manage and support homeless encampments throughout the city. Given the significant public interest in the issue the Life Enrichment Committee decided to move the discussion and policy consideration to the October 20 meeting of the full City Council.

The homelessness crisis, amidst the pandemic, has led to a proliferation of tent and vehicle encampments throughout the city. There are well over 55 confirmed encampments, additional much smaller encampments, with new encampments appearing occasionally. While these encampments provide unhoused residents with a place to be, some sidewalks have become completely blocked in some neighborhoods, playgrounds have become inaccessible, and service calls for medical emergencies, fire, and narcotics trafficking have increased considerably compared to this time last year.

The proposed [Encampment Management Policy](#) aims to reduce the negative health and safety impacts associated with homeless encampments in Oakland – for both unhoused and housed residents – by creating ‘high sensitivity’ areas where homeless encampments would *not* be allowed. Under the proposed policy these include:

- All vehicular traffic lanes and bike lanes; sidewalks must comply with American Disabilities Act (ADA) sidewalk and street requirements and must allow for passage of emergency vehicles.
- Within 150 feet of a school
- Within 50 feet of a:
 - residence
 - business
 - playground or tot lot
 - protected waterway
 - public park, soccer field, baseball field, basketball court, tennis court, and/or golf course.

Other parts of the City would be designated ‘low sensitivity’ areas. The City is exploring designating certain areas for ‘co-governed’ encampments so that any legal risk could be

managed; please [see a comparative analysis](#) of other city's similar experiments which is enlightening.

While some feel the proposed set of policies are too harsh and others believe they are not strong enough, I have to make my judgement on what will actually work best to help those living on the streets, ensure that encampments do not turn into squalor, and help make sure that unnecessary and problematic impacts to housed residents and adjacent businesses are kept to a bare minimum. We will *not* be criminalizing people who are homeless just for living on the street. But seriously criminal behavior, however rare, cannot be tolerated.

Homelessness in Oakland is not a problem that Oakland is likely to solve on its own. Without significantly more County, State and Federal investments in housing availability and social services to help people in crisis get the support they need, Oakland will need thorough and compassionate management of homeless encampments so unhoused people are not living in squalor and nearby housed residents are not forced to endure the multitude of problems that poorly management encampments bring to a neighborhood. I have and am continuing to advocate for additional funding to improve the health and cleanliness of these encampments, with additional trash collection, better porta-potty servicing and regular cleanings, along with management practices as appropriate.

Meaningful work has been done to increase affordable housing – including the recent purchase that I helped to push through by the City of [Clifton Hall](#) on the CCA campus in Rockridge for deeply affordable housing to be made available to previously homeless seniors and families. Of course, the most effective strategies to reduce homelessness are those that PREVENT people from becoming homeless in the first place – such as tenant protections and direct services to support people at risk of losing their homes. Oakland has been investing heavily in this and [there have been significant successes](#). But we need to increase the scale, which will help us bring down the overall numbers of people living on the street.

The Committee requested additional information including:

- Plan to prioritize native Oaklanders for shelter opportunities;
- Map and written explanation from staff of proposed low sensitivity areas;
- Update on illegal dumping program;
- Report on sanitation services including trash pick-up and port-a-potties being provided to encampments;
- Co-governed encampment plan;
- An implementation plan including mental health and public services needed to implement the proposed policy; and
- Request for information from Alameda County re potential County properties that could be used for RV safe parking.

You are invited to share your thoughts with me and other councilmembers prior to our Oct. 20th Council meeting.

Save the Date: Wednesday, October 7th, 6:00 PM - District 1 Town Hall on Affordable Housing and Housing for Homeless Residents

Confirmed panelists include **Shola Olatoye**, Director, Dept. of Housing and Community Development; **Tomiquia Moss**, Chief Executive, All Home; **Patricia Wells**, Executive Director, Oakland Housing Authority; **Ener Chiu**, Associate Director, East Bay Asian

Local Development Corp (EBALDC). County Supervisor Keith Carson also has been invited to participate.

We will be seeking questions from Oaklanders in advance. Details to follow in separate email announcement. Contact Seth Steward at ssteward@oaklandca.gov for additional info.

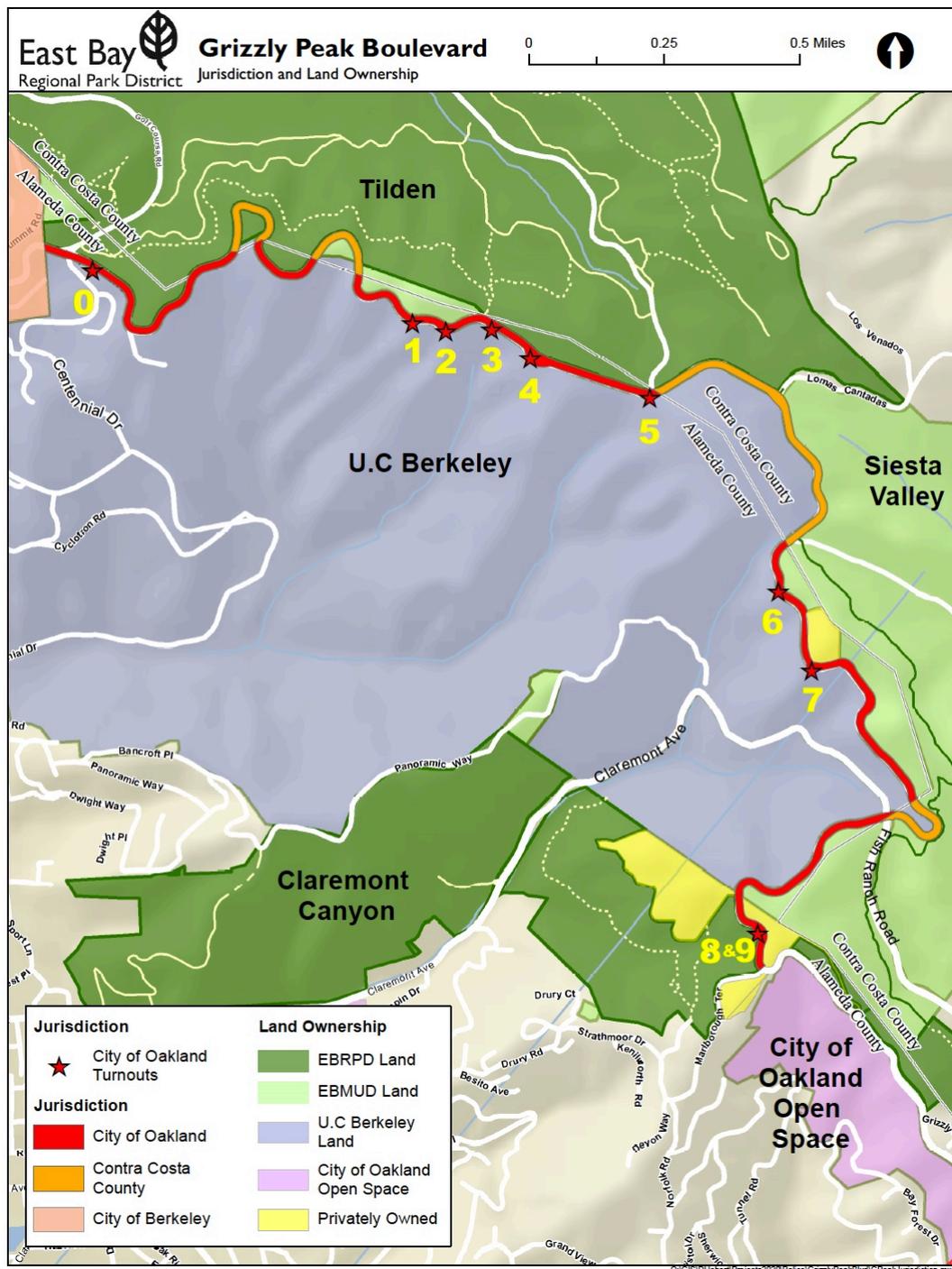
New Wildfire Prevention Working Group – First task: Combat Risky Behavior at Grizzly Peak Lookouts

In November 2019 City Council [adopted a resolution](#) co-authored by myself and D4 Councilmember Sheng Thao declaring wildfire prevention as a citywide priority. Given that City departments were not entirely coordinated on the topic of wildfire prevention or large-scale emergency preparedness, the City Administrator established a Wildfire Prevention Working Group that meets regularly to both address short term needs and to continue the various long-term strategy planning and implementation (download the [first report](#) prepared by this group). The Working Group includes: Oakland Fire Department (OFD), Oakland Public Works (OPW), Department of Transportation (OakDOT), Bureau of Planning and Building (P&B), Oakland Police Department (OPD), and the City Administrator’s Office as convener. Unusually, Lisa Jacobs from my office was invited to be an active participant in this Working Group given her significant knowledge, background and insight into wildfire prevention efforts and community priorities.

Risky behavior at parking lookouts on Grizzly Peak Boulevard was the first task the Working Group addressed, largely due to the consistent advocacy by my office and increased community concern about illegal fireworks. Large gatherings in the evenings, especially on weekends, were creating many hazards. In fact, OFD tracked 6 wildfires on Grizzly Peak in a short 6-week period, the majority of which were caused by fireworks. The majority of this problematic behavior is occurring in the evening.

The Working Group, in consultation with community-based groups, identified high-risk areas and neighboring jurisdictions needed to assist with safety patrols, enforcement, and parking closure measures. The group decided as a first measure to use the power granted to the Oakland Fire Marshal in the High Fire Severity Zone to [prohibit stopping at all turnouts between 9pm and 6am](#) (see OMC 15.12.030 – 4909.4.1). Signs were produced and installed and OPD increased enforcement activities.

In addition, given that the locations are all accessed by the City of Oakland roadway but the underlying turn-outs are under the jurisdiction of UC Berkeley and East Bay Regional Park District, a multi-agency approach was required (see map). So Oakland City Administration created a multi-jurisdictional group to focus specifically on Grizzly Peak.



Among the group there is wide agreement that the signs/enforcement strategy is not sufficient; this strategy was a first step and its effectiveness has now been proven inadequate. The following measure have now been agreed:

Physical barriers: UC Berkeley will begin placing Eucalyptus logs at turnouts 1-7 (see map) starting tomorrow, Saturday 10/3. These will be anchored/staked appropriately at the end of the asphalt. Oakland will place chain-link fencing at turnouts 8 and 9 (see map) since these are so long (1200+ linear feet), scheduled for Monday. Oakland is creating and affixing signage citing the relevant penal codes to the logs and the fences. The effectiveness of these barriers will continue to be assessed.

Electronic Message Boards: Oakland and Berkeley are placing multiple message Boards at critical intersections: Extreme Fire Danger - All Turnouts Closed - 24 hrs/Day;

Enforcement: Joint enforcement operations are being conducted by police Oakland, UC Berkeley, and the EBRPD police, plus CHP helicopters. The efforts to date have focused on

education and awareness but if the risky and illegal behavior continues, citations will be issued.

The group is also evaluating locations on Skyline Blvd. in Council Districts 4, 6 and 7 for a similar intervention due to large gatherings where fire hazards are high.

This is a terrific example of neighborhood groups, local governments and our police and fire departments collaborating across political boundaries working together for the safety of us all. I am very grateful to the [Oakland Police Department](#) and [Oakland Fire Department](#) for their strong collaboration with fire and police departments in neighboring jurisdictions and for making extra resources available to prevent the risky behavior at parking lookouts along Grizzly Peak Boulevard. One careless act in any of these locations could lead to a wildfire disaster.

And of course, this is one of the many elements we are working on to make our community as fire-safe as possible.

Oakland Slow Streets Enters Phase 2

Oakland's Department of Transportation (OakDOT) released an [Interim Findings Report](#) of the [Slow Streets program](#) that takes a deep dive into the program's successes and challenges with the two goals of: (1) evaluating and stabilizing the Slow Streets Program for the duration of the pandemic; and (2) gleaning insights to inform post-pandemic planning that advances safe and more livable streets that support healthy, thriving communities and a more equitable Oakland.

Oakland [Slow Streets](#) launched on April 11 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. I was happy to support it then and continue to support it today. Since then, 21.2 miles of "soft closures" have been installed on 21 routes. **Essential Places** was launched on May 22 and installs temporary traffic safety improvements to enable safer access for residents to the essential services in their neighborhood – including grocery stores, food distribution sites in public facilities, and COVID-19 test sites – intended to immediately reduce the risk of traffic crashes. To date, 15 locations across the City have received installations, and the materials have been upgraded from cones to more durable posts to further enhance safety.

The [report](#) found that support and use of Oakland Slow Streets varied by demographic and geographic group, with the highest levels of support from higher income, White, and North Oakland residents. Essential workers and Deep East Oakland residents shared that the program was not meeting their needs and felt the program conflicted with public health messaging.

The [report](#) also makes recommendations for continuing the program through Shelter-In-Place and beyond, including:

- Evaluate existing Slow Street Corridors and make context-specific changes depending on feedback from the neighborhood
- Continue the Slow Streets Corridors and Essential Places Program through the end of the Shelter-In-Place order
- Channel the enthusiasm for Slow Streets into equitable and sustainable programs like pop-up Slow Streets and neighborhood-level traffic calming

OakDOT will refine and begin to advance these recommendations this Fall.

**OAKLAND
SLOW STREETS**
NO THROUGH TRAFFIC

**CALLES LENTAS
de OAKLAND**
No se permite el tráfico de paso

屋崙慢行路
禁止交通進出

#OaklandSlowStreets
tinyurl.com/oaklandslowstreets

Oak 311 to report issues

To provide general feedback about how this program can best serve your neighborhood, please contact OAK311 by dialing 311 or 510-615-5566, e-mailing OAK311@oaklandca.gov, going online to 311.oaklandca.gov, or using the free OAK311 mobile app for Apple and Android devices. You can also post on social media using the #OaklandSlowStreets hashtag.

For additional program information and to read the Interim Findings Report, please

visit: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/projects/oakland-slow-streets>

Department of Violence Prevention -- Mini-Grant Opportunity

Oakland's Department of Violence Prevention (DVP) announced the 2020-21 Violence Prevention Mini-Grants funding opportunity. Approximately \$400,000 in Mini-Grant funding from the City of Oakland will be issued through the DVP's Community Healing partner agencies. Mini-Grants of up to \$10,000 for small nonprofit organizations (with an annual budget of less than \$500,000) and up to \$5,000 for individuals (with an identified fiscal sponsor) will be awarded.

Applications are due October 18, 2020 – [Click here for more information](#).

City Council - OUSD Education Partnership Committee

Meeting - **Monday, October 5th, 5:30pm**. [More info here](#). Councilmember Kalb is a member of this Committee.

Oakland's Capital Improvement Program

Councilmember Kalb and our City Administration are inviting you to share with us the capital improvements you want to see in your community. The City of Oakland's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) guides investments in big projects that can range from restoring aging public buildings, to improving streets and sidewalks, to creating or improving our parks and libraries.

Now you can request a project in your neighborhood for consideration. Please take a short survey or [suggest a project idea by going online and submitting your idea](#) no later than OCTOBER 31!

VOTE -- For more information from the County Registrar of Voters about your options to submit your general election ballot, please [click here](#).



Picnic on Telegraph - October 4th, 2020

Discover Temescal outdoors! Save the date for **Sunday, October 4th** for a Picnic on Telegraph!

Spend the day walking, shopping, and dining out on the street all while supporting Temescal businesses. Enjoy expanded outdoor seating on the newly repaved Telegraph Ave and relish in some safe and socially distanced time outdoors while exploring over 15 blocks of Telegraph.

Be sure to stop and grab a bite from some of your favorite Temescal restaurants such as [Aunt Mary's Cafe](#), [Daol Tofu](#), and [Artichoke Basille's Pizza](#). And be sure to stop and check out all the new products from some of your favorite shops including [It's Your Move Games](#), [Preserved](#), and [Tip Top Bike Shop](#)!

[Click here for more information.](#)

AC Transit Bus Fare Collection Resumes Monday, October 19, 2020

In order to protect operators and riders from Covid-19, AC Transit introduced rear-door boarding and no fare collection. Now, AC Transit is in the process of installing face mask and hand sanitizer dispensers onboard, and protective barriers by the farebox area; installation is set to be completed by Friday, October 16. Following these upgrades, fare collection and front-door boarding will resume on Monday, October 19, 2020.

For more information, please check the [Fares and Clipper page](#), contact the **Customer Call Center** at 510-891-4777, or submit input on the [AC Transit website](#).

Reimagining Public Safety

In the wake of calls to reduce the Oakland Police Department budget in favor of alternative responses to non-violent crimes, the Oakland City Council decided to create a [Reimagining Public Safety Task Force](#), co-chaired by Councilmembers Loren Taylor (D6) and Nikki Fortunato Bas (D2).

The Task Force will be [developing recommendations](#) for Council and Mayor consideration to increase community safety through alternative responses to calls for assistance, and investments in programs that address the root causes of violence and crime (such as health

services, housing, jobs, etc), with a goal of a reducing the OPD General Purpose Fund (GFP) budget allocation.

Specifically, the task force recommendations will focus on the following areas:

1. What activities/functions should OPD do less of or no longer do? What should OPD specifically continue to do/where are officers' time best spent?
2. What community-based services or other government agency programs should be implemented specifically to replace or be an alternative to the reduced or eliminated police services?
3. What other community services and assets do we want or need that do not necessarily replace a police function, but helps create neighborhood safety, peace, and healing?
4. What improvements/reforms are needed from OPD?
5. What do we want from the County, especially: Behavioral Health Care Services, Public Health Department, Social Services Agency (which includes Child Welfare) Probation, and Sheriff?

Final recommendations will be presented in March for consideration in the City's FY 2021-23 budget to be adopted in June 2021. Task Force meetings are currently virtual and open to the public – see [this page](#) for more information about the work of the task force, meetings and back ground information.

Each Councilmember [was asked to appoint](#) one person to be on the task force; I appointed Anne Marks, the long-time executive director of [Youth Alive](#). Youth Alive is a nationally recognized organization on refining and implementing effective violence prevention and intervention strategies. Anne understands public sector budgets, gun violence as a public health issue, and policing in Oakland.

I am also proud that additional D1 residents have also been appointed to the Task Force: former Oakland City Auditor **Brenda Roberts** was appointed by the Community Budget Advisory Committee, and former Berkeley mayor **Gus Newport** was appointed by the Taskforce co-chairs. Both Brenda and Gus are excellent choices for the Task Force.

Oakland Grant Programs to support Art, Small Businesses and Nonprofits

The Oakland CARES **Arts Organizational Grant** program has \$1.425 million to award grants of up to \$20,000 to arts nonprofits, while the Oakland CARES Individual Artist Grant seeks to support individual artists with grants of up to \$3,000 each. The application period for both grants ends at 1 p.m. on **Friday, October 9, 2020**. Online applications in four languages are available at: cciarts.org/Oakland_CARES_Fund.html

The [Oakland CARES Act Small Business Grant Program](#) will distribute more than \$4 million in grants to Oakland small businesses. The \$10,000 grants may be used to cover day-to-day operating costs, such as worker payroll, rent and fixed debts. The application period for the small business grants will close at **5 p.m. on Monday, October 12, 2020**. Eligibility requirements and online applications in four languages are available at: <https://mainstreetlaunch.org/oakland-cares-act-grant/>

A third program, the [Oakland CARES Nonprofit Grant Fund](#), will distribute \$850,000 in grants of up to \$25,000 to nonprofits currently providing programs and services that address the impact of COVID-19 and the needs of low-income residents and businesses in the following areas:

- Health & Human Services
- Economic & Workforce Development
- Legal Support
- Food Security
- Homeless and Renter Support Services
- Education

The application period for the nonprofit grants will close at **5 p.m. on Wednesday, October 14, 2020**. Eligibility requirements, webinar details and online applications are available at: <https://communityvisionca.org/oaklandcares/>

Contacts:

Dan's [COVID Resources](#) page.

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 Dan 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)

DAN KALB

Oakland City Councilmember - District 1

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