

Attachment C: CITY OF OAKLAND: FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

Legislative Issue	Description
Affordable Housing	<p>TPA successfully advocated for the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Development to hold a hearing to discuss public housing inspection and reporting problems, and the solutions proposed in the Housing Accountability Act (S. 3219). The bill would improve Section 8 residents' ability to lodge complaints with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and improve inspection practices. The bill had originally been introduced in response to a specific problem in Florida, but TPA interceded with the bill's sponsors on behalf of the City of Oakland and highlighted how vital the legislation would also be for communities outside of Florida that are battling the same issues. Since staffers were previously unaware of many of these issues occurring in California, this argument laid the groundwork for broader support, increased the bill's likelihood of passage, and elevated the conversation to a broad national benefit. TPA then facilitated meetings between the Council President and high-level staffers in four key senators' offices to discuss public housing inspection and reporting issues, and to express Oakland's support for the methods by which the Housing Accountability Act would combat them. These efforts ultimately resulted in a public hearing titled "Oversight of the HUD Inspection Process," in which housing experts and the bill sponsors (whose staff the Council President met with) testified about the public housing issues discussed in TPA and Oakland's past conversations.</p> <p>TPA also engaged closely with Senator Feinstein's staff to monitor and decipher a recent decision from HUD on affordable housing priorities for current and past residents. HUD had recently rejected a plan in San Francisco to open a new complex of affordable housing and implement a priority system that favored those who had lived in the neighborhood previously, thus preventing a major shift toward gentrification. When HUD rejected the plan on the grounds that it violated the Fair Housing Act, TPA worked closely with the Council President's office and the California legislative delegation to determine whether similar prioritization plans implemented in Oakland might also violate the Fair Housing Act, and whether the City was therefore at risk of legal action. Fortunately, TPA was able to determine that the City's plan contained a key and essential difference, allowing it to avoid the same assessment by HUD. In maintaining consistent lines of communication with stakeholders, TPA was</p>

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	able to mitigate risk to the City of Oakland and its residents of affordable housing, while also ensuring that key figures in affordable housing discussions were aware of Oakland's important efforts in this arena.
Education	In direct support of the Mayor and her priority project, the Oakland Promise, TPA identified numerous federal funding sources for the Oakland Promise through the US Department of Education (US DOE). These funding programs focused on innovation in education and align with Oakland Promise priorities. TPA facilitated multiple meetings between the Mayor and high-ranking US DOE officials to discuss these programs. TPA monitored the funding cycle, expected to open in 2017, and stayed in close communication with the Department of Education to identify additional opportunities.
Historic Preservation	In advance of the 50th anniversary of the founding the Black Panther Party, TPA worked with the Council President's office at the request of Fredericka Newton to explore opportunities to designate a national landmark or monument in Oakland to recognize and honor the contributions of Huey Newton and historical significance of the Black Panthers in the civil rights movement. TPA developed a proposed local, state and national strategy to designate such a landmark and add it to the National Register of Historic Places.
Human Services	Partnering with the Mayor, Vice Mayor, Director of Human Services, the City's legislative federal and state delegation and others, TPA secured over \$16 million in federal Head Start funding to provide comprehensive and full day early childhood learning experiences to 1,038 children and families throughout Oakland. This funding helped the City to provide high quality services for low income children ages zero to five. TPA aggressively advocated for the continuation of federal funding for the Head Start program over a 14-month period. TPA arranged meetings for the Mayor to meet directly with Head Start Director, Dr. Blanca Enriquez in Washington DC, drafting a letter of support on behalf of the entire Oakland Congressional Delegation, securing support from the Governor, East Bay legislative delegation and others, working closely with Senator Feinstein, Senator Boxer, and Congresswoman Lee to collaborate efforts on the ground in Washington DC, and other efforts.
Human Trafficking	TPA worked with the City of Oakland and staff to advocate for efforts to combat human trafficking both legislatively and within federal agencies. The City had taken a support position for

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	<p>Senator Feinstein’s original bill, which was absorbed into S. 178. In Senator Feinstein’s original bill, TPA identified funding opportunities for the City, such as the Domestic Victims on Human Trafficking Demonstration Grant Program. Through coordination with the City and the City’s federal legislative delegation, S. 178 (Cornyn) was signed into law.</p>
<p>Promise Zones</p>	<p>TPA provided support and strategy to the City of Oakland on their Promise Zone application, and facilitated the City’s engagement in the initiative. TPA updated the City with new information from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), both from webinars and direct conversations with senior HUD. TPA provided recommendations to the City of their application, including a sample application, the review of the final draft application, edits, and insights into HUD priorities, and ensuring the application was well-positioned for success.</p>
<p>Public Safety</p>	<p>In response to major gun violence and homicides in the City of Oakland, TPA spearheaded collaboration between the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and US Department of Justice to remove firearms and violent criminals from the City’s streets. Over a four-month period the results include 92 guns seized and 90 arrests in all.</p> <p>TPA worked with City of Oakland and the US Department of Justice (DOJ) to support S. 146 (Boxer). The bill created a new grant program to enable schools to apply for federal funding to create school safety plans and to purchase technology to improve student safety. TPA ensured the program was put under the jurisdiction of the DOJ Community Oriented Policing Office. Due to TPA’s close working relationship with that office, the DOJ promptly and effectively executed the program.</p> <p>TPA leveraged relationships with the US Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency to secure additional time and keep funding in place for the City of Oakland’s Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)- Domain Awareness Center (DAC) award of \$2.9 million. The City needed more time to advance the project and through TPA efforts, an extension was secured and the City did not have to return their original funding.</p> <p>TPA was heavily engaged in the Task Force on 21st Century Policing forum to represent the City of Oakland. The forum was focused on building trust within the City. This initiative was later</p>

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	<p>incorporated into the COPS programmatic funding and additional DOJ funding opportunities.</p> <p>TPA helped coordinate a meeting with the strategic liaison between Oakland law enforcement and the US Department of Justice (DOJ) for the Oakland/Richmond Violence Reduction (VRN). As a newly designated VRN in 2015, the City preferred federal public safety training and technical assistance.</p> <p>TPA helped coordinate a meeting with the strategic liaison between Oakland law enforcement and the US Department of Justice (DOJ) for the Oakland/Richmond Violence Reduction (VRN). As a newly designated VRN in 2015, the City preferred federal public safety training and technical assistance.</p> <p>TPA worked with the City of Oakland to support the My Brother's Keeper (MBK) School Success Mentor Initiative following the President's call to action. Throughout the process, TPA provided updates on potential opportunities that could stem from the initiative. The City accepted the MBK challenge and worked with leading experts in youth and community development to design and implement cradle-to-college-and-career action plans.</p>
Sanctuary Cities	<p>During and since the presidential election, TPA has monitored comments from then-candidate and now-President Trump on sanctuary cities. In particular, TPA has investigated his campaign promise to "defund sanctuary cities" and researched what that could mean for Oakland in a practical sense. Prior to President Trump's inauguration, TPA correctly predicted that his ability to withhold funding from sanctuary cities would be limited. When President Trump signed the Executive Order "Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States" on January 25, 2017, TPA analyzed the text and legal precedent, and immediately identified that funding restrictions would be limited to a small number of grants executed by only the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security. In addition to this, TPA continued to keep in close contact with staffers from both departments as well as California congressional delegation to ensure a full scope of information was available to be passed on to Oakland. Through its close relationships with the executive and legislative branches, as well as experts in the field, TPA has identified the applicable sections of U.S. code that the administration may use to designate sanctuary cities in the absence of a definition in statute, which the Departments of</p>

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	<p>Justice and Homeland Security could potentially base use to prohibit or rescind federal funding under their jurisdiction.</p> <p>The Executive Order mentioned above also instructed Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to issue Declined Detainer Outcome Reports on a weekly basis, identifying sanctuary jurisdictions by the administration's criteria. TPA continues to monitor all ICE Declined Detainer Outcome Reports on a weekly basis for mentions of Oakland and Alameda County, which could be a pretext for the administration restricting funding eligibility. TPA also monitored ongoing litigation against the administration challenging its legal authority to withhold funds from sanctuary cities.</p>
Senior Citizens' Services	<p>When changes occurred to the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), this triggered a major funding challenge for the City of Oakland ASSETS Senior Employment Opportunities Program, which has helped provide jobs to 2,092 seniors over the last decade. TPA aggressively engaged with Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer to seek alternatives that allowed for continued funding of the ASSETS program as a sub-grantee of another national non-profit organization awarded Department of Labor SCSEP funding.</p>
Unaccompanied Undocumented Children	<p>TPA worked with the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), House Homeland Security Committee Members and their senior staff, and Congresswoman Barbara Lee's staff to secure funding for the City of Oakland. This funding allowed the City to handle the high number of unaccompanied undocumented children currently awaiting legal action in Oakland. Additionally, due to the President's initial comments regarding his potential executive action on this immigration policy, TPA swiftly worked with Congressional leadership and Administration officials to ensure that the City was involved in any initiatives that would create additional funding opportunities or other support mechanisms.</p>