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April 5, 2017

VIA E-MAIL ONLY

Hon. Desley Brooks (dbrooks@oaklandnet.com)
Hon. Annie Campbell Washington (acampbellwashington@oaklandnet.com)
Hon. Noel Gallo (ngallo@oaklandnet.com)
Hon. Lynette Gibson McElhaney (lmcclhaney@oaklandnet.com)
Hon. Abel Guillen (aguillen@oaklandnet.com)
Hon. Dan Kalb (dkalb@oaklandnet.com)
Hon. Rebecca Kaplan (atlarge@oaklandnet.com)
Hon. Larry Reid (lreid@oaklandnet.com)
Oakland City Council
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Resolution of Support for SB31 - Religious Freedom Act (Lara)

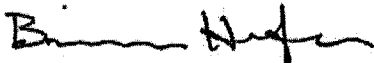
Dear Honorable Members of the Oakland City Council:

On behalf of the Privacy Advisory Commission, I write to urge you to approve the Resolution of Support for SB31 – Religious Freedom Act (Lara), sponsored by Councilmembers Kalb and McElhaney. Our commission voted unanimously in support of SB31.

In this era of Big Data and ubiquitous sharing agreements amongst government entities, law enforcement, and the private sector, it is critical that we examine the information we collect and retain and be mindful with whom we share it. Data collected for a legitimate purpose could be used by a federal agency to target immigrants and Muslims. Our commission has begun examining our outside data-sharing agreements due to such concerns.

The Trump Administration has repeatedly stated its intent to surveil Muslims, and has twice attempted to prevent Muslims from entering the United States with unconstitutional travel bans. Furthermore, Trump's proposed budget includes a request for 15,000 additional Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, to allow for increased deportation of immigrants. It is critical that California, and Oakland, enact safeguards designed to prevent such actions from taking place.

Sincerely,



Brian Hofer
Chair, City of Oakland's Privacy Advisory Commission