

# CITY OF OAKLAND



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Date: July 21, 2020  
To: Members of City Council and Members of the Public  
From: Rebecca Kaplan, Council President  
Subject: Resolution Urging A Moratorium Arrest of Pedestrian And Bicyclist For “Non-Violent” Oakland Municipal Or Vehicle Code Violations

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Dear Colleagues on the City Council and Members of the Public,

We are urging you to adopt this resolution declaring an interim moratorium on the arrest of bicyclists and pedestrians by Oakland Police Department (OPD), and requesting the Police Commission provide further feedback on policy regarding bicycle/pedestrian stops, which would then return to Council. Throughout the City of Oakland, 24% of the residents are Black, yet 68% of police bicycle/pedestrian stops are of Blacks according to a 2019 study done by Bike-Lab.org. Further, 23% of the stops occur in just three police beats in West and East Oakland, and the residents of those beats are predominantly people of color (74%), however, Blacks are significantly more likely to be stopped wherever they are in the city.<sup>1</sup>

The City of Oakland seeks to be a model both for bicycling and sustainable transportation, and a leader in working for social and racial justice. Disparate targeting of African Americans biking and walking goes against our values and community needs. Oakland residents have identified racially-biased policing of cyclists as a significant barrier to biking in the city.

Therefore, I am recommending this interim moratorium on arrests for bicycle and pedestrian violations, and refer the issue to the Oakland Police Commission for further study during the moratorium, after which time, the proposed policy on bicycle and pedestrian stops would return to City Council.

For questions regarding this report, please email us at [ksjones3@oaklandca.gov](mailto:ksjones3@oaklandca.gov) or 510.238.7081.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Rebecca Kaplan".

Rebecca Kaplan  
Oakland City Council President

City Council  
July 21, 2020  
File # 20-0478

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<sup>1</sup> <https://bike-lab.org/2019/05/20/biking-while-black-racial-bias-in-oakland-policing/> . May 20, 2019.