

CITY OF OAKLAND



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#LoveLife
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Date: June 11, 2021
To: Members of City Council and Members of the Public
From: Vice Mayor Kaplan
Re: **Proposal to Restore Crossing Guards**

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

School Crossing Guards play a vital role in the lives of children and families who walk or bike to school and are an important part of our communities. There are over 150 schools in the City of Oakland, with 52 of them having crossing guards in 67 established Crossing Guard posts. In the administration's FY 2021-23 budget plan, they propose to cut 13.5 FTE crossing guards, which total about 30 part-time positions. At a time where we have seen an increase in unsafe driving on our streets, and with children returning back to the classroom, we must keep these crossing guard positions around our schools and ensure the safety of our children and their families.

Crossing guards not only help children safely cross the street on their way to and from school, but also play other important roles in preventing accidents and other hazards. This includes: discouraging children and other pedestrians from behaving unsafely near traffic; creating gaps to allow for crossing by stopping traffic temporarily; alerting motorists that pedestrians are in the process of using the school crossing; and, observing and reporting any conditions that present a potential safety hazard. In addition, the presence of these trusted adults, including their role as eyes on surrounding activity, tends to deter and reduce other risks to our children, including crime, bullying and other problems. The mayor's proposal to eliminate numerous crossing guards would move our city in the wrong direction, and worsen risks for our children.

In addition to acting as a safeguard to children, crossing guards are typically community members who develop relationships with children, parents, guardians, and others who walk or bike. These budget cuts would mean these crossing guards would lose their source of income.

Upon hearing of the proposed cuts, I worked to seek methods to restore these vital positions. Fortunately, Oakland receives funding from countywide transportation taxes which we had worked previously to successfully pass by the voters. These Measures, B and BB, provide funding to Oakland through a formula based on sales tax revenue. Fortunately, this sales tax revenue has come in above prior projections in the current fiscal year. There is over \$900,000 in additional revenue in each Measure. Therefore, we are proposing to restore the crossing guards, without needing to cut any other proposed items, by allocating the extra, previously unbudgeted revenue in Measure B this year, and using it to fully fund the crossing guards in the upcoming two year budget. We must invest in our children, families, and workers during this critical time. I ask you to join me in saving these crossing guard positions. Please see the attached spreadsheet.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Kaplan".

Vice Mayor Rebecca Kaplan
Oakland City Councilmember At Large

City Council
June 17, 2021
File # 21-0472

FY 2021-23 COUNCIL AMENDMENTS

2211 - Measure B - ACTIA

REVENUE ADDITIONS (POSITIVE #) & REDUCTIONS (NEGATIVE #)

Item #	Fund	Dept.	Description	FY 2021-22 Ongoing	FY 2021-22 One-Time	FY 2021-22 Total	FY 2022-23 Ongoing	FY 2022-23 One-Time	FY 2022-23 Total	TOTAL	Notes
1	2211	DOT	New Revenue		941,254	941,254			-	941,254	Revenue adjustment due to increased sales tax revenues Direct Distribution to City from Countywide transportation sales tax
Subtotal Revenue Adjustments				-	941,254	941,254	-	-	-		

	FY 2021-22 Ongoing	FY 2021-22 One-Time	FY 2021-22 Total	FY 2022-23 Ongoing	FY 2022-23 One-Time	FY 2022-23 Total	TOTAL	Notes
FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAMMING		941,254	941,254				941,254	Dedicate extra revenue from current year to saving crossing guard positions in upcoming 2-year budget

EXPENDITURE ADDITIONS (POSITIVE #)

Item #	Fund	Dept.	Description (Include Job Class & FTE)	FY 2021-22 Ongoing	FY 2021-22 One-Time	FY 2021-22 Total	FY 2022-23 Ongoing	FY 2022-23 One-Time	FY 2022-23 Total	TOTAL	Notes
2	2211	DOT	Restore 13.5 FTE Crossing Guards (PT,PS 116)			-		878,212	878,212	878,212	Restore Crossing guards to provide safe crossing at Oakland's schools

	FY 2021-22 Ongoing	FY 2021-22 One-Time	FY 2021-22 Total	FY 2022-23 Ongoing	FY 2022-23 One-Time	FY 2022-23 Total	TOTAL	Notes
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	-	941,254	941,254	-	-	(878,212)	\$ 63,042.00	

From Council Member Rebecca Kaplan