

## MEMO

**To:** Mayor Libby Schaaf  
**Council President Rebecca Kaplan and Members of the City Council**

**From:** Christopher Townsend, President, Townsend Public Affairs, Inc.  
Niccolo De Luca, Northern California Senior Director  
Casey Elliott, State Capital Director  
Jonathan Jackson, Federal Senior Associate  
Laura Kroeger, Federal Senior Associate  
Andres Ramirez, Associate

**Date:** November 19, 2020

**Subject:** **2021 State and Federal Legislative Agenda and Summary of 2020 State and Federal Legislative Efforts**

### SUMMARY

Townsend Public Affairs, Inc. (TPA) has prepared this report for the City of Oakland following the end of the 2020 legislative year.

TPA met with City leadership and based on those meetings has prepared a recommended 2021 State and Federal Legislative agenda for discussion and adoption. This includes the framework for legislative proposals for the 2021 legislative year, including City-sponsored legislative proposals as well as legislative and funding priorities.

The Legislature is currently in interim recess and will reconvene on January 4, 2021 to resume legislative activities. Legislators may begin introducing new pieces of legislation, many of which may be like bills that did not advance in 2020, the second year of the two-year legislative cycle. TPA has already begun to engage in policy conversations with the City's Legislative Liaisons and Representatives and will continue to have discussions in the following weeks and months leading up to the 2021 legislative session.

The second part of this memo (beginning on page 12) provides a summary of our efforts to date for the advocacy objectives of the City in 2020 which include:

- Partnering with the Mayor and her office to secure a direct State budget allocation to help address homelessness;
- Partnering with the Mayor and City Council to push for federal CARES Act funding and then securing a direct funding allocation from the State; and
- The passage of multiple City supported legislative proposals into law relating to equity, police reform, affordable housing, COVID response, small business support, and others.

### **City of Oakland Legislative Priorities for 2021**

This report outlines the City of Oakland's legislative priorities for 2021. However, it will be necessary to remain nimble and responsive as we move through the state and federal legislative year, as we continue to pivot and readjust due to COVID and its effects. We will be working closely with our legislative delegations at the federal and state levels, as well as with the Governor's Office, as we move forward.

While the 2020 legislative session was completely disrupted, it is expected that in 2021 the State Legislature will maintain its focus on its recent priorities, including: affordable housing,

homelessness, climate change, cannabis policy, public safety reform, COVID -19 recovery, wildfire prevention, tax reform, and potentially revenue measures.

In this report, TPA has included input from the Mayor, City Council, and City Administration. This report is compiled into two sections:

1. City of Oakland Specific Legislative Priorities for Sponsorship and Support; and
2. Federal and State Legislative Priorities and Funding Opportunities for Monitoring and Recommended Action.

The City of Oakland also works in partnership with a wide range of entities to support shared local and regional legislative priorities. The Mayor is a founding member of Mayors and CEOs for U.S. Housing Investment, a Co-founder of Mayors for Medicare for All and a founding member of Mayors for Guaranteed Income. She also Co-Chairs the Covid-19 Racial Disparities Task Force. In addition, the City supports measures that are of importance to our regional partners such as: Oakland Unified School District, Port of Oakland, Alameda County, Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Alameda County Transportation Commission, Oakland's transit agencies, as well as other California cities, employers and key sectors. We also partner with local institutions such as the Oakland Museum of California and the Oakland Zoo.

### **1. City of Oakland Specific Legislative Priorities**

If the City Council is supportive of the proposals listed below, TPA will continue to research what can be accomplished through legislation, regulations, or direct advocacy with State/Federal agencies and other organizations.

- **Homelessness** - From our meetings with the Mayor, Council Members, and City staff the top priority for all is to obtain additional support to address the growing number of unsheltered homeless individuals in Oakland, reduce homelessness overall, and to prevent additional homelessness. Solutions could include legislation that reduces barriers to and prioritizes resources for Extremely Low Income (ELI) housing, and increases funding for shelter and other emergency and harm reduction interventions, mechanisms to create an ongoing funding source for municipalities for permanent housing solutions to homelessness, improvement of statewide mental health delivery, homeless prevention programs, modifications to state law to support Oakland programs such as safe RV parking, policy and regulatory changes that increase innovation, effectiveness and efficiency of preventing homelessness and moving people from homelessness to permanent housing, including reduce the regulatory barriers and administrative burden associated with homeless programs, and other efforts such as supporting various emergency declaration proposals.
- **Affordable Housing** - Possible solutions could include creation of a new tax increment redevelopment program, funding and policies to promote acquisition and preservation of existing affordable housing stock, Costa Hawkins reform, efforts to streamline affordable housing development, increase accessory dwelling units (ADUs), reform how auctioned property is currently implemented, and support housing production policy changes, and programs to advance homeownership particularly for BIPOC communities.
- **COVID-19 Recovery** – Both the federal and state governments have been discussing options relating to COVID 19 relief packages. There may be opportunities for the City to secure recovery funding at both levels of government which is a top priority. In addition, due to the various economic pressures, it will be important to be vigilant and alert to ensure all existing revenue streams stay intact while working to create new ones.

- **Economic Security** - Efforts to address racial economic disparities, which have been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic could include guaranteed income, direct cash assistance, expansion/modification of the Earned Income Tax Credit including the Young Child Tax Credit and other measures to support BIPOC families.
  - **Support for Small Businesses** – Support efforts to provide direct assistance to small Oakland businesses with priority for BIPOC-owned businesses, improve access to capital for traditionally excluded entrepreneurs, and encourage investment in underserved retail corridors.
  - **Tenant Protections/Rent Relief** – Support assistance for rent relief and support additional protections for tenants such as Ellis Act reform, and strategies to protect tenants and property owners impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic,
  - **Health Disparities** – Support efforts to address the racial health disparities of Covid-19 and build on current efforts to partner with culturally competent community clinics and community-based organizations to provide proactive outreach and education, surveillance testing and personal protective equipment to medically-underserved communities, as well as efforts to expand access to healthcare for all and create safe injection sites.
- **Reimaging public safety/enforcement alternatives** – Efforts to set statewide standards to increase transparency and accountability in policing and develop alternatives to non-emergency police response. Solutions could include repurposing mental health funding relating to traditional emergency response efforts. In addition, support the use of automated enforcement and civilian personnel traffic enforcement to decrease fatalities. Provide more flexibility to municipalities to adopt more effective methods for speeding and reckless driving/sideshow enforcement.
  - **Climate Change Adaptation and Wildfire Prevention** – Efforts to advance climate change adaptation, wildfire prevention, disaster preparedness and response, including increased fire protection, vegetation management, and regulation of PGE shut-offs.
  - **Education and Workforce Development**– Support efforts to close the digital divide; safely reopen schools with adequate testing, PPE, ventilation, and other necessary factors in place; increase college access, affordability, and completion; recruit and retain teachers of color, particularly in hard-to-staff subject areas like STEM and special education and teacher residencies; and/or expand and enhance early childhood education, all with a focus on historically underserved/under-represented and higher need populations. Strengthen the education to employment pipeline by better aligning post-secondary programs to local economic and workforce needs and increase college completion through an emphasis on promoting affordability, and creating diverse pathways to higher education for students, families, and adults from low-income backgrounds.

## **2. Federal and State Legislative Monitoring and Potential Action**

The following legislative priorities have been identified by the Mayor, Councilmembers, and City staff for monitoring, analysis, and potential action. The Mayor and/or City Council may choose to take a position on a piece of legislation, continue to monitor without a position, or determine if any further response is required. TPA maintains a constantly updated matrix of state and federal bills for the City of Oakland, providing additional analysis and information to inform the development of a position by the City. In addition, all of the policies below will be viewed through the lens of racial inequities and how we can make the legislation stronger and more equitable.

TPA will monitor legislative activity in the following areas:

<b>Homelessness</b>	
<i>Policy Priorities</i>	<i>Funding Priorities</i>
Prevent displacement of tenants and residents and prevent homelessness.	Funding for homeless services (e.g., the wrap around services necessary for transitional and permanent housing) and emergency shelters
Enhance emergency, transitional, and permanent housing opportunities.	Funding for permanent housing interventions that reduce and prevent homelessness
Create a state-funded emergency rent and utility assistance program for those at-risk of becoming homeless	Support for more mental health and behavioral health outreach services
Oppose bills that reduce or eliminate the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investments Partnerships (HOME) programs and other sources of funding that help provide housing and services	Funding for targeted homeless prevention programs that provide financial assistance, legal and housing navigation services.
Oppose repeal of the Affordable Care Act or any bills that would reduce the availability of health care, mental health, or behavioral services	Funding for employment, wage-earning programs for homeless people
Support efforts relating to job and workforce training to increase economic stability and opportunities for homeless and housing insecure residents	Support nontraditional funding opportunities for homelessness.
Support legislative efforts that will require counties to partner with cities relating to unspent Prop 63 mental health funds	
Enhance efficiency and effectiveness of homeless services by reducing administrative and regulatory barriers.	
Support systems changes such as Medicaid waivers allowing broad insurance coverage for homeless services and housing expenses (“housing as medicine”) and creating incentives to landlords who work with homeless service providers and rent to formerly homeless households.	
<b>Planning, Housing and Land Use</b>	
<i>Policy Priorities</i>	<i>Funding Priorities</i>
Help promote and support housing legislation that provides incentives to approve more housing, particularly near transit and jobs.	Support for increasing affordable housing inventory including transit oriented affordable housing
Support housing legislation that increases greater height and density near transit, areas of job growth and high-cost/high-resource areas	Support for soft-story seismic retrofits
Support legislation that advances the creation or funding of affordable housing projects	Efforts to preserve the historic character of neighborhoods
Enhance efforts to increase low and moderate-income housing, including ensuring that the Cap and Trade funding guidelines meet the City’s needs and goals	Funding opportunities for housing preservation via community ownership, land trusts, and co-ops
Pursue updates to the State building code, if necessary, to address non-conforming uses	Funding to support and build capacity of community land trusts

without causing displacement and to promote innovative forms of housing construction	
Reasonable reform to CEQA to streamline development and housing opportunities	Funding for innovative programs to prevent displacement and address hazardous housing conditions.
Efforts to create a state-funded housing subsidy program like the federal HUD-Section 8 program (which could be used to house people currently experiencing homelessness)	
Support legislative and funding efforts relating to housing preservation and acquisition, especially for community land trusts	
Support efforts on housing preservation to avoid displacement and gentrification, while supporting home ownership efforts	
Oppose bills that threaten the use of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) or other tax financing, which includes proposals that threaten the tax-exempt status of private activity bonds, which are a prerequisite for the use of the 4% LIHTC credit	
Support nontraditional funding opportunities to help create opportunities to either purchase or develop land, especially in historically under invested neighborhoods	
Support efforts for municipal or non-profit purchase of real estate that is becoming available, to reduce corporate speculation	
Support housing preservation efforts which includes community land trusts and acquisition and rehabilitation of small site projects	
Support legislative efforts that encourage first right of refusal for affordable housing development relating to county auctioned property	
Support legislative efforts to protect tenants and small property owners impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic	
Support legislative efforts relating to the modernization of property tax assessments	
Support legislative efforts to modernize the Ellis Act and to help preserve residential hotels	

<b>Education</b>	
<i>Policy Priorities</i>	<i>Funding Priorities</i>
Support efforts to achieve universal broadband access, increase access to computers, and eliminate the digital divide	Support efforts to increase and ensure long term state funding for Early Childhood Education,
Support efforts to reduce racial inequities in education	Support efforts to increase and ensure long term state funding for urban schools, with a focus on Title I schools and schools serving higher need populations

Support efforts to ensure the re-opening of schools considering COVID is done safely and effectively	Support legislative efforts to increase funding for Cradle to Career strategies
Support increases for teacher residency programs, especially home-grown and BIPOC educators	Increased funding for local districts to improve and expand their teacher pipeline and residencies
Support efforts to renew or make permanent the AB 833 Childcare Pilot for Alameda County	Increased funding for local municipalities to address housing security and transportation costs as they relate to both educators and families
Support efforts to establish fee-waivers for people from low-income backgrounds taking required tests for Teaching Credentials	Increase college affordability by supporting programs and policies and additional streams of revenue that consider and would help fund the total cost of attendance and cost of living for students enrolled in postsecondary education programs, particularly for community colleges, Peralta Districts, and CSUs.
Support legislative efforts that “Make Every Financial Aid Dollar Count” (formerly AB 3086) and prioritize Pell grant eligible students with highest need to increase access and mitigate financial barriers, exacerbated by COVID, to college access and completion.	Create, enhance, or expand CDBGs for communities that organize to provide holistic supports for cradle to career programs, to promote, sustain and extend the scope of Promise programs across the state.
Supportive legislative efforts for new and existing Promise Programs and non-profits	Increased funding for the Cal Grant to enable the award to cover a greater share of the total costs of attending community colleges, CA state universities and UCs.
Support legislative efforts for local districts to create safe environments for students and staff, due to toxic contaminants found in the soil and unhealthy air quality.	Increase funding and leverage local funding by providing matched opportunities to address the inequity of the digital divide by ensuring all students in need have access to high-speed internet, computers and tech support at home.
Reduce truancy, absenteeism, and school drop-out rates	Increase funding for school districts to be able to pay teachers a livable wage and also mitigate rising health care and retirement costs.
Increase access to after-school programs	Increase the minimum and maximum CalFresh allotment for college students.
Increase access to and quality of early childhood education	
Cradle to Career strategies such as the Oakland Promise and other college, associate degree, or vocational certification completion efforts	
Establish statewide goals and accountability for high school and college graduation rates and increase access to higher education	
Expand opportunities for adults to return to college by removing barriers such as improving support services for returning adults, many of whom are working full-time and have dependent	

children, reducing institutional roadblocks to reentry caused by administrative policies and lack of coordination between institutions, minimizing restrictions on student financial aid that disproportionately increase the cost of college for adults, and better connecting education to work by incentivizing employers to invest in their employees' degree completion efforts	
Develop a longitudinal education data system spanning from pre-school to age 20 to provide timely, accurate, and transparent data about student success	
Create a statewide coordinating entity across higher education institutions to establish statewide leadership	
Support efforts to increase funding for adult education	
Support efforts to help support Oakland Unified School District	

<b>Immigrant Protections</b>	
<i>Policy Priorities</i>	<i>Funding Priorities</i>
Support Congressional efforts that would make the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program permanent, including a pathway to citizenship	Universal representation in deportation proceedings
Support access to counsel and due process for all undocumented immigrants, especially unaccompanied minors	Legal services for those seeking asylum, refugee, and other forms of protected status
Support measures that ensure all undocumented immigrants in detention facilities are held for the shortest time possible, especially for youth, elders, and those with medical conditions, and ensure an end to family separation.	Access to counsel for all unaccompanied minors
Support measures that ensure the same quality standards exist at all facilities where immigrants are detained, including adequate health and mental health care, regardless of whether the facility is run by a government entity or a government contractor	
Oppose efforts that seek to reduce the rights of immigrants, erode legal or constitutional protections, or seek to retaliate against cities that have local "sanctuary" policies	
<b>Economic Development/Economic Inclusion</b>	
<i>Policy Priorities</i>	<i>Funding Priorities</i>
Bolster opportunities for entrepreneurs and small businesses to create new jobs that prioritize access to local talent and keep costs down for small business operators	Opportunities to reinvigorate vacant buildings
Measures providing for new tax increment financing opportunities	Façade improvement, business assistance, and support for neighborhood commercial areas, including but not limited to the area surrounding the BRT project

Measures to improve the Opportunity Zone Program which could include a “state overlay” which includes greater equity provisions	Career Technical Education programs in fields such as construction, information technology, manufacturing, healthcare, transportation/logistics, and other growing industry sectors
Efforts to encourage the development and expansion of career technical education programs that align with quality job opportunities in local manufacturing, light industrial, bioscience, and other priority industry sectors	Funding for job training, placement, retention, and related services aligned to the needs of Oakland residents
Increase support for workers’ cooperatives	Funding for the cannabis equity program
Support for asset development and financial empowerment programs, including financial education and credit repair, and additional items as they arise	
Support legislative efforts for workers protections	
Support efforts to provide financial support for catalyst projects	
Support efforts to help resolve ongoing Redevelopment Authority (RDA) dissolution items	
Cannabis regulations/legislation/ support efforts to make it easier to pay the various state fees and reduce waste in packaging	
As adult-use cannabis regulations continue to evolve, ensure that the City’s innovative Equity Program is not pre-empted and lobby for legislative expansions as needed, as well as potential changes to the special events legislation the City sponsored in 2018.	
Support employment and workforce training opportunities to help ensure a healthy pipeline for businesses	
Oppose measures that threaten the existence of or limit the use of the Earned Income Tax Credit	
Oppose federal tax reform measures that further decrease or eliminate the state and local tax exemption (SALT), low income housing tax credit or private activity bonds.	
Oppose proposals that cut Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) spending	
Oppose federal appropriations plans that would impose across-the-board budget cuts to the federal budget, thereby imposing cuts to vital safety net programs that help low-income working families, children, seniors, students, and people with disabilities	
Support efforts to address the digital divide (bolstered and demonstrated by COVID-19)	
Support opportunities to provide technical support and front-end spending for Business Improvement Districts	
Support legislation relating to Online Sales Tax Distribution Formula reform	
Support legislative efforts relating to Universal Basic Income (UBI) and other forms of unconditional cash assistance.	
Support legislative efforts relating to single payer health care systems	



Support opportunities to reform the process for probate court or look for opportunities to make enhancements to help protect families	
<b>Infrastructure/Transportation</b>	
<i>Policy Priorities</i>	<i>Funding Priorities</i>
Support efforts and opportunities to increase funding for bicycle and pedestrian improvements	Transportation Improvements related to Downtown Area Specific Plan and Howard Terminal Ballpark Development
Measures affecting funding for roads, transit, “last mile” projects and goods movement	Re-Connect Oakland – 980 conversion
Support for inclusion of affordable housing and transit-oriented development as a part of any increase in infrastructure funds or future federal infrastructure reform package	Transit-oriented development projects in both residential and commercial areas
Support efforts to help commuters and increase public transportation	Safe Routes to School funding for additional school sites
Advance or support legislation that increases funding for storm drain upgrades	Increased traffic and pedestrian safety
Support opportunities to increase funding for Safe Routes to School	Storm drain upgrades
Coordinate with AC Transit to monitor and support legislative efforts that would enhance transit reliability and access for Oaklanders	Completion of second phase of the East Oakland Sports Complex
Support legislation that would remove time limit exception for disabled placards in green zones and efforts to pay for parking via mobile phones	Funding for the African American Museum and Library
Continue to investigate TNC revenue sharing opportunities	Improvements to the Malonga Casquelourd Center
Support efforts to ensure that the region is getting as much support as possible and that funding programs within the federal transportation bill will support urban infrastructure projects, multi-modal projects, and projects in disadvantaged communities	Creation of a Black Arts District
Support the Mobility Data Specification (MDS) standards developed by the City of Los Angeles in consultation with industry to outline what data transportation technology companies should share with cities for us to better manage the public right of way	Improvements to the Lincoln Square Recreation Center
Support legislative efforts to remove the 85th speed limit percentile and seek possible participation in a pilot program for automated speed enforcement	
Oppose legislation or regulations that seek to prevent or uniformly cap fees that local jurisdictions may negotiate with respect to lease of public property	
Monitor scooter-related legislation that could negatively impact the City’s existing programs	
Support legislative efforts to curb the abuse of disabled parking placards	
<b>Environment, Energy and Sustainability</b>	
<i>Policy Priorities</i>	<i>Funding Priorities</i>
Measures pertaining to clean energy and waste reduction	Urban Forest inventory and urban greening

Measures that provide new tools and potential revenue opportunities to address illegal dumping	Funds to help address illegal dumping, littering, and graffiti
Legislation to limit and/or ban the use of neonicotinoids.	Clean energy funding
Legislative efforts to amend the composition of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District Board to assure representation of the most impacted local jurisdictions	EDA brownfields cleanup for sites
Measures that would support creating and sustaining of proactive “Healthy Homes” inspection programs and programs that reduce lead exposure	Park maintenance
Support measures that allow cities and counties to buy and/or generate electricity for residents and businesses within their areas and oppose legislation or regulation that seeks to limit the viability of “community choice” energy programs	Building decarbonization
Measures that support regional planning for a climate change strategy	
Efforts that advance single payer health care	
Reinvigorate SB 375 to enhance sustainable community efforts	
Legislative restrictions/options to ban or restrict coal	
Encourage efforts relating to state funding for park maintenance	
<b>Youth</b>	
<i>Policy Priorities</i>	<i>Funding Priorities</i>
Measures that support employment and career development opportunities for youth, including workforce development and entrepreneurship programs	Youth workforce and entrepreneurship, e.g., Classroom2Careers
Oppose cuts to Child Nutrition Programs such as the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) that allow schools and districts with a high concentration of poverty to serve universally free meals	Support for children of incarcerated parents
Measures that support trauma intervention and advancement of trauma-informed care, holistic strategies that support vulnerable children and families with economic security, health care and wrap-around services	Trauma-informed care and efforts to address childhood trauma from violence and other adverse impacts
Support legislative efforts to create more housing for commercially and sexually exploited children (CSEC) and eliminate restrictions on funding (e.g., no caps on lengths of stay)	Reduction of lead exposure and increased lead level testing for children
Support legislative effort to enhance prevention education for CSEC (e.g., recognizing signs of trafficking)	
Support legislative efforts of decriminalizing young women and men involved in human trafficking	
<b>Public Safety</b>	
<i>Policy Priorities</i>	<i>Funding Priorities</i>
Support disaster preparedness, training, response, and resilience efforts	Re-entry and anti-recidivism programs to support rehabilitation of ex-offenders (Proposition 47 funds)
Measures that reduce and more strictly control access to guns, ammunition, and gun devices that alter the performance of a weapon	Support for the Wildfire Assessment District and other urban forestry efforts which

	include preparation, vegetation/tree removal, and a greater regional focus
Support access to high quality re-entry and rehabilitation programs in all state and federal prisons	Ongoing support for the Cease Fire program
Measures that provide support to victims of trafficking for sex or labor.	Expansion of the crime lab and other needed public safety facilities (e.g., new Police Administration Building, driving training facility)
Policies for body camera usage and data storage	Support funding and other opportunities to address domestic violence
Criminal justice reform such as allowing parolees to vote	Support efforts to increase and expand Cal Fire grants
Support legislative efforts to protect homeowners from the risk of fires which includes changes to insurance coverage and policies	
Support additional efforts to help prevent violence such as mental health services, supporting street outreach teams, focusing on others before they are at risk	
Support efforts that reimagine public safety and incorporate community based organizations to help address problems	
Support legislative and funding efforts to help communities improve evacuation routes in the wake of increased climate-related disasters and help strengthen the City's infrastructure against fires	
Support legislative efforts related to Chapter 13 of the California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) regulations	
Support legislative efforts relating to public safety power shut offs	
Support efforts to increase peace officer accountability and provide a means of decertifying police officers who engage in serious misconduct	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
Any other measure or budget action which could potentially impact the operations of, or services provided by, the City, and support to make local government whole from previous budget reductions	
Support Constitutional modifications which would impact local governments, such as lowering the voter threshold to 55% for various bond issuances and local taxes	
Support legislative efforts relating to public financing of elections	
Support legislative efforts that support or enhance Oakland's role on various regional boards	
Support measures that are of importance to our regional partners and lend opportunities to work together. Regional partners include, but are not limited to, California Competes, Mayors & CEOs for U.S. Housing Investment, the Oakland Unified School District, Port of Oakland, Alameda County, Alameda County Transportation Commission, Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Oakland Thrives Leadership Council/Youth Ventures JPA, Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Oakland's transit agencies, Mayors for Medicare for All, Mayors for a Guaranteed Income, Big City Mayors of California, COVID-19 Racial Disparities Task Force, other California cities, and other likeminded groups	

## **Summary of 2020 State Legislative Efforts**

This report provides a summary of our efforts to date for the advocacy objectives of the City in 2020 which includes:

- Partnering with the Mayor and her office to secure a direct State budget allocation to help address homelessness.
- Partnering with the Mayor and City Council to secure a direct State CARES Act funding allocation; and
- The passage of multiple City supported legislative proposals into law

The COVID-19 pandemic had a substantial impact on the 2020 legislative year and put many important policy discussions on hold (City-sponsored legislation). The Legislature sent 428 bills to the Governor's desk this year (compared to about 1,300 last session). Of those, there were 137 Senate bills and 291 Assembly bills. Of that total, 372 bills were signed into law and 56 bills were vetoed, which indicates a 13% veto rate. The Governor also signed multiple bill packages on a variety of issues, including racial justice, healthcare, employee protections during COVID-19, and sexual assault victims.

TPA worked with the elected City leadership and Administration to develop, advocate, and secure several major City initiatives through various means including legislation, working directly with our elected leaders in Sacramento. Please note the following state legislative highlights below.

### ***State Funding Highlights***

Oakland, like many communities in California, has seen a significant increase in unsheltered homeless populations. Getting immediate funding support to prevent homelessness, provide housing, address the street encampments and provide other support services was the top priority for the Mayor and City Council. Our efforts culminated in securing a direct allocation from the State for homelessness, even at a time when the state was facing budget shortfalls.

TPA worked closely with the Mayor, her office, the "Big City Mayors" coalition, Assembly Budget Chair Phil Ting and his staff, Senate Budget Chair Holly Mitchell and her staff, our East Bay delegation, and other legislators to secure a direct earmark and additional resources. Oakland received one of the higher amounts of funding out of the 13 cities eligible. Specifically, Senate Bill 74 contained \$300M in funding to the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council to address homelessness. The allocated amount was as follows: \$130M to cities with populations over 300,000, \$90M to counties, and \$80M to Continuums of Care. The City of Oakland is in line to receive **up to \$9 million dollars**.

Another massive funding win for the City and Team TPA was securing an additional direct allocation from the State to address the impacts from COVID-19. The City of Oakland received **\$36.9 million** in State of California CARES Act funding. This was also one of the top priorities for the Mayor, City Council, and City Administrator and the TPA team was very active on this priority. Our efforts included, but were not limited to, ongoing discussions with Assembly Member Bonta and his office, Assembly Member Wicks and her office, Senator Skinner and her office, the Governor's office, the office of the Senate Pro Tem, the office of the Speaker of the Assembly, the Department of Finance, and many others

### ***State Legislative Highlights***

Whereas the State legislative session was severely impacted due to COVID-19, it was still a very active year for the City of Oakland and Team TPA.

### Affordable Housing

One of TPA's top priorities for the City of Oakland was to identify, support and advance legislative proposals supporting and encouraging affordable and workforce housing. As the cost of housing in the Bay Area and throughout the state continues to rise, Oakland prioritized legislative efforts creating support for low-income residents and working families.

There were multiple pieces of legislation this session that sought to encourage more affordable housing production, build more housing for the homeless population, protect tenants, remove barriers to larger development, encourage accessory dwelling units (ADUs), increase land availability, and finance housing production. Some of these bills moved forward, though others were held by their respected authors.

TPA partnered with the Mayor's Office and City staff to draft support letters, testify in support at legislative committee hearings, work with legislative offices to advocate for Oakland's positions, and meet with the Governor's Office to address concerns regarding the bills below:

- **Assembly Bill 1845 (Rivas) Homelessness: Office to End Homelessness.** The City/TPA team was also very active supporting this bill by helping draft amendments, work on securing support, and other efforts. *This bill was vetoed by Governor though we are part of the coalition discussing options for 2021.*
- **Assembly Bill 3088 (Chiu) Tenancy: rental payment default: mortgage forbearance: state of emergency: COVID-19.** TPA expressed the City's support and were part of a statewide coalition pushing this bill forward. *This was signed into law.*
- **Assembly Bill 3269 (Chiu) State and local agencies: homelessness plan.** The City/TPA team worked with the author's office to help draft amendments, work on securing support, and other efforts. *This bill was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee and we are already speaking with the authors office on next steps.*
- **Senate Bill 906 (Skinner) Housing: joint living and work quarters and occupied substandard buildings.** The City/TPA team was very active on this bill and helped build a massive coalition. *This bill was held due to Covid impacting the legislative session and reducing the load of bills, though it is a priority for the 2021 session.*
- **Senate Bill 1079 (Skinner) Residential property: foreclosure.** The City/TPA team supported this piece of legislation which was drafted to help resolve an issue that grew out of Oakland. *This was signed into law.*
- **Senate Democrats Housing Package.** There were a handful of housing policy bills introduced by the Senate Democrats. The City/TPA team was very active working on this legislative package which included many meetings with policy committee staff, proposing amendments, providing input and feedback, and other items. *These bills did not advance to the Governor and TPA has already had discussions with staff on next steps and what may be introduced in 2021.*

### Police reform

Another top priority for the City was to identify and support legislative proposals relating to police and public safety reform. There were multiple pieces of legislation this session and the City/TPA team was very active. Our efforts included, but were not limited to, providing ongoing updates, testifying in committee, drafting support letters, working with legislative offices to express Oakland's positions and demonstrate the necessity for some of the bills, and expressing our support to the Governor's office. The bills included:

- **Assembly Bill 1196 (Gipson) Peace officers: use of force.** The City supported this bill as soon as it was introduced. TPA expressed the City's support and were part of a statewide coalition pushing this bill forward. *The Governor signed this bill into law.*

- **Assembly Bill 1950 (Kamlager) Probation: length of terms.** The City also supported this bill early in the legislative session. TPA expressed the City's support and were part of a statewide coalition pushing this bill forward. *The Governor signed this bill into law.*
- **Assembly Bill 2054 (Kamlager) Emergency services: community response: grant program.** The City supported this bill as it would not only help the City's efforts, but also many of the nonprofit service providers in the region. TPA expressed the City's support and were part of a statewide coalition pushing this bill forward. *The Governor did not sign this bill and we will be in communication with the sponsors on next steps.*
- **Senate Bill 731 (Bradford) Peace Officers: certification: civil rights.** The City supported this legislation and expressed our support to the East Bay delegation and others. *Whereas this bill did not make it to the Governor's desk, we have already reached out to committee staff and others to chart next steps.*

### Transportation

Transportation policy continued to be another active front despite the relative few number of bills considered this year. TPA worked closely with the Mayor's office and the Administration on various bills primarily by proposing amendments on certain bills and working in opposition to some other bills.

Our efforts included; working to amend language in *Assembly Bill 1286 (Muratsuchi)* that would have been harmful to the City, working in partnership with other cities to oppose *Assembly Bill 3116 (Irwin)*, providing expert testimony at a special Transportation committee hearing on the issuer of transportation and privacy issues related to shared-mobility data, partnering with some of the Big City lobbyists on strategy, and other items.

In addition, the TPA team helped provide input and support for the City's grant applications to the State for the Active Transportation Program funding opportunity.

### Education

The TPA Team, in partnership with the Mayor's office was active on education policy in Sacramento. Some of our efforts included supported Oakland Education Advocacy Day as TPA helped facilitate an advocacy day focused on Oakland's education priorities for the year. This included an extension of **AB 1774 (Bonta)**, funding for Oakland Unified, and increased student financial aid. In addition, the TPA/City team also worked to coordinate with OUSD priorities to support OUSD's budget asks and ensure continued improvement in the District's financial standings. Additionally, TPA worked with the Department of Education to ensure Oakland Unified and the City of Oakland received appropriate funding in the wake of COVID-19. This included funding for additional PPE and cleaning supplies, distance education related expenses, and costs of new technology infrastructure to help bridge the digital divide.

### COVID-19 Funding and Recovery efforts

As the COVID-19 crisis unfolded, Townsend Public Affairs sent and continues to send daily updates on policy actions, legislation, and funding opportunities to support the City during this unprecedented time of difficulty.

### Additional legislative highlights

- Working with the office of Senator Jerry Hill to support and advocate for the passage of Senate Bill 793. This historic bill, which was signed by the Governor, prohibits the sale or possession with the intent to sell a flavored tobacco product or a tobacco product flavor enhancer.
- Assisting the Mayor's office and the Racial Disparity Task Force to support and advocate for the passage of a handful of bills such as AB 1199 (Gipson), AB 1950 (Kamlager), AB 2218 (Santiago), SB 932 (Wiener), and SB 1383 (Jackson).

- Working with Assembly Member Quirk and the City Administrator’s office on legislation that would further support small business owners by making changes to the cannabis special event legislation.
- TPA provided daily updates relating to COVID to the full city team which includes the Mayor, her office, City Council members, and the City Administration.
- At the beginning of the year TPA did present in person to the City Council’s Finance Committee on the State Budget process, starting in January when the Governor released his initial 2019-2020 budget proposal. We analyzed the Governor’s budget and its potential impacts to the City. Once the Governor submitted the May Revise, TPA provided the City with more in-depth analysis through the June adoption of the final budget; and
- TPA ensures that the Mayor, her office, the City Council, and City Administration are updated on state legislation, matters relating to the State’s Administration, and funding opportunities, with written weekly updates that include our efforts on the City’s behalf, status of our priority legislation, and time-sensitive matters.

*Below is the list of all legislative items supported by the City:*

<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Assembly Constitution Amendment 5 (Weber) Government preferences	Support	Signed by Governor, on the ballot.
Assembly Constitution Amendment 6 (McCarthy) Elections: disqualification of electors	Support	Signed by Governor, on the ballot.
Assembly Bill 362 (Eggman) Controlled substances: overdose prevention program	Support	Did not advance this session
Assembly Bill 826 (Santiago) Emergency food assistance: COVID-19	Support	Vetoed by Governor.
Assembly Bill 1112 (Friedman) Micromobility devices: relocation	Oppose	Did not advance this session
Assembly Bill 1196 (Gipson) Peace officers: use of force	Support	Signed into law
Assembly Bill 1286 (Muratsuchi) Shared mobility devices: agreements	Support with amendments (amendments secured)	Signed into law
Assembly Bill 1845 (Rivas) Homelessness: Office to End Homelessness	Support	Vetoed by Governor
Assembly Bill 1876 (Budget Committee) Personal income taxes: federal individual taxpayer identification number: earned income tax credits: young child tax credit	Support	Signed into law
Assembly Bill 1905 (Chiu) Housing and Homeless Response Fund: personal income taxation: mortgage interest deduction	Support	Did not advance this session
Assembly Bill 1950 (Kamlager) Probation: length of terms	Support	Signed into law
Assembly Bill 1977 (Bonta) Property taxation: welfare exemption: museums	Support	Did not advance this session
Assembly Bill 2054 (Kamlager) Emergency services: community response: grant program	Support	Vetoed by the Governor
Assembly Bill 2218 (Santiago) Transgender Wellness and Equity Fund	Support	Signed into law
Assembly Bill 2312 (Quirk) Cannabis: state temporary event licenses: venues licensed by the	Support	Did not advance this session

Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control: unsold inventory		
Assembly Bill 3073 (Wicks) CalFresh: preenrollment	Support	Signed into law
Assembly Bill 3088 (Chiu) Tenancy: rental payment default: mortgage forbearance: state of emergency: COVID-19	Support	Signed into law
Assembly Bill 3116 (Irwin) Mobility devices: personal information	Oppose	Did not advance this session
Assembly Bill 3153 (Rivas) Parking and zoning: bicycle and car-share parking	Support	Did not advance this session
Assembly Bill 3216 (Kalra) Unemployment: rehiring and retention: state of emergency	Support	Vetoed by Governor
Senate Bill 288 (Wiener) California Environmental Quality Act: exemptions: transportation-related projects	Support	Signed into law
Senate Bill 378 (Wiener) Probation: eligibility: crimes relating to controlled substances	Support	Did not advance this session
Senate Bill 731 (Bradford) Peace Officers: certification: civil rights	Support	Did not advance this session
Senate Bill 773 (Skinner) Emergencies: State 911 Advisory Board	Support	Did not advance this session
Senate Bill 776 (Skinner) Peace officers: release of records	Support	Did not advance this session
Senate Bill 793 (Hill) Flavored tobacco products	Support	Signed into law
Senate Bill 795 (Beall) FASTER Bay Area	Support	Did not advance this session
Senate Bill 804 (Wiener) Public capital facilities: electric utilities: rate reduction bonds	Support	Did not advance this session
Senate Bill 902 (Wiener) Planning and zoning: housing development: density	Support	Did not advance this session
Senate Bill 906 (Skinner) Housing: joint living and work quarters and occupied substandard buildings or units	Support	Did not advance this session
Senate Bill 932 (Wiener) Communicable diseases: data collection	Support	Signed into law
Senate Bill 1079 (Skinner) Residential property: foreclosure	Support	Signed into law
Senate Bill 1120 (Atkins) Subdivisions: tentative maps	Support	Did not advance this session
Senate Bill 1190 (Durazo) Tenancy: termination	Support	Signed into law
Senate Bill 1383 (Jackson) Unlawful employment practice: CA Family Rights Act	Support	Signed into law



## **Summary of 2020 Federal Efforts**

TPA worked with elected City leadership, members of Congress, and the Administration to develop, advocate, and secure several major City initiatives through legislation, grants, and working with the City's federal delegation in Congress and congressional leadership. Please note the following federal legislative efforts and highlights:

### **Federal Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriations**

One of TPA's top priorities for the City of Oakland is to secure the largest amount of money in formula and competitive federal funding streams. Since earmarks are banned, TPA closely worked with the Mayor, her office, the City Council, and others to engage with in the congressional appropriations process, framed specifically around the City Budget and future City priorities.

Because of groundwork laid throughout the year prior, the City/TPA team were able to secure several City budget priorities, including the following (numbers rounded):

- Increased Funding For:
  - Homeless Assistance Grants (additional \$130 million over Fiscal Year 2019)
  - Emergency Solutions Grants
  - HUD Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (additional \$500 million)
  - HUD Project-Based Rental Assistance (additional \$220 million)
  - Infrastructure For Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grants (Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects) (additional \$50 million)
  - Second Chance Act Grants (Recidivism/Reentry) (additional \$2.5 million)
  - Disaster Relief Fund (including FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program) (additional \$1 million)
  - Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act grants (including Job Training and Employment) (additional \$10 million)
  - Head Start (additional \$150 million)
  - Brownfields Grants (additional \$7 million)
  
- Level Funding For:
  - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
  - Capital Investment Grants Program (New Starts)
  - Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) Grants
  - Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants

### **Federal FY2021 Appropriations**

President Trump released his Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Request in February 2020, which initiated the drafting and debate over appropriations legislation to fund the federal government beginning October 1, 2020. Currently, the federal government is on a continuing resolution that has extended all Fiscal Year 2020 funding levels until December 11, 2020, while Fiscal Year 2021 funding levels continue to be negotiated.

Funding for all other federal programs must be extended by December 11, 2020. Whether Congress passes fully negotiated, full-year funding by December 11 depends highly on the outcome of the Presidential election and whether control of the Senate changes. If there is a shift in power, the party gaining power would be incentivized to extend the Continuing Resolution until January to allow their new elected officials to have more sway over federal funding.

- Analysis: TPA conducted a full-scale analysis of the President's Budget Request upon its publication in February, which involved identifying and comparing line items across the federal government to annualized amounts from Fiscal Year 2020. TPA also drafted, facilitated, and delivered letters from Oakland to Oakland's congressional representatives taking official positions on proposed budget levels for Fiscal Year 2021.

TPA filed and conducted official appropriation requests with each appropriate Member of Congress on Oakland's behalf. This ensured elected officials would repeatedly refer to Oakland's priorities in their funding negotiations throughout the Fiscal and Calendar year.

TPA continuously referenced both the appropriations letters and official filings in each meeting with Members of Congress and their offices throughout the year, ensuring that Oakland's priorities are their priorities in every legislative negotiation.

- Reporting: TPA provided regular budget and appropriations analysis to prepare the City for the current and forthcoming federal Fiscal Year. The memos detailed the full scope of the federal appropriations and budget process from January 2020 through the end of Fiscal Year 2021, which included tables tracking and outlining ongoing funding allocation negotiations and expected future funding levels by subject area, and a timeline of events relevant to the City's advocacy purposes.

TPA also engaged directly with City staff to answer additional questions on the federal process. TPA will continue to update the City as Congress attempts to pass delayed full-year funding for Fiscal Year 2021 and negotiate Fiscal Year 2021 funding in regular order.

- Follow-Up: TPA conducted follow-up analysis regularly on the proposed funding levels in the House and Senate appropriations bills, which allowed TPA and Oakland to identify the most vulnerable funding streams and reallocate resources of time and effort to ensure level or increased funding for the most crucial funding areas possible.

### **COVID-19**

In March 2020, the novel coronavirus hit the United States and changed the City's entire federal advocacy strategy. TPA was quick to adapt, and immediately began advocating for the City's interests throughout the pandemic and continuing to today. Some examples of this:

**Draft Legislation.** TPA advocated for Oakland priorities in Phase 1, 2, 3, and 4 (ongoing) aid packages, as well as smaller standalone legislation to address coronavirus. Our efforts have included:

Phase 1: Passed rapidly in early 2020, TPA successfully advocated in a short window of time for resources to address the forthcoming health impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

Phase 2: Passed in March, TPA successfully advocated for protections for workers who face hardships because of coronavirus.

During negotiations, TPA helped identify a loophole preventing the City from receiving reimbursement for additional funds expended on a required expansion of paid sick leave for employees afflicted with coronavirus, helping to care for those with coronavirus, or needing to stay home from work due to risk of coronavirus or school closures. TPA flagged the issue for national groups, but because of the prevalence of a different retirement system than that used by the City, nationwide city engagement on the issue was low to nonexistent. TPA took the lead in working with the relevant committee to engage on the topic, to identify the need for a legislative fix, and to receive assurances that it would be clarified in the next aid package.

Phase 3: Passed in April, Phase 3, better known as the CARES Act, was one of the largest pieces of legislation ever passed in the United States. With a price tag of \$3.3 trillion, Congress used this bill to get huge amounts of money distributed as soon as possible. To do so, Congress relied

on passing additional funding for existing programs wherever possible, to streamline funds getting where they needed to go quickly.

Over the course of many years, TPA laid the groundwork for just this type of situation – although no one could have predicted the series of events related to the pandemic, TPA used the City’s regular and annual engagement in the appropriations process to remind lawmakers and legislators of the City’s priorities, and to help them create a shortlist of programs to give extra funding to. As a result, TPA helped advocate for supplemental funding in the following sources:

- **Disaster Relief Fund** – \$45 billion to provide for the immediate needs of state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, as well as private non-profits, to protect citizens and help them recover.
- \$100 million to FEMA Assistance to Firefighters for personal protective equipment for first responders.
- **Emergency Food and Shelter Program** – \$200 million for shelter, food and supportive services to individuals and families in sudden economic crisis.
- **Emergency Management Performance Grants** – \$100 million for state, local, territorial, and tribal governments to support coordination, communications, and logistics.
- **Economic Development Administration (EDA)** – \$1.5 billion for economic adjustment assistance to help revitalize local communities after the pandemic.
- **National Endowment for the Art and Humanities** –
- \$150 million to state arts and humanities agencies to provide grants and support arts organizations, museums, libraries, and other organizations during the coronavirus crisis.
- Includes \$75 million for the National Endowment for the Arts and \$75 million for the National Endowment of the Humanities.
- **Resources for Federal, State and Local Law Enforcement** – \$850 million for the Byrne-Justice Assistance Grant Program (Byrne-JAG). Language is included to ensure these resources go out to states and localities quickly to immediately respond to the crisis
- **Community Development Block Grant** – \$5 billion is provided for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.
- **Emergency Solutions Grants** – \$4 billion is included to support individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and to support additional homeless assistance, prevention, and eviction prevention assistance.
- **Rental Assistance Protections for Low-Income Americans** – \$3 billion is included for housing providers.
- **Section 8** – \$1.935 billion to allow public housing agencies to keep over 3.2 million Section 8 voucher and public housing households stably housed.
- \$1 billion to allow the continuation of housing assistance contracts with private landlords for over 1.2 million Project-Based Section 8 households.
- **Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)** – \$1 billion for CSBG to help communities address the consequences of increasing unemployment and economic disruption.
- **Additional Rental Assistance** – \$65 million for housing for the elderly and persons with disabilities for rental assistance, service coordinators, and support services for the more than 114,000 affordable households for the elderly and over 30,000 affordable households for low-income persons with disabilities
- **HOPWA** – \$65 million for Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS to maintain rental assistance and expand operational and administrative flexibilities.
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** – \$15.5 billion in additional funding for SNAP
- **Child Nutrition Programs** – \$8.8 billion in additional funding for Child Nutrition Programs.
- **The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)** – \$450 million for the TEFAP program.

- **Institute for Museum and Library Services** – \$50 million for the Institute of Museum and Library Services to expand digital network access in areas of the country where such access is lacking
- **Child Care Development Block Grant** – \$3.5 billion for the Child Care Development Block Grant.
- **Head Start** – \$750 million for Head Start to meet emergency staffing needs.

In addition, TPA's advocacy and information distribution describing the City's financial needs contributed to Congress creating the following new programs:

- **Coronavirus Relief Fund** – \$150 billion that will provide state, local, and tribal governments with additional resources.
- **PPP Small Business Administration (SBA)** – Authorizes \$350 billion worth of 100 percent guaranteed SBA loans, a portion of which SBA will forgive based on allowable expenses for the borrower
- **Direct Payments to Individuals** - \$1200 for everyone

Phase 4: TPA has worked in an ongoing capacity to advocate for Oakland's priorities in the next coronavirus aid package, including:

- Including additional funding for state and local governments that can be used to repair revenue loss.
- Closing the reimbursement loophole for government employers' sick leave.
- Issuing another round of economic impact payments.
- Prioritizing minority-owned small businesses and Community Development Financial Institutions in small business aid.
- Ensuring cannabis-related businesses get access to banking and insurance.
- Increasing funding to the Social Services Block Grant.
- Continuing the unemployment supplement of \$600 per week through the end of 2020.
- Establishing a Child Care Stabilization Fund.
- Including additional funds for SNAP, WIC, and other emergency food programs.
- Including additional funds for PPE for front line workers.
- Including funds and policy to address racial disparities in COVID-19 health outcomes.
- Including additional funds for home internet connectivity.

In order to make the City's case, TPA collected data on coronavirus's fiscal impact on the City, including the budget data as well as the cuts proposed should additional state and local funding fail to be allocated at the federal level. TPA used this data to advocate strongly for the inclusion of these funds and combined this data with similar data from other California cities for maximum impact. TPA highlighted the City's fiscal impact and proposed cuts to every congressional office to make the case.

TPA has also worked closely with the Mayor, her office, the City Council, and others to support standalone coronavirus aid bills, including the Save our Stages Act, the RESTART Act, the Saving Our Streets Act, and the Coronavirus Community Relief Act, to encourage their inclusion in part or in whole in the next coronavirus aid bill.

While negotiations continue a Phase 4 aid package, every draft the Democrats have proposed has included state and local funding. Most recently, the White House's proposal included state and local funding for the first time, making cities' advocacy for additional funding successful.

- **Policy Engagement.** TPA worked to ensure that federal departments and the White House incorporated City priorities as they rapidly adapted policy guidance to allow for expanded uses of formula funding coming from the CARES Act and other coronavirus aid bills. TPA communicated these changes to the City on a regular basis.

- Regular Updates. As the COVID-19 crisis unfolded, TPA sent and continues to send daily updates on policy actions, legislation, and funding opportunities to support the City during this unprecedented time of difficulty.

### Racial Justice

After protests across the country drawing national attention to the racial injustices occurring in our policing systems, TPA helped the City develop a slate of racial justice bills at the federal level for the City to support. While Congress did not finalize policing reform legislation this year, these pieces of legislation are anticipated to be reintroduced in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress.

TPA worked closely with the Mayor, her office, the City Council, and others to engage in advocacy in favor of the following pieces of legislation:

- “Justice in Policing Act” (H.R. 7120), introduced by Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA). This bill would curtail the doctrine of “qualified immunity” for police activity, opening the door to more criminal prosecution and civil lawsuits. It would also do the following:
  - The bill would drop the threshold for defining police misconduct from “willfully” violating constitutional rights to doing so with knowing or reckless disregard.
  - For civil lawsuits, the bill would weaken the qualified immunity that broadly shields police officers from being liable for damages for rights violations.
  - The bill would ban chokeholds like the one used by police in the death of George Floyd, as well as no-knock warrants, which led to the death of Breonna Taylor in Louisville in March.
  - The bill would make lynching a federal crime for the first time.
  - The bill would create a national registry of police violations
  - The bill would require Federal officers to wear body cameras.
  - The bill would place new limits on federal funding for local and state police
  - The bill would require bias training and the use of de-escalation tactics for grants to be approved.
  - The bill would curtail the transfer of military weaponry to state and local police.
- Urging the establishment of a United States Commission on Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation (H. Con. Res. 100), introduced by Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA). This concurrent resolution affirms the debt of remembrance to those who lived through the injustices of slavery as well as their descendants, and proposes a U.S. Commission on Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation to properly acknowledge, memorialize, and be a catalyst for progress, including toward permanently eliminating persistent racial inequities.
- Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act (H.R. 40/S. 1083), introduced by Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) and Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ). This bill would establish the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans, examining slavery and discrimination in the colonies and the United States from 1619 to the present, and recommend appropriate remedies.
- COVID-19 Racial and Ethnic Disparities Task Force Act (S. 3721/H.R. 6763), introduced by Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA) and Rep. Robin Kelly (D-IL). This bill would establish a COVID–19 Racial and Ethnic Disparities Task Force to gather data about disproportionately affected communities and provide recommendations to combat the racial and ethnic disparities in the COVID–19 response.
- Black Maternal Health Omnibus Act (S. 3424/ H.R.6142), introduced by Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA) and Rep. Lauren Underwood (D-IL). This bill would increase federal agency

focus on identifying, addressing, and rectifying maternal health outcomes among minority populations. The holistic approach also includes reporting on the impact of housing and transportation during prenatal and postpartum periods and identifying keyways to improve maternity care coordination for women veterans and incarcerated individuals.

- Closing the Racial Wealth Gap Act (H.R.5360), introduced by Rep. Joyce Beatty (D-OH). This bill would require the collection of data on household assets and debt with respect to respondents' race, ethnicity, tribal affiliation, and ancestral origin.

### Housing

On several housing bills and proposed policies, TPA has conducted analysis, engaged with the City, updated staff, and elected officials on expected next steps, and engaged in advocacy on the City's behalf. The coronavirus pandemic changed how we advocated for housing issues and how the City ordered its priorities. Many of the efforts, and successes, are described in the COVID-19 section above. Some examples of the items undertaken before the coronavirus priority realignment:

- Draft Legislation. In February, TPA began working with the housing staffers for Senator Dianne Feinstein on a draft bill to clarify the eligible use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to address homelessness. Senator Feinstein's office specifically requested input to ensure that the City's priorities were included. The bill would ensure CDBG funds could be used for emergency/temporary shelters, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, rental assistance and vouchers, homeless supportive services, capital building and infrastructure costs, and providing incentives for landlords to rent to recipients of housing vouchers. While the bill introduction was paused to address the coronavirus pandemic, the City's input into the process ensures that a robust, influential bill will be introduced in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress.
- Policy Change. TPA helped the City advocate for a change in how the U.S. Department of Housing calculates Fair Market Rent for all regions, and specifically highlighted the issues the City has faced in keeping up with local rental rates and how they impact residents' ability to take advantage of the Section Housing Choice Voucher program.

In order to do this, TPA worked to ensure the Mayor engaged with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and key stakeholders in Congress to enact legislative changes modify the Fair Market Rent calculation. This issue, with the City's priorities considered, is expected to be readdressed in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress.

### Immigration

TPA is aware that the protection of all Oakland residents, regardless of documentation or immigration status, is a major priority for the City. As such, it is TPA's priority to ensure that all information regarding legal challenges to immigration policies is communicated in a timely manner with useful, actionable context. While the Trump Administration resisted any legislative change to immigration in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress, the election will decide whether there is an appetite for safeguards for immigrants in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress. TPA engaged on several immigration policies, including the following:

- DACA. In June 2020, the Supreme Court decided to reject the Trump Administration's justification to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, indicating that more justification was needed to end the program.

As news broke concerning legal proceedings, TPA provided Oakland time-sensitive updates. The TPA team updated the City on where the DACA program was in the judicial

process, while also identifying opportunities and efforts to communicate that to residents. TPA worked closely with Oakland's federal representatives, as well as other major congressional immigration stakeholders, to advocate for the highest prioritization of Dreamers and DACA recipients in legislative negotiations, predict future Trump Administration actions, and identify next steps for both the City's federal advocacy and the City's ability to communicate effectively with its most vulnerable residents.

- **Public Charge.** In 2019, the Department of Homeland Security published the proposed "public charge" rule in the Federal Register. The proposed rule would dictate that immigrants who legally use public benefits like food stamps, Section 8 housing vouchers, and non-emergency Medicaid could be denied green cards. The rule previously only applied to social security benefits and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families to determine whether immigrants may become "public charges," or people who depend on the government as their main source of financial support. Since then, the rule has been repeatedly challenged in court.

TPA continuously worked with national stakeholders and disseminated information for local civic leaders to utilize to communicate with vulnerable populations. TPA also ensured that the City had the most up-to-date information on the lawsuit filed by the State of California against the Trump Administration to challenge the legality of the public charge rule.

### Transportation

Although the coronavirus pandemic impacted the progress of the five-year reauthorization of surface transportation reauthorization bill and a broader infrastructure reform package, TPA worked closely with the Mayor, her office, City Council, and others to engage on transportation and infrastructure issues for Oakland, making progress that will be incorporated into infrastructure reform legislation to be reintroduced in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress. Our efforts including the following:

- **Draft Legislation:** TPA conducted analysis and disseminated information on a variety of legislative proposals on transportation and infrastructure that aligns with the City's priorities. TPA worked with the City to gather support and add cosponsorship for the following standalone bills, with the goal of galvanizing enough support for universal inclusion in infrastructure bills:
  - "ESCAPE Act" (H.R. 2838/S. 1546): The "Enhancing the Strength and Capacity of America's Primary Evacuation Routes (ESCAPE) Act," introduced by Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA) and Senator Ed Markey (D-MA), would authorize \$1 billion to help communities improve evacuation routes in the wake of increased climate-related disasters across the country, which would help strengthen the City's infrastructure against fires. TPA worked on behalf of the City to successfully advocate for the "ESCAPE Act" to be included in the "America's Transportation Infrastructure Act" (S. 2302), the Senate surface transportation reauthorization bill.
  - "Build Local, Hire Local Act" (H.R. 4101/S. 2404): Among the provisions in the "Build Local, Hire Local Act," introduced by Congresswoman Karen Bass (D-CA) and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), is one that would create a construction grant program to improve transportation connections in communities divided by highways such as Interstate 980, which segregates West Oakland from the Downtown corridor. TPA worked on behalf of the City to successfully advocate for a similar provision to the one described above was included in the "America's

Transportation Infrastructure Act” (S. 2302), the Senate surface transportation reauthorization bill.

- “GREEN Streets Act” (S. 2084/H.R. 5354): Congressman Huffman’s (D-CA) “Generating Resilient, Environmentally Exceptional National (GREEN) Streets Act” seeks to reduce emissions from the American transportation sector by re-envisioning how we plan for, construct, and use our transportation system.
- Sec. 3006 of “America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act” (S. 2302): Reduced Capital Improvement Project Labor Costs: Section 3006 would provide States, municipalities, and educational institutions greater flexibility in addressing surface transportation workforce development, training, and education needs, including activities that address current workforce gaps, such as work on construction projects.
- Washington, DC Trip: During the Mayor’s trip to Washington, DC for the January 2020 U.S. Conference of Mayors, TPA organized a series of meetings to advocate for Oakland priorities, including transportation and infrastructure priorities. TPA and the City advocated for inclusion of the above standalone bills in an infrastructure reform package, as well as the concepts, like restrictions on mobility data sharing and integrating industrial areas with safe, multimodal transportation needs, that would benefit the City of Oakland.

#### Public Safety

- FEMA Firefighter Grants. On the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, TPA provides regular updates and information concerning application and priorities to Oakland to ensure access to federal funding for fire-vulnerable areas. This year, the City obtained over \$1.2 million in funding from FEMA’s Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program to obtain critically needed resources.
- COPS Office. provides regular updates and information on the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) office within the Department of Justice, which administers the COPS Hiring Program, the largest amount of federal funding for law enforcement. This year, the City obtained over \$100,000 in funding from COPS Office grant programs to fund mental health programs for law enforcement officers.

#### Additional Priorities

Throughout the year, TPA worked closely with the Mayor, her office, City Council, and others to engage on a variety of topics that aligned with the City’s interests. TPA regularly prepared advocacy letters, researched policies, advised on action, proposed programs, met with lawmakers, boosted City work, and identified coalitions to support a wide range of topics, including Census actions, urban farming proposals, climate change, students’ international engagement, workforce development housing, racial disparities, tax credits, opportunity zones, and cable fees.

#### **Process for Reporting**

In addition to weekly legislative updates to City staff, Finance Committee reports, and other communications we send the City, TPA suggests verbal reports to the Rules Committee and then City Council when the State Legislature is on recess. For example, we would report out in April while the Legislature is on Spring Recess and during July while the Legislature is on Summer Recess.