



CITY HALL • 1 FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612

Police Commission

January 9, 2020

Re: Neighborhood Opportunity and Accountability Board Youth Diversion Project

Dear Community Stakeholder,

The Oakland Police Commission wholeheartedly supports the Neighborhood Opportunity and Accountability Board (NOAB)'s youth diversion project through the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform.

Diversion programs redirect youth offenders from the criminal justice system through the provision of support, supervision, and programming. Similarly, NOAB's diversion program will divert youth who have committed minor offenses away from the system and towards community-based treatment and support options instead of confinement. NOAB's program will be far more effective in addressing and preventing future delinquency than the traditional criminal justice system.

Additionally, NOAB's diversion program will keep youth from being "formally processed" in the criminal justice system. Such processing perpetuates delinquency by "labeling" youth offenders and exposing them to circumstances within juvenile and adult correctional institutions that may actually increase recidivism.

Lastly, NOAB's program is designed to be less costly than formal court proceedings by reducing the burden on the court system, reducing the caseload of juvenile probation officers, and freeing up those limited resources and services for high-risk juvenile offenders.

NOAB's youth diversion project is also supported by the Oakland Police Department and seeks to work with Alameda County Probation Office and the Alameda County District Attorney's Office. We look forward to having you collaborate with us on this program as well.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at RJackson@OaklandCommission.org or David Muhammad, Executive Director of the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform, at David@NICJR.org. Thank you in advance for your support.

Very truly yours,

Regina Jackson

Regina Jackson
Chair, Oakland Police Commission