



CITY OF OAKLAND

# MEMORANDUM

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**Date:** September 14, 2020

**To:** Reimagining Public Safety Taskforce Members and Members of the Public

**From:** Councilmember Nikki Fortunato Bas, District 2  
Councilmember Loren Taylor, District 6

**Re:** **Kickoff of Reimagining Public Safety Taskforce**

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Welcome to the first meeting of the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force, and thank you to each of our Task Force members. We appreciate the time and experience you will contribute to working with us to rapidly reimagine and reconstruct the city's public safety system.

Our ambitious goal is to develop recommendations to increase community safety through alternative responses to calls for assistance and increased investments in programs, services and infrastructure that address the root causes of violence and crime (such as health services, housing, and jobs), with a goal of a 50 percent reduction in the FY 2021-2023 General Purpose Fund budget allocation to the Oakland Police Department.

Through the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force, the Oakland City Council is answering the call from residents and community leaders who have stated unequivocally that the time has come for change. The Reimagining Public Safety Task Force will engage in an open, transparent, and thorough process—co-led with the community—to create a shared vision for the public safety system in Oakland that is rooted in equity and addresses the historic and current disparities created by racism and economic inequality.

Oakland's current policing system has been plagued by challenges for decades. The police department has been under the Negotiated Settlement Agreement for 17 years. In the public safety category of the 2018 Oakland Equity Indicators report, Oakland scored a mere 18.3 out of 100. Many residents are frustrated by the slow response times to emergency 911 service calls, while many others feel less safe when OPD does arrive. Moreover, the city spends significant amounts on punishment and enforcement that could be more effectively invested in community empowerment and violence prevention. Community members, electeds, and police officers agree that many of the calls police respond to (e.g., mental health crises, intimate partner violence) would be best answered by an alternative response from medical professionals, community-based interventions, or other public departments.

Responding to these realities and the national conversation about police violence, the Task Force's creation was unanimously approved in July 2020 through a [City Council resolution](#). After considering and vetting information, analysis, and perspectives provided by the City, Advisory Boards, and through deep community engagement, the Task Force will present recommendations to build a reimagined public safety system to the Oakland City Council for consideration before the 2021 budget adoption.

As we embark on this transformational journey, we recognize the magnitude of the moment we are in and the fact that our path toward success will not be an easy one. This makes us even more grateful for your



willingness to serve Oakland in this way. We look forward to embarking upon this important work with you to reimagine public safety.

In Partnership And In Service Of Oakland,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nikki Fortunato Bas".

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Nikki Fortunato Bas,  
Councilmember, District 2

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Loren Taylor".

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Loren Taylor  
Councilmember, District 6

### About the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force Co-Facilitators

The Reimagining Public Safety Task Force will be co-facilitated by the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR) and PolicyLink.

#### NICJR will be the lead facilitators of:

- The Reimagining Public Safety Task Force
- Budget Data and Analysis Advisory Board
- OPD Organization and Culture Advisory Board (formerly “Community Policing”)

#### PolicyLink will be the lead facilitators of:

- The Reimagining Public Safety Task Force’s Community Engagement Process and Activities
- Alternative Responses and Community Investments Advisory Board (formerly “Alternate Responses”)
- Legal Barriers and Opportunities Advisory Board (formerly “Legislative”)

### About National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR)

*The National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR) works to reduce incarceration and violence, improve the outcomes of system-involved youth and adults, and increase the capacity and expertise of the organizations that serve these individuals. NICJR provides technical assistance, consulting, research, organizational development, and advocacy in the fields of juvenile and criminal justice, youth development, and violence prevention. NICJR works with an array of organizations, including government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and philanthropic foundations.*

For more on NICJR, please visit [www.nicjr.org](http://www.nicjr.org)

### About PolicyLink

**PolicyLink is a national research and action institute advancing racial and economic equity by Lifting Up What Works®.**

PolicyLink seeks to deliver and scale results in the following arenas:

- **Equitable Economy:** Promote economic inclusion and ownership to eliminate poverty, shrink inequality, and increase mobility.
- **Healthy Communities of Opportunity:** Create and maintain opportunity-rich communities in all neighborhoods and all regions of the country through strong networks and social capital, equitable development, and infrastructure investments that enable low-income people and communities of color to thrive.
- **Just Society:** Build power and expand agency to ensure that all systems and institutions are just, free of racial bias, and lead to a vibrant democracy where all, especially the most vulnerable, can participate and prosper.

PolicyLink succeeds by weaving together four essential functions:

- **Advocacy** that advances policy change at all levels of government and across sectors.
- **Applied research and communications** that build public and political will for inclusion, justice, and broadly shared prosperity.
- **Constituency and network engagement** that empowers leaders to advance equity.
- **Implementation capacity** that connects local innovations to policy; and provides stakeholders with needed data and tools.

### **NICJR Staff Biographies:**

#### **David Muhammad, Executive Director, NICJR**

David Muhammad is a leader in the fields of criminal justice, violence prevention, and youth development. Mr. Muhammad is the Executive Director of the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR).

David Muhammad has worked to implement positive youth development into youth justice systems around the country and was the primary author of NICJR's seminal report – [A Positive Youth Justice System](#). For three years, David was extensively involved in developing a detailed reform plan for the Los Angeles County Probation Department, the largest probation department in the country. He also served as the technical assistance provider for the Sierra Health Foundation's Positive Youth Justice Initiative, providing training and consulting to several California probation departments. NICJR is currently serving as a technical assistance provider to the City and County of San Francisco, working to reform its juvenile justice system and close its juvenile detention center.

Through NICJR, David provides leadership and technical assistance to the Ceasefire Gun Violence Reduction Strategy in the cities of Oakland and Stockton, California; Portland, Oregon; and Indianapolis. David helped lead a partnership of organizations and technical assistance providers that achieved a 50 percent reduction in shootings and homicides in Oakland. David was the main author of NICJR's report on [Oakland's Successful Gun Violence Reduction Strategy](#).

David is also a member of the Antelope Valley Monitoring Team which is charged with monitoring the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department's implementation of a federal Settlement Agreement.

The former Chief Probation Officer of the Alameda County (California) Probation Department, David was responsible for overseeing 20,000 people on probation, a staff of 600, and a \$90 million budget. In 2010, David was named the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Probation in New York City, the second largest Probation Department in the country, where he was responsible for overseeing 35,000 people on probation and a staff of 900.

In 2013, Mr. Muhammad was the first Executive Director of the Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC) in Los Angeles. ARC has grown to become one of the largest and most prominent service providers and policy advocacy organizations for the formerly incarcerated in California. While Executive Director of The Mentoring Center in Oakland, David was contracted by the City of Richmond, CA to help design the Office of Neighborhood Safety, which has since been credited for bringing significant reductions in violence to the city.

**Aman Sebahtu, Operations Director, NICJR**

Aman Sebahtu is an attorney, technical assistance provider, facilitator, and researcher, working to advance racial justice and investment in community led strategies that transform harmful systems.

Aman is the Operations Director at the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR), providing technical assistance, consulting, research, and advocacy to an array of nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and philanthropic foundations.

Through the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD), Aman is on the team of federal monitors overseeing the Settlement Agreement between the U.S. Department of Justice and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and leads the evaluation of Sierra Health Foundation's Positive Youth Justice Initiative.

Aman co-produces Broccoli City Festival, an annual celebration of Black culture that promotes health, wellness, and cultural healing. He also works with Flourish Agenda to advance healing centered engagement strategies as a Radical Healing facilitator and researcher.

Prior to joining NICJR, Aman was a Site Manager at the W. Haywood Burns Institute, providing technical assistance, training, and facilitation to system and community stakeholders in their efforts to reduce racial disparities in youth and adult criminal justice systems across the country.

An Oakland native, Aman serves on the board of the Brotherhood of the Elders Network. He has a B.A. in Sociology and African American Studies from Emory University and a J.D. from the University of San Francisco School of Law.

**PolicyLink Staff Biographies:**

**Anand Subramanian, Managing Director, PolicyLink**

Anand Subramanian leads PolicyLink efforts to advance community safety and justice through campaigns and programs that shift the paradigm away from surveillance and punishment toward healing and community investment. Anand also co-directs PolicyLink Legal and oversees work to dismantle fines and fees and on arts, culture, and equitable development.

He served as the executive director of the San Francisco Blue Ribbon Panel on Transparency, Accountability, and Fairness in Law Enforcement and led strategic communications for PolicyLink work in California, including for the Alliance for Boys and Men of Color.

Prior to joining PolicyLink, Anand worked at the Insight Center for Community Economic Development, the Law School Consortium Project, and as an associate attorney at Sheppard, Mullin, Richter, and Hampton after earning his JD from Northwestern University School of Law.

He serves on the boards of South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT) and the Community Resource Hub for Safety and Accountability, and sings and plays guitar in the band Fair and Kind.

## Oakland Reimagining Public Safety Task Force Draft Timeline

Date	Deliverable
Week of September 14, 2020	Task Force Kickoff
September 29, 2020	Introduction of Task Force to Joint Meeting of CPAB, the SSOC, and Police Commission. Introduction of Advisory Boards.
September 30, 2020	Task Force Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informational Presentations</li> </ul>
Beginning October 2020	Advisory Boards meet monthly
Ongoing	Community Engagement
October 14, 2020	Task Force Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional Informational Presentations</li> <li>• Discussion on the Five Areas of Focus (detailed responses tracked)</li> </ul>
October 28, 2020	Task Force Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion on the Five Areas of Focus (detailed responses tracked)</li> </ul>
November 11, 2020	Task Force Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitators and Executive Team Present Draft Recommendations from responses to discussion on</li> </ul>

	<p>the Five Areas of Focus and information from Advisory Boards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion on Draft Recommendations</li> </ul>
November 11 – December 9, 2020	Task Force submit any additional recommendations to Facilitators
November 23, 2020	<p>Task Force Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion on Draft Recommendations</li> </ul>
December 9, 2020	<p>Task Force Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion on Draft Recommendations</li> </ul>
December 16, 2020	<p>Task Force Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vote on Recommendations</li> </ul>
December 21, 2020	Draft Task Force Recommendations report provided to Task Force for feedback
December 30, 2020	<p>Task Force Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalization of Draft Task Force Recommendations to be Presented to City Council</li> </ul>
January 1 – March 1, 2021	Feedback and input into Draft Report given by community and stakeholders
March 31, 2021	Final Task Force Recommendations Report presented to City Council

# FRAMEWORK FOR REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY

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CITY OF  
**Oakland**



# Five Areas of Focus

# 1. What activities/functions should OPD do less of or no longer do? What should OPD specifically continue to do/where are officers' time best spent?

For example:

- ✔ No longer respond to non-criminal calls
- ✔ No longer respond to cold calls (crime occurred more than 24 hours before the call)
- ✔ No longer respond to calls re the homeless and homeless encampments
- ✔ Focus attention on violent crime
- ✔ Improve investigations

## 2. What community based services or other government agency programs should be implemented specifically to replace or be an alternative to the reduced or eliminated police services?

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For Example:

- ✓ MACRO: Oakland's replication of CAHOOTS

### 3. What other community services and assets do we want or need that do not necessarily replace a police function, but helps create neighborhood safety, peace, and healing?

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- ✓ For example: More mental health services, employment, housing, violence intervention, etc.

## 4. What improvements/reforms are needed from OPD?

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For example:

- ✔ Updated Use of Force policy to increase criteria for when force is used, especially deadly force (Police Commission working on this already)
- ✔ Greater accountability measures
- ✔ Training: Procedural justice, bias-free policing, Constitutional policing, etc.
- ✔ Recruitment and retention of guardian police, not warrior police

## 5. What do we want from the County, especially: Behavioral Health Care Services, Public Health Department, Social Services Agency (which includes Child Welfare) Probation, and Sheriff?

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- ✓ For example: Greater investment in Oakland community based services that result in improved public safety.

# Community Engagement Key Elements

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- Partner with base-building organizations/coalitions
- Conduct three online town halls
- Online survey open for 6-8 weeks
- Promote to most-impacted residents through traditional/social media, flyers, etc.
- Ensure comprehensive youth engagement
- Public comment at Task Force/City Council meetings

## **APPOINTED MEMBERS**

### **ANNE MARKS, District 1 Appointee**

"I'm thrilled to appoint Ms. Anne Marks to this groundbreaking task force. As the long-time executive director of Youth Alive, Anne leads a nationally recognized organization on refining and implementing effective violence prevention and intervention strategies. An LGBTQ community leader and former City of Oakland employee who developed the original city ballot measure directed violence prevention plan, she understands public sector budgets, gun violence as a public health issue, and policing in Oakland."

- *Councilmember Dan Kalb*

### **DAVID KAKISHIBA, District 2 Appointee**

"David Kakishiba is a longtime children's advocate and public education leader championing education and health equity for children, youth, and families most impacted by poverty, violence, and trauma. For over forty years, David has served as the Executive Director of the EBAYC, a non-profit youth development organization providing support and guidance to a racially, culturally, and language diverse membership of 2,500 children and youth in Oakland and Sacramento. He is the author of Oakland's Kids First! Initiative, which voters passed overwhelmingly in 1996. Today, Kids First! provides \$20 million annually for children services throughout Oakland without raising taxes. As Oakland School Board President, Kakishiba led the District out of State receivership and its return to local governance.

He has worked over the past 30 years with San Antonio, Eastlake, and Fruitvale residents to address neighborhood health and safety issues, including gun violence, park and school safety, pedestrian/traffic safety, street-level sex-trafficking, illegal dumping, and homeless encampments. Much of his work has centered around re-imagining and realizing a public health (versus a law enforcement) approach to reducing youth violence and improving neighborhood safety and wellness."

- *Councilmember Nikki Fortunato Bas*

### **ANTOINE TOWERS, District 3 Appointee**

### **BROOKLYN WILLIAMS, District 4 Appointee**

"Public safety is a top priority for me, especially when we talk about our children and families. This is why I am excited to announce the appointment of Brooklyn Williams as the District 4 representative for the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force," announced Councilmember Sheng Thao, District 4, "Brooklyn has worked for decades to help elevate young voices, tackle childhood trauma, and help youth in our juvenile justice system. Her expertise, experience, and commitment to equity will be an excellent addition to this important task force."

- *Councilmember Sheng Thao*



### **MARIANO CONTRERAS, District 5 Appointee**

“Mariano Contreras is a life-long Oakland resident and the current chairperson of the Oakland Latino Taskforce. Mariano has been active in key neighborhood issues like public safety, education and political representation. Mariano has demonstrated his commitment and leadership through action to have a safe, healthy and socially responsible city. Mariano knows Oakland extremely well, has the professional and community experience, makes our children and families a priority, and will serve as an excellent representative on the Reimaging Public Safety Taskforce.”

- *Councilmember Noel Gallo*

### **KEISHA HENDERSON, District 6 Appointee**

Keisha Henderson is an Oakland native, and brings to the council her authentic experience as an African-American woman who grew up in Oakland, has lived all over the city, and currently resides in the East Oakland flatlands. She acknowledges that there is more Oakland can and should be providing to the young Oakland natives who are looking for increased opportunities to thrive, realize their potential, and establish promising futures. In addition to pursuing a communications degree and raising twin daughters, Keisha has assumed a leadership role with her neighbors and the in the local NCPC to improve safety and life outcomes in her neighborhood by organizing community cleanups. In her statement of interest Ms. Henderson committed to paying attention to the data and fully educating herself on the culture and demographic differences that pertain to different needs in certain districts or neighborhoods.

- *Councilmember Loren Taylor*

### **REYGAN CUNNINGHAM, District 7 Appointee**

From 2012-2018 Reygan was the Director of the Oakland Ceasefire strategy. During that time Oakland experienced significant reductions in gun homicides and shootings. A recent independent evaluation conducted by Northeastern University demonstrated a 31.5% reduction in gun homicides, and a 43% reduction in non-fatal gang shootings that could be directly attributed to the Ceasefire strategy. Reygan and her team have received numerous awards for this ground-breaking and lifesaving work including a resolution from the Hon. Rob Bonta of the California State Assembly.

Prior to this position with the City of Oakland Reygan served as the Public Safety Legislative Analyst to the Oakland City Council, Complaint Investigator to the Citizens' Police Review Board, and Public Safety Director to the Mayor of Oakland.

Reygan is a proud graduate of the Oakland Unified School District, and holds a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of San Francisco School of Law, a Bachelors of Arts degree from Spelman College, and completed the Leadership for the 21st Century Executive Education course at Harvard University. She is currently a Senior Partner at the California Partnership for Safe Communities and lives in her hometown of Oakland, California.

### **JAMES BURCH, At-Large Appointee**

“James Burch is the Policy Director of the Anti Police-Terror Project and the President of the National Lawyers Guild Bay Area. For the last five years, he has lead APTP's DefundOPD campaign to divest fifty percent of the Oakland Police Department's budget and invest that money into a wide array of community programs and improvements.”

- *Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan*

### **PAT KERNIGHAN, Mayor's Appointee**

“Pat Kernighan was elected three times to serve on the Oakland City Council as the representative from District 2, and served as Chair of the Finance Committee. She is an expert in the intricacies of Oakland's budgeting process, as well as the operational jurisdictions of partner government agencies. She is an attorney, and co-authored the seminal measure to implement ranked-choice voting in Oakland.”

- *Mayor Libby Schaaf*

### **NIKKI UYEN THUG DINH, Safety and Services Oversight Commission Appointee**

Has over a decade of professional experience in the domestic violence, community violence and social justice fields as a nonprofit attorney, case manager and funder. Her experience also includes lived experience as a daughter of refugees and as a mom to two young children. She hopes to bring her voice, as well as those of her community, to speak to public safety and services prevention efforts in Oakland.

### **CAROL WYATT, Community Policing Advisory Board Appointee**

Has lived in the Clawson-McClymonds area since 2007. When she moved to Oakland, the area's crime rates were all rampant, as a property owner as well as a resident, she wanted to see changes in the community, while still respecting it's historical and community values. She began working with West Oakland Neighbors, a community group that was long in existence, and became Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council chair for Beat 7x. She has watched the crime indices drop, by working with area police officers, particularly the Crime Reduction Team and Community Resource Officers.

### **GINALE HARRIS, Police Commission Appointee**

For the last 26 years, Ginale Harris has committed herself to Social Justice issues, by serving the community that she lives and works in. She grew up in a marginalized community, which lead her to become involved in community wrap around services that contributed to her success as a citizen of the Bay Area, and resident of Oakland's District 7. Since the age of 11 years old, she was a frequent participant of many community services, such as, case management, leadership development, and social justice. In 1994 she was hired as a parole & probation case manager/advocate, by the nonprofit agency that she had received so many services from. Years later, Ginale Harris, became the Director of Violence Prevention services and has been referred

to as a Gladiator. Ginale Harris served as advocate for the community her entire career and is committed whole heartedly to the work and to the people she serves.

### **IVAN GARCIA, Youth Advisory Commission Appointee**

"Ivan Garcia, the current Co-Chair of the Oakland Youth Commission, has extensive experience with city initiatives being in his second term on the Commission and having served as an intern in the Mayor's office. As a scholar who has direct experience with having a family member in prison, Ivan has integrated his personal life with public service through becoming a youth activist who seeks to create equity and access for low-income families, the LGBTQ community, and black indigenous people of color communities. I am confident that he will carry these skills and knowledge with him into the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force."

- *Carina Lieu, Youth Leadership Development Coordinator*

### **LOSALINE MOA, Youth Advisory Commission Appointee**

"Losaline Moe, a second-generation Oakland resident and Tongan-American female, is serving her first term on the Oakland Youth Commission. Prior, Losaline participated in the Helix Summer Medical Program at UC Berkeley, where she collaborated with other youth on a presentation to Kaiser examining mental health in the East Bay homeless population. She is currently the President of Skyline High School's Tertulia Club, which promotes mental health awareness on campus. Losaline embodies a well-rounded perspective on systems-analysis - grounded by her public health training and cultural lens - which I believe will serve the community well as she joins the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force."

- *Carina Lieu, Youth Leadership Development Coordinator*

### **BRENDA ROBERTS, Budget Advisory Commission Appointee**

### **GUS NEWPORT, Co-Chair's Appointee**

Gus Newport is the former mayor of Berkeley (1979-1986). During his time he re-organized the Berkeley Police department, ushered in rent control which went to the Supreme Court and was passed, created a community clinic, and hired mental health workers to assist the police and to aid the homeless with their problems and needs. He was the Martin Luther King Fellow at MIT, where he taught a course on public policy and community development. He was also an SR. Fellow at Yale, Uc Santa Cruz U MASS Boston and Portland State. Gus delivered the commencement speech at Heidelberg University, his Alma Mater. Tiffin, Ohio, May 2009 and was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Letters degree. He also served on two United Nations Committees, The Committee Against Apartheid and the Committee on the Question of Palestine.

### **JOHN JONES III, Co-Chair's Appointee**

John Jones III is currently on staff for Just Cities as the Director of Community and Political Engagement. As a father of three and third generation East Oakland resident, John is also a formerly incarcerated advocate seeking to transform his community. After being un-sheltered and unemployed for eighteen month, John became involved in community organizing and

advocacy to empower himself and others by utilizing his personal story of pain, trauma, faith and transformation to inspire young people, as well as fight for policy change.