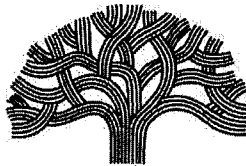


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CITY OF OAKLAND  
M E M O R A N D U M

*from the Office of*

**Lynette Gibson McElhaney**

COUNCILMEMBER ~ DISTRICT 3

## AGENDA REPORT

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**TO:** Members of the Finance and  
Management Committee

**FROM:** Lynette Gibson McElhaney, Chair

**SUBJECT:** Chairperson's Report #1

**DATE:** October 8, 2019

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### DESCRIPTION

The Chairperson's report provides a brief opportunity for Committee members to reflect on leadership principles, cast vision for the organization and engage in general discussion about current events.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Leadership is essential to success – in governance, in business and in life.

Leadership expert, John C. Maxwell writes, "Defining reality is the starting point for good leadership. It's like finding "You Are Here" on a map before trying to get where you're going. As Jim Collins points out in *Good to Great*, 'You absolutely cannot make a series of good decisions without first confronting brutal facts.'"

Our ability to guide the municipal corporation and safe guard the taxpayer's investment (and by extension their trust) is dependent upon our ability to define and face our realities.

### FRAMING

The Finance and Management Committee (FMC) exists to consider, debate and decide matters that have a fiscal impact on the City of Oakland. This jurisdiction is intentionally broad because every aspect of public governance has a fiscal implication – either through direct investment or liability exposure.

More than any other committee, the FMC must define reality and set the leadership tone for our municipal corporation in alignment with our values.

### DISCUSSION

- What are your thoughts about Maxwell's quote?
- Where do we need a reality check?
- How do you recommend we perform a reality check?
- Who do we honor to "speak truth"

