

# CITY OF OAKLAND



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**To:** Chairperson Larry Reid and Members of the Public Safety Committee  
**From:** Councilmember Jane Brunner  
**Date:** April 24, 2007  
**Re:** Item 3: Improving OPD's Effectiveness

I would like to thank the Public Safety Committee for discussing this important issue and the Chief of Police for a clear and straightforward report.

I am pleased that the new organizational plan for the OPD is based upon geographical accountability for OPD Command staff. I imagine this will be a significant improvement over trying to manage resources citywide on a day-to-day basis. Having a Captain with clear authority to command police resources within a defined geographical area will increase accountability and tailor the needs and strategies of our communities to local conditions.

I would like to share a concern I have with the break up of the city into three areas, as presented in the report. As it is in the report, North Oakland and West Oakland are a single Area. I am concerned that most of the police resources for Area 1 would be used in West Oakland, leaving North Oakland light on coverage. I'm hoping to avoid a problem I have already observed in Beat 6X, which is split between North and West Oakland. Neighbors in the northern part of the beat have had a difficult time getting their priorities met in light of more serious crimes in the West Oakland portion of the beat.

Again, I believe this geographic strategy will be a big improvement. I just want to make sure we do it right from the outset to ensure that all Oakland neighborhoods receive the benefits of better law enforcement. I would propose that the city be broken down into perhaps as many as five Areas.