

CITY OF OAKLAND



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Date: July 21, 2020
To: Members of City Council and Members of the Public
From: Council Member Nikki Fortunato Bas
Council President Rebecca Kaplan
Subject: **Budget Amendments- Notes and Errata**

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

Thank you very much for the opportunity to review and revise our budget, to ensure we are addressing core community needs. The amendments we have proposed include specific steps that will make it possible for Oakland to attain the type of change we need – in which we have fewer resources going to incarceration and heavy-handed policing, and more support for core community needs. Previously, we have stated our intention to get to a significant 50% reduction in policing by our next budget cycle. In order to make that commitment a reality, we need to start taking steps now, to get us in that direction, as well as make shifts this year.

To ensure that staffing is in place to do the work and analysis needed, to accomplish this change, we provide for a policy analyst in the administration who will be able to prioritize these issues. We also recognize that the steps we take now can also help with cost savings this fiscal year, and that decisions we make now, will make our goals for the next year more likely to succeed. Therefore, we propose that changes begin in this year, in terms of handling of special events, bicycle and pedestrian enforcement, protests and demonstrations, media, and more which will allow us to redirect funds this year, while also building for the future.

For example, the City of Eugene Oregon states they are saving around \$8 million per year (in a smaller city, so we could save more) on police costs, and improving outcomes, by having a civilian response program handling issues like homelessness and mental health (called CAHOOTS). In order for Oakland to succeed in this way, we need to make sure we launch our similar program (now called MACRO) in a way that will allow it to be sustained and effective. Therefore, we propose providing for internally employed responder teams, made up of a paramedic (such as in the Fire Department) and a counselor/case worker (such as those in HSD), together with a vehicle and the ability to respond.

We also need to recognize that many in our community do not feel safe calling 9-1-1, and that many calls that do come in to 9-1-1 currently might not require in-person deployment, but could be handled by telephone support. Other jurisdictions, including Sacramento, are supporting community-based phonelines for these purposes, and Oakland should include this strategy as well. (The phonenumber would provide primarily remote support, and could contact MACRO for issues needing additional response).

We provide for existing civilian job classifications to be unfrozen to pick up some tasks, like evidence, handled by OPD. We propose to work toward alternative methods for traffic enforcement, including partnering with other jurisdictions working on similar efforts. When an action we seek may also require

action from County and State decision-makers, this is not a reason to give up, but rather, to work together, including with community stakeholders and advocates, other cities, and our legislative representatives, to seek those further actions.

We seek to save funds both for our city budget and for our community, by reducing the millions in extra policing spent for events and festivals.

We also propose deeper investments in community safety, in response to community requests, including: (a) \$1M to create school-site based violence prevention and crisis intervention teams at high schools and middle schools with the highest rates of expulsion and suspension. These would join the Coordination of Services Teams (COST) and support OUSD’s safety planning as they remove police from their schools by the end of the year. The program would engage principals, school site leaders, and youth leaders to develop a crisis intervention and violence prevention program with the purpose of increasing safety in our schools and eliminating the need for law enforcement presence, suspensions and expulsions. These teams would include positions modeled after Oakland Unite’s current programs, including “life coaches,” “violence interrupters,” and “gender based specialists,” which are trained in conflict resolution, mediation, child and adolescent development, and gender-based violence including domestic and dating violence and sexual exploitation. The teams would complement other services that are a part of the school site’s COST, such as mental health clinicians, restorative justice facilitators, and nurses provided by OUSD and other community partners. (b) \$300,000 to support Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) and adults subject to Human Trafficking to provide outreach, support, housing, and job training in partnership with community organizations led by survivors of sex trafficking. (c) \$500,000 for Community Safety Ambassadors to assist with public education, service requests, conflict resolution and event support in our neighborhoods and business corridors. This builds on existing work of trained and trusted community organizations including Community Ready Corps and Trybe.

In order to provide clarity, transparency, and certainty in the budget adoption, we have provided for clarification and affirmation of those CARES Act funding proposals which had been intended but not fully read out to the public.

This proposal also provides funding for key community needs, including those in response to COVID, racial injustice, homelessness, and economic impacts. We are proposing funds for food service for those at-risk (including seniors and persons with disabilities), and steps to ensure CARES act funds are deployed in a timely way to hard-hit communities, including our artists, non-profits, and small businesses.

BUDGET SPREADSHEET CORRECTIONS:

- 1. CARES Act Line 16: Correcting, department should read “HSD”
- 2. General Fund Lines 10 & 17: Correcting, number, should read \$245,795
- 3. General Fund Line 28 comment: Remove Asian Prisoner Support Committee

Sincerely,



Rebecca Kaplan
Oakland City Council President



Nikki Fortunato Bas
Oakland City Council Member, District 2

City Council
July 21, 2020
File # 20-0501