

CITY OF OAKLAND



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Date: February 13, 2019

To: Members of City Council and Members of the Public
From: Council President Kaplan
Re: Resolution Requesting The City Administrator To Consider Prioritizing A Pro-Active “Block By Block” Zone Based System To Address Blight And Illegal Dumping

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

According to our Oakland Public Works department our “crews cleaned up approximately 29,000 piles of illegal dumping in 2016” which was a “100-percent increase from what City crews were picking up five years ago.”¹ As a policy matter, this council has discussed the benefits of a hybrid model in the past - that of responding to illegal dumping both with a complaint based system and with the removal of debris by zones.

On March 5, 2018, a pilot program in District 6 and in West Oakland was created to determine the impacts of a proactive, block by block system of collecting illegal dumping and the benefits were noted, including in an Agenda Report issued on August 31, 2018 for the informational report, File No. 18-0864.

In our budget process, in July 2017, we budgeted for two pro-active crews to the Public Works Department for the first time, and another crew mid-year in July 2018. A crew has consisted of a street maintenance leader and three maintenance workers at a cost of \$547,946 (4 FTE) along with \$450,000 in equipment for a total of \$997,946 (FY 2018). In our next budget, it is paramount we consider staffing up to ensure all of the four zones of our city have sufficient pro-active dumping crews to meet the needs of our constituents.

I appreciate the movement made by OPW towards a hybrid model to combat illegal dumping. For the sake of clarity and to acknowledge the value of a zone based system, I’m asking the council to move a resolution that requests that the City Administrator prioritize a pro-active zone based approach to address blight and illegal dumping. However, our residents should still remember that they should report illegal dumping when they see it and utilize our Call Center at (510) 615-5566.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Kaplan
Council President

¹ City of Oakland, Department of Public Works website. (2019, February 12) Retrieved from <http://www2.oaklandnet.com/government/o/PWA/o/FE/s/IDR/index.htm>