



CITY OF OAKLAND

CITY HALL • ONE FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612

COUNCILMEMBER LOREN TAYLOR  
DISTRICT 6

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**AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

Date: December 2, 2021  
To: Oakland City Councilmembers  
From: Councilmember Loren Taylor  
Subject: Actions to Address Gun Violence Crisis

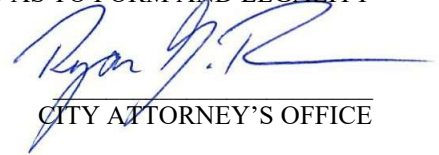
Colleagues on the Council:

The City of Oakland is facing a crisis of gun violence and public safety. Many of our residents have said that they have never felt more unsafe in our City. They are demanding that City leadership act immediately to address the rising crime within our City. In September, we passed a Resolution declaring gun violence a public health emergency, and in response I have submitted a set of specific actions and recommendations for Council approval. These actions align to my Stand Together Against Losing Lives (TALL) call to action which was publicly announced on November 18, 2021. This call to action is a direct result of numerous conversations with community members, nonprofit leaders, city staff and other partners including Bishop Bob Jackson, (Acts Full Gospel Church), Cynthia Adams, (Oakland NAACP), John Jones III, (Community Advocate), Tucky Blunt, (Blunts and Moore), Roots Clinic, OPD leadership, and the Department of Violence of Prevention.

The desire of Oakland residents for us to collectively Stand TALL against gun violence has been further underscored by the more than 700 signatures from Oaklanders on the recent Change.org petition expressing support for the specific measures in the call to action. As such, I respectfully request your support of this Resolution to address the gun violence crisis in the City of Oakland.

Yours in service of Oakland,

Loren Taylor  
Councilmember District 6

  
CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER LOREN TAYLOR

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**A RESOLUTION TO TAKE SPECIFIC ACTIONS AND MAKE SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS IN SUPPORT OF OAKLAND'S DECLARED GUN VIOLENCE PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS BY:**

- A. DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO PROVIDE, NO LATER THAN THE COUNCIL'S FIRST MEETING IN JANUARY 2022, A REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION TO APPLY UNANTICIPATED AND UNCOMMITTED GENERAL FUND REVENUE OR COST SAVINGS TOWARD: 1) THE ADDITION OF A THIRD POLICE ACADEMY IN FY 2022-2023; 2) THE HIRING OF FIVE (5) ADDITIONAL NON-SWORN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS STAFF; 3) THE INITIAL INVESTMENT INTO THE PLANNING AND DEPLOYMENT OF SURVEILLANCE CAMERA TECHNOLOGY TO AID IN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS WHILE MINIMIZING PRIVACY CONCERNS; AND 4) THE UNFREEZING OF EIGHT (8) FROZEN POSITIONS TO ALLOW FOR FULL STAFFING OF THE CEASEFIRE UNIT; AND**
- B. DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO RETURN TO COUNCIL NO LATER THAN THE COUNCIL'S FIRST MEETING IN JANUARY 2022, WITH AN INFORMATION REPORT ON THE FOLLOWING: 1) A PROPOSAL FOR DOUBLING THE CLEARANCE RATE OF HOMICIDES AND OTHER PART 1 CRIMES INCLUDING THE CREATION OF A CLEARANCE RATES DASHBOARD; 2) A STAFFING PLAN TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF FILLED SWORN OFFICER POSITIONS TO EIGHT HUNDRED (800) BY DECEMBER 2023; 3) IDENTIFICATION OF GRANT OPPORTUNITIES TO INCREASE NATIONAL INTEGRATED BALLISTIC INFORMATION NETWORK (NIBIN) GUN TRACING EFFORTS; 4) MONITOR AND REPORT BACK TO COUNCIL ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE 911 SURGE RESPONSE TEAMS TO INFORM WHETHER COUNCIL SHOULD CONTINUE WITH THE FREEZING OF THESE FORTY-ONE (41) POSITIONS AS DIRECTED BY THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S JUNE 2021-23 AMENDED BUDGET; AND 5) A PLAN FOR ENSURING EQUITABLE 911 RESPONSE ACROSS THE CITY**

**AND ELIMINATING THE HIGHER VOLUME OF UNANSWERED CALLS IN BUREAU OF FIELD OPERATIONS (BFO) TWO VERSUS BUREAU OF FIELD OPERATIONS (BFO) ONE**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oakland is experiencing its highest level of violent crime in decades, including 127 homicides, 562 assaults with a firearm, and 480 car jackings year-to-date through November 28, 2021 and is on track to have its highest number of homicides in the past 15 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the gun violence and violent crime epidemic Oakland is experiencing is a result of many compounding factors including the direct and indirect impacts of COVID-19, the reduced capacity of law enforcement operations like Ceasefire and the Criminal Investigations Units, worsening economic conditions faced by historically marginalized communities, and the lack of adequate mental health resources available through the county and state, and inadequate resources being provided to Oakland's returning citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, many compounding issues have exacerbated Oakland's public safety crisis, and many compounding solutions are needed to help solve the crisis, through partnership and cooperation with partners at the local, county, state, and federal levels; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 21, 2021 the Oakland City Council declared gun violence in the City of Oakland a public health crisis, a declaration called for by many Oakland residents and community organizations including LIVE FREE USA, Roots Community Health Center, African American Resource Circle, Oakland Frontline Healers, Faith In Action East Bay, Dope Era, Adamika Village and more; and

**WHEREAS**, low clearance rates undermine efforts to hold offenders accountable, to disrupt cycles of gun violence and retaliation, and to provide justice to victims; and

**WHEREAS**, Oakland's 33% homicide clearance rate for the year through November 2021 is far lower than many other jurisdictions around California and lower than the 62% average statewide clearance rate over the last decade [\[1\]](#); and

**WHEREAS**, cities across the country (including San Francisco and Boston) have demonstrated how targeted investments into criminal investigations units can lead a 23% increase in homicide clearance for cases investigated and a reduction in incidents of crime [\[2\]](#); and

**WHEREAS**, according to the [2019-2020 Alameda County Grand Jury report on OPD Dispatch](#), in 2019, nearly 40% of Oakland's 9-1-1 callers could not get through to operators within the state standard time of 15 seconds and over 18,000 callers had to wait over two minutes for their call to be answered, and this long wait time contributed to 13,800 emergency callers abandoning the line before their calls were answered; and

**WHEREAS**, according to [The Center For Public Safety Management \(CPSM\) report on Oakland Police Data](#), Oakland had an average 911 response time of 83.6 minutes for all calls and 17.7 minutes for high priority calls [\[3\]](#); and

**WHEREAS**, the freezing of 41 “911 Surge Unit” positions as part of The Council President’s 2021-2023 Budget Amendment will reduce the already strained resources available for timely and effective 911 response; and

**WHEREAS**, the City’s Ceasefire program has proven through peer-reviewed scientific research its success at reducing gun violence in Oakland using targeted intelligence-based policing and direct consistent engagement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ceasefire program is experiencing a 33% vacancy rate with 24 dedicated officers versus 32 authorized positions; and

**WHEREAS**, when unanticipated general fund revenue becomes available through unanticipated real estate transfer taxes, property sale, salary costs savings, project cancellations, or another means, it will be in the public’s best interest for the city to deploy those funds as quickly as possible in addressing our public safety crisis; and,

**WHEREAS**, among other possible revenue sources, it was recently announced that the Rotunda Building is in contract to be sold and should that sale proceed, Oakland will receive Real Estate Transfer Taxes in addition to 50% of all sales revenues in excess of \$38 million dollars, and the building’s appraised value was \$49 million dollars in 2012 [4]; and therefore be it

**RESOLVED:** That the City Administrator is hereby directed to provide, no later than the Council’s first meeting in January 2022, a Report and Recommendation to apply unanticipated and uncommitted General Fund Revenue or cost savings toward:

- 1) The addition of a third police academy in FY 2022-2023;
- 2) The hiring of five (5) additional non-sworn criminal investigations staff;
- 3) The initial investment into the planning and deployment of surveillance camera technology to aid in criminal investigations while minimizing privacy concerns; and
- 4) The unfreezing of eight (8) frozen positions to allow for full staffing of the Ceasefire Unit; and, be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the City Administrator is directed to return to Council, no later than the Council’s first meeting in January 2022 with an information report on the following:

- 1) A proposal for doubling the clearance rate of homicides and other part 1 crimes including the creation of a clearance rates dashboard;
- 2) A staffing plan to increase the number of filled sworn officer positions to eight hundred (800) by December 2023;
- 3) Identification of grant opportunities to increase National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) gun tracing efforts;
- 4) Monitor and report back to Council on the effectiveness of the 911 surge response teams to inform whether Council should continue with the freezing of these forty-one (41) positions as directed by the Council President’s June 2021-23 amended budget; and

- 5) A plan for ensuring equitable 911 response across the City and eliminating the higher volume of unanswered calls in Bureau of Field Operations (BFO) Two versus Bureau of Field Operations (BFO) One

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FIFE, GALLO, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND  
PRESIDENT FORTUNATO BAS

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
ASHA REED  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the  
City of Oakland, California