

CITY OF OAKLAND



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#LoveLife
CARROLL FIFE NOEL GALLO REBECCA KAPLAN SHENG THAO
Councilmember Councilmember Vice Mayor President Pro Tem
District 3 District 5 District At Large District 4

Date: December 14, 2021
To: Members of City Council and Members of the Public
From: Vice Mayor Kaplan, Councilmember Fife, Councilmember Gallo, and Pro Tem Thao
Re: **Resolution To Direct The City Administrator To Assist Impacted Businesses Who Have Been Harmed By Armed Robberies By (1) Researching And Implementing City-Issued Loans To Impacted Businesses Can Be Deferred Or Waived, (2) Researching Options For Tax Rebates For Impacted Businesses And Returning To Council For Authorization As Needed, (3) Researching And Implementing The City's Provision Of Funding Through The City's Façade Improvement/Tenant Improvement Programs To Help Businesses Rebuild And Install Security Doors/Gates And Related Infrastructure, (4) Researching And Implementing The Granting Of Funds To The City Of Oakland From The State Of California To Support Cannabis Businesses And East Oakland Businesses Can Be Used To Help Impacted Businesses With Recovery, And (5) Conduct An Intensive Outreach Campaign To Impacted Businesses To Inform Them Of The Availability Of Any Existing City Support To Remediate The Economic Harm Caused By Armed Robberies.**

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

There have been incidents recently, in which armed robbers attacked multiple Oakland businesses, including pharmacies, retail shops and licensed cannabis businesses - vandalizing stores and offices, posing serious threats to the safety of employees, and creating losses worth millions of dollars. Heavily-armed vehicles of robbers targeted multiple businesses. This resolution pursues multiple strategies to assist Oakland businesses through loan deferrals or waivers, funding for security improvements, tax rebates, and grants.

Local facilities, including Oakland equity businesses, have suffered significant losses, which are generally not covered by insurance. Federal laws, including those restricting access to banking, also continue to worsen these situations, and should also be changed.

Public Safety Committee
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File #21-0917

In addition, it is important to ensure that our local facilities are provided equitable protection of the laws.

Given the significance of these losses in terms of lost product and destruction of property, we have identified potential ways the City can support local businesses through loan deferrals or waivers, tax rebates, funding and grants. For example, the Facade and Tenant Improvement Programs were designed to encourage economic development and reduce blight through matching grants for improvements to the façades of commercial buildings. These programs could be used to help businesses rebuild and install security infrastructure that was vandalized. Additionally, the City received funding from the California State Budget to assist transitioning commercial cannabis licensees from provisional to annual licenses. Depending on which cannabis businesses were affected during the robberies, this funding could assist in recovering costs from damages. Oakland has also received funding from the State for business assistance in impacted areas, which could also be used to support these efforts.

We, therefore, urge support for this resolution which directs the City Administration to (1) pursue city-issued loans to impacted businesses which can be deferred or waived, (2) research options for tax rebates for impacted businesses and report back to Council on options, (3) pursue the City providing funding through the City's Façade Improvement/Tenant Improvement Programs, including to help businesses rebuild and install security doors/gates and related infrastructure (4) pursue funds granted to the City Of Oakland from the State of California to support cannabis businesses and East Oakland businesses to help applicable impacted businesses with recovery and (5) conduct an outreach campaign to impacted businesses to inform them of the availability of any existing city support.

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