

Approved as to Form and Legality



City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

**INTRODUCED BY VICE MAYOR KAPLAN, COUNCILMEMBER FIFE,
COUNCILMEMBER GALLO, AND PRO TEM THAO**

RESOLUTION TO DIRECT THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ASSIST IMPACTED BUSINESSES WHO HAVE BEEN HARMED BY ARMED ROBBERIES BY (1) RESEARCHING AND IMPLEMENTING CITY-ISSUED LOANS TO IMPACTED BUSINESSES CAN BE DEFERRED OR WAIVED, (2) RESEARCHING OPTIONS FOR TAX REBATES FOR IMPACTED BUSINESSES AND RETURNING TO COUNCIL FOR AUTHORIZATION AS NEEDED, (3) RESEARCHING AND IMPLEMENTING, TO THE EXTENT ALLOWED UNDER THE PROGRAM, THE CITY'S PROVISION OF FUNDING THROUGH THE CITY'S FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT/TENANT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS TO HELP BUSINESSES REBUILD AND INSTALL SECURITY DOORS/GATES AND RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE, (4) IDENTIFY AND APPLY FOR STATE OF CALIFORNIA GRANT FUNDS THAT CAN BE GRANTED TO OAKLAND'S CANNABIS AND EAST OAKLAND BUSINESSES TO COVER THE COSTS OF REPAIRS, LOSSES AND/OR OTHER DAMAGES SUFFERED DUE TO RECENT CRIME ACTIVITY, AND (5) CONDUCT AN INTENSIVE OUTREACH CAMPAIGN TO IMPACTED BUSINESSES TO INFORM THEM OF THE AVAILABILITY OF ANY EXISTING CITY SUPPORT TO REMEDIATE THE ECONOMIC HARM CAUSED BY ARMED ROBBERIES.

WHEREAS, during the week of November 15th, 2021, armed robbers forced their way into dozens of Oakland businesses, including pharmacies, retail shops and more than 15 licensed cannabis businesses, vandalizing stores and offices, posing serious threats to the safety of employees, and stealing products worth millions of dollars; and

WHEREAS, the Oakland City Police Department reported that there were caravans of vehicles that targeted businesses across the City, and fired multiple rounds at both private security employees and OPD officers; and

WHEREAS, the California Retailers Association reported between the Oakland and San Francisco areas, businesses suffered the second-highest amount of organized retail crime in the country at approximately \$3.6 billion worth of losses and along with it, an additional \$275 million in lost sales tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, cumulatively, small and mostly Equity-licensed cannabis businesses now face over \$5 million in losses, and cannabis businesses do not have access to insurance for stolen products, and therefore, cannot recoup costs; and

WHEREAS, since these incidents occurred, Oakland's Cannabis Regulatory Commission has called upon city and state officials to inquire about potential strategies to address these occurrences, in addition to agendaing issues of burglaries and security at their December 2nd, 2021 meeting; and

WHEREAS, the City's Special Activity Permits Office has also re-opened the 2020 Emergency Grant Program for burglarized equity cannabis businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Façade and Tenant Improvement Programs are designed to support investment for commercial retail buildings with storefront businesses - with the goal to encourage economic development and reduce blight by enhancing the physical appearance and commercial viability of storefront businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Façade Improvement Program is an incentive program that offers property and business owners matching grants on a dollar for dollar basis for improvements to the façades of commercial buildings located in several target areas across the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland received \$9.905 million in the 2021-2022 State Budget through the Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grant Program, which provides funding to local jurisdictions with commercial cannabis licensees needing the greatest assistance in transitioning from a provisional license to an annual license; and

WHEREAS, the State also allocated \$35 million to the Cannabis Equity Grants Program for Local Jurisdictions in the 2021-2022 State Budget to advance economic justice for populations and communities harmed by cannabis prohibition and the War on Drugs by providing support to local jurisdictions as they promote equity and eliminate barriers to enter the newly regulated cannabis industry for equity program applicants and licensees; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Oakland Administration shall assist impacted businesses who have been harmed by armed robberies by (1) researching and implementing whether city-issued loans to impacted businesses can be deferred or waived, (2) researching options for tax rebates for impacted businesses and returning to Council for authorizations as needed, (3) researching and implementing, to the extent allowed under the program, the city's provision of funding through the city's Façade Improvement/Tenant Improvement Programs to help businesses rebuild and install security doors/gates and related infrastructure, and (4) identify and apply for State Of California grant funds that can be granted to Oakland's Cannabis And East Oakland businesses to cover the costs of repairs, losses and/or other damages suffered due to recent crime activity; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That upon completion of researching and implementing the outlined pathways to assist businesses harmed by armed robberies, the City Administrator shall report back to Council with findings, to report what actions have been taken, and recommendations for further actions and any next steps needing Council approval; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Administrator and Oakland’s lobbyist shall pursue funding and assistance to support businesses harmed by armed robberies, and to help prevent future incidents, including with State and federal partners; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Administrator shall coordinate with Oakland’s Cannabis Regulatory Commission to pursue the Commission’s recommended actions in response to armed robberies; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Administrator shall conduct an outreach campaign to impacted businesses to inform them of the availability of any existing city support to remediate the economic harm caused by armed robberies.

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