



CITY OF OAKLAND

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COUNCILMEMBER LOREN TAYLOR  
DISTRICT 6

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**AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

Date: January 21, 2021  
To: Oakland City Councilmembers, Staff and Members of the Public  
From: Councilmember Loren Taylor  
Subject: Councilmember Salary Waiver To Address Budget Shortfall

Colleagues on the Committee, Staff and Members of the Public:

As we are all aware the world is grappling with an unprecedented health pandemic that has caused the death of over 400,000 people in the United States. In addition to the immense health consequences there have also been negative impacts to our financial systems including our own City budget. While we as a City grapple with the negative financial impacts to our City budget which will affect our ability to deliver City services and our City employees, we as a Council can take an important step to help ease some of the pressure on our City budget by waiving a portion of our salaries by following the lead of our non-represented staff. According to the City Charter the City Council nor the City Administrator has the authority to reduce Councilmember salaries set by the Public Ethics Commission, therefore any waiver of Councilmember pay must be voluntary. During the last major economic downturn, faced by the City a majority of City Councilmembers voted to waive a portion of their pay.

This legislation recommends that the Councilmembers waive payment of salary equivalent to 10 days of pay for the period of January 12, 2021 through June 30, 2021. Councilmembers would be required to send notice of the waiver to City Administrator in writing. The current budget conditions are serious and we understand that there will be difficult decisions to make in the coming months. Oakland has instituted an immediate hiring freeze, all non-union employees will take 10 unpaid furlough days, and city departments are preparing 10% to 20% budget cuts. The Council has been notified that City Administration will also begin negotiating with labor unions on how to further reduce costs. While we understand that this will not be an easy decision, this waiver is an opportunity to show our City employees that have already received pay cuts that we are willing to share the economic burdens caused by the economic challenges of the current pandemic.

The global pandemic has caused an economic downturn across the nation including devastating health and financial effects here in Oakland. Residents are struggling to pay housing and other necessities and small businesses are also struggling, many have already closed and we



must all work together and make sacrifices to emerge from this pandemic with as little impact to our City services and employees as possible.

I respectfully ask for your support of this important legislation in this critical time of much needed economic recovery.

Yours in partnership and in service of Oakland,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Loren Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Loren Taylor  
Councilmember District 6