

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 18, 2021



**Councilmember Loren Taylor**  
City of Oakland, District 6  
[ltaylor@oaklandca.gov](mailto:ltaylor@oaklandca.gov)

**Kiana Gums**  
Comms. Director, Office of Councilmember Taylor  
[kgums@oaklandca.gov](mailto:kgums@oaklandca.gov) | 510-930-8019

### ***Oakland's Reimagining Public Safety Task Force Approves Final Recommendations for City Council Consideration in Development of FY 2021-23 City Budget***

**OAKLAND, CA** - Yesterday, March 17, 2021, Oakland's [Reimagining Public Safety Task Force](#) (RPSTF) finalized its [89 recommendations](#), which will be submitted to the full City Council on April 1, 2021, with the goal of integration into the FY 2021-23 budget to be adopted by June 30, 2021. A response to the community's growing call to provide non-police alternatives to calls for service and to address the root causes of violence, the Task Force was convened in September of 2020 to develop a more equitable and effective public safety system for all residents. Council President Nikki Fortunato Bas and Councilmember Loren Taylor co-chair the [17-member body](#), which is comprised of one representative from each district (including a selection from the Mayor & At-Large Council office), a member of the Community Policing Advisory Board, Safety Services Oversight Committee, Police Commission, and Budget Advisory Commission, two members of the Youth Advisory Commission, and two co-chair appointees.

Charged with the goal of providing recommendations to City Council to increase public safety through alternative responses to calls for assistance, and investments in programs that address root causes of violence and crime with a goal of redirecting 50% of the Oakland Police Department's General Purpose Fund budget allocation, the Task Force's final recommendations reflect a significant citywide effort to build consensus on strategies to increase equity in Oakland's public safety system, improve life outcomes for all residents, especially those most impacted by violence, and improve OPD service levels and response times across the city.

#### **The Task Force's final recommendations to enhance community safety include:**

- Transferring most of the Internal Affairs Division from within the Oakland Police Department to Oakland's Community Police Review Agency which is overseen by the Police Commission to improve efficiencies and refocus sworn officers on preventing and solving crime.
- Allocating the first \$20M of savings to the Department of Violence Prevention to fulfill its mission of reducing shootings, homicides, domestic violence and commercial sexual exploitation.
- Establishing multiple levels of response to calls for public safety service that vary depending on severity and potential danger of the issue. This includes investing in long-term sustainability of the MACRO Program and establishing an NCPC Community Stewardship and Community Ambassador Programs that would train neighborhood ambassadors to conduct safety patrols and respond to low-level safety concerns.

- Increasing access to affordable and nutritious food by implementing Healthy Development Guidelines, eradicating harms created by racist policies and working with the Sugar Sweetened Beverages Community Advisory Board to devise a long-term strategy.
- Creating and funding a comprehensive reentry support hub that provides housing, jobs, mental health counseling, healthcare, and other assistance to formerly incarcerated community members and system-involved youth.
- Increasing funding to gender-based violence prevention and response services to address domestic violence, sexual violence and commercial sexual exploitation of youth, and expanding flexible funding for survivors of gender-based violence.
- Making community / junior college in Oakland free for Oakland high school graduates and individuals who meet a TBD residency requirement.
- Hiring local Black and Brown residents to transform unused surplus land and vacant lots into safe spaces for community-led space activation including urban greening, community gardens, pop-up markets for small businesses, public showcases for local artists, and recreational opportunities for youth and families.

“As a representative for Deep East Oakland and the only Black man on the Oakland City Council, it was important to me that we center the voices of those most impacted by violence throughout the process. Black East Oaklanders disproportionately lose more lives to gun violence and call 911 more frequently in addition to being most likely to be subject to unconstitutional and biased policing.” said **Councilmember Loren Taylor**. “The finalization of the RPSTF’s recommendations is a great first step in creating the reimagined public safety system that protects and addresses the needs of all Oakland residents. I look forward to the Council’s deliberation and swift adoption of the Task Force’s recommendations as well as the continued partnership of community members during implementation.”

“I’m deeply grateful for and inspired by the Task Force’s work to reach for transformative, trauma-informed solutions to increase safety for our communities -- particularly our BIPOC communities - - to refund vital safety net services that have suffered decades of disinvestment, and to expand systems of healing and care rather than incarceration and punishment,” said **Council President Nikki Fortunato Bas**. “As we develop our next two-year budget in the coming months, we have an exceptional opportunity -- guided by the Task Force’s recommendations -- to boldly align city resources with our values of equity, wellness, and dignity for all Oaklanders.”

Council President Bas and Councilmember Taylor express deep appreciation for the efforts of the two co-facilitators, PolicyLink and the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform, the dozens of community organization partners, hundreds of individual community members, and City of Oakland staff who participated in this community-led process.

“After six months of discussion, deliberation, debate, some challenges, and now voting, we are extremely proud of the incredible work of more than 100 Oaklanders who served on the Advisory Boards and the Task Force, to develop this impressive slate of recommendations to reimagine public safety in Oakland,” said **David Muhammad, Executive Director of the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform**.

“The members of the Task Force and Advisory Boards volunteered thousands of hours to create a thoughtful and transformative blueprint that will vastly improve safety and wellbeing in Oakland, particularly for BIPOC residents for whom the current system hasn’t worked,” said **Anand Subramanian, Managing Director at PolicyLink and co-facilitator of the Task Force**, “I’m especially grateful to the inspiring young people on the Task Force and the Youth Advisory Board for modeling creativity and collaboration throughout the process.”

Four Advisory Boards -- Legal & Policy Barriers & Opportunities; Alternate Responses, Programs & Investments; Budget Data & Analysis; and OPD Organization & Culture -- supported the Task Force to develop recommendations. The National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform and PolicyLink served as co-facilitators of the process.

Oakland is leading the national trend to reimagine public safety and more efficiently and equitably allocate resources, along with other cities nationwide, including Baltimore, Maryland; Washington, DC; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Austin, Texas; and Columbus, Ohio.

###

Loren Taylor proudly serves as the District 6 representative on Oakland's City Council. As a third generation Oaklander, and nationally recognized business leader, Loren takes a practical and data-driven approach to solving the city's complex issues. As Councilmember, his work to provide community resources and spur economic development in Oakland, includes eliminating race and gender-based contracting disparities through the passage of his Local Business Empowerment Through Contracting legislation; establishing Liberation Park with the Black Cultural Zone – a location dedicated to the celebration of black businesses and community; stewarding local entrepreneurs through the ESO Ventures Program; securing funding for green spaces and beautification projects; and working with diverse property developers to ensure that development does not equate to the displacement of BIPOC residents. His decades of experience providing tailored solutions to cities, corporations enable him to make measurable progress tackling the most difficult social challenges.