



**DATE:** June 27, 2022  
**TO:** City Council and Members of the Public  
**FROM:** Council President Nikki Fortunato Bas  
**SUBJECT:** Council President's Amendments to the FY 22-23 Mid-Cycle Budget

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Dear City Council Colleagues and Members of the Public,

My Budget Team, composed of CMs Kalb, Fife and Gallo, has been working diligently on amendments to the Mayor's proposed mid-cycle budget for FY 2022-2023.

We have received input from each Councilmember as well as the public. I'd like to remind us that Oakland's mid-cycle budget is an opportunity to review updated projections of revenue and expenses and adjust to meet the City's needs — building off the two-year budget we approved last year.

We remain committed to shifting the city budget towards greater equity and addressing systemic disinvestment in vulnerable and marginalized communities, while we also advance the Council's four policy priorities.

Our budget amendments focus on:

1. Investing in **City Services** by investing in our **city workers** who deliver those services in order to retain our staff as we work toward offering competitive wages and benefits
  - a. Creating a **\$4.2M GPF (General Purpose Fund) Labor Reserve** to support settlement of open labor union contracts for "Misc" Workers
2. Funding efforts that **concretely support Oaklanders** citywide while **prioritizing equity in historically disinvested flatlands** in East, West and Central Oakland

We also remain committed to **fiscal responsibility** by:

1. Prioritizing the use of our \$8M Council Contingency Fund for one time programs.
2. Considering future staffing and major programs with
  - a. Additional funding for **housing and homelessness**, including TAY (transition aged youth) housing
    - i. New \$1.1 M Grant from HUD-ESG/SHP/HOPWA
    - ii. New \$9.4 M Grant from Cal HCD
    - iii. Proposed Housing & Infrastructure Bond Ballot Measure (new Measure KK) that would raise \$350 M for affordable housing

- b. Fund balance for **traffic safety** — \$1.4 M in Measure BB Fund Balance
- c. Implementation of Measure AA for **early childhood development**, including Oakland’s Head Start Program and a potential Emergency Early Childhood Education Provider Fund
- d. Voter approval of the **Progressive And Equitable Business Tax**

**Below is a summary of our amendments.**

Expenditure reductions

- Adjusting the vacancy rate from 8% to 10% allows us to set aside a Labor Reserve and fund targeted new positions that support housing, homelessness, City Councilmembers’ ability to provide constituent services, critical budget analysis by the Council and Budget Advisory Commission, and support for the Oakland Youth Commission
- Four staff positions would be delayed in CAO, Finance and HR, which we discussed with the City Administrator
- \$500k proposed for special events is reduced by \$150k in order to support \$90k for LoveLife Campaign and \$60k for Lake Vendor Program
- \$2M proposed for the SABA Grocers food card program is spread out as \$1M in FY 2022-2023 and \$1M in FY 2023-2024 to help support citywide priorities this coming fiscal year, including supporting low-income renters and job readiness programs
- We incorporate a number of changes from the Administration including recognizing a \$2M reduction in lease payments to the Coliseum

Expenditure additions

- A number of additions are for citywide purposes and supported by multiple Councilmembers:
  - \$40k for outreach and education on new City Council/School Board boundaries from redistricting
  - \$1,600,000 for placement of measures on the November ballot by the County Registrar of Voters
  - \$700k for legal services for low-income renters to Oakland Housing Secure, in addition to the \$1M in the proposed budget
  - \$1,250,000 for Job Readiness Programs, targeted grants to enhance job readiness for Oakland residents who in years past have been personally subjected to the War on Drugs
  - Fully funding the 66th Ave Safe RV site with HHAP 3 & Meas Q fund balance and staff vacancy savings (many Councilmembers support this)
  - \$3.2M will carry forward into the new fiscal year for wildfire prevention and management — \$1.6M is unused and will carry forward together with \$1.6M budgeted
  - As noted above, there are additional funding sources for housing, homelessness and early childhood development.
  - Also note that \$180k for matching funds for a state grant for gun buyback programs is added through Measure Z.

- Staffing
  - The Mayor’s proposed budget includes a number of additions, with a significant increase in Fire Department staff.
  - As noted above, we limit new staffing from the GPF to targeted new positions that support housing, homelessness, City Councilmembers’ ability to provide constituent services, critical budget analysis by the Council and Budget Advisory Commission, and support for the Oakland Youth Commission. Other staff positions can be considered in the next 2 year budget. Note that a new position to support ADU development is added from the Development Services Fund.
- Councilmember priorities
  - We did our best to incorporate Councilmember priorities. Every Councilmember gets some of their requests met in this proposal, as well as some of their requests unmet or deferred for future consideration. I tried to list all the requests I heard to be transparent, noting which Councilmembers I heard requested them, however many requests are supported by multiple Councilmembers. Please see the spreadsheet for details. Overall, I tried to ensure greater investment in the flatlands and in priority issues such as homelessness, violence prevention and economic development.

### **Budget Policy Directives**

- **Community grants** — As noted in the FY 2021-2023 Budget Policy Directive and in the [April 2022 Staff Report](#), the process for awarding direct community grants by the Council and the Mayor should be more transparent and accessible. I included direct community grants in these proposed amendments to meet immediate needs; however, starting next year as we prepare for the next two year budget, I urge us to implement this uniform process for budgetary earmarks.
- **Early childhood development** —The city council encourages the Measure AA Implementation Partner and the Advisory Board to allocate a \$2 million contingency from the initial allocation of Measure AA funds toward an emergency fund to support Early Childhood Education Providers, and to fund Headstart to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of the program.
- **Summer Foods Programs** — Direct the City Administrator to increase equitable access to nutritious meals by outreaching to, and supporting the capacity and participation of community based partner sites as well as by increasing the number of open sites through OPRYD and coordination with Head Start to ensure unhoused and housing insecure families are serviced.
- **Wilma Chan Park** — With the renaming of Madison Park in honor of the late Supervisor Wilma Chan, this proposal includes \$100k to place new signs and place-making elements at the park and fund other ways to help commemorate her legacy. We also direct the City Administrator to assign existing staff to programming activities at the Park, in coordination with Lincoln Park and Rec Center staff, as the Park is publicly renamed this Fall and as Lincoln Rec undergoes future renovation.
- **Arts and Culture** — Direct the City Administrator to prioritize hiring open positions to ensure Cultural Affairs can achieve its goals and directives (you could specify some goals if you

wanted), and explore ways the Administration can subsidize artist performances across the city, for example by identifying what locations would be available for performances that the city owns or are available to rent.

- **Public Safety and Violence Prevention** — There are several [policy directives](#) from last year's two year budget that still need attention and implementation, including:
  - Independent Audit of OPD
  - Recommendations from the OPD Calls for Service Analysis
  - Second Phase of Reimagining Public Safety to Include Restructuring of Police Department to Focus on Serious and Violent Crime
  - Increase Capacity to Investigate and Solve Crimes and Produce Higher Clearance Rates on Homicides, Missing Persons, and Other Serious Crimes by Restructuring Investigations Units
  - Significantly Stand Up MACRO As An Effective Alternate Response System as First Responders to Non-Violent Calls for Service
  - Moving responsibilities of the Internal Affairs Division to the Community Police Review Agency (CPRA)

Increasing transparency and accountability is the first step to mending the frayed relationship between community and law enforcement. Our policy directives above, and the addition of a policy analyst as recommended by the Budget Advisory Commission, aim to do this through implementing systems and policies that increase transparency and accountability in the Oakland Police Department.

A full-time, non-sworn data analyst position can assist in gathering and publishing relevant datasets, including calls for service, as recommended by the OPD Budget/Staffing Workgroup from the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force and endorsed by the Budget Advisory Commission. We direct the City Administrator to establish regular performance metrics related to 911 response times for priority 1 calls and clearance rates, especially for violent and serious crimes; and regular reporting of information on the above to the Public Safety Committee and the full City Council.

Bolstering alternative response systems that put community first will minimize the chances of negative or violent interactions with police and reducing the number of arrests continues to be of high importance. A key way to do this is through our policy directive to expand the Mobile Assistance Community Responders of Oakland (MACRO) program citywide. We direct the City Administrator to:

- Begin the process of connecting dispatch to MACRO and directing some non-violent 911 calls to MACRO.
- Secure the necessary funds (public and private) to make the program sustainable.

Further investments in violence prevention — During the biennial budget process, we invested heavily into the Department of Violence Prevention (DVP) for various programs and services. While those investments were historic, we need to make sure we invest even more towards DVP's efforts to address

community needs and provide trauma informed services in order to *prevent* crime. We direct the City Administrator to:

- Identify funding for the next bi-annual budget cycle.
- Support community ambassadors, adding additional ambassadors throughout the City.

Reform beyond the Negotiated Settlement Agreement. On May 12, 2022, U.S. District Judge William Orrick ruled that OPD is in substantial compliance with NSA and has achieved full compliance with 50 of the 51 original NSA tasks. OPD has now entered a one-year “sustainability period”, a probationary period before the end of federal oversight. While this indicates major progress, the department must continue to make the necessary reforms to not only comply with the “sustainability period” but to rebuild trust with the residents of Oakland long-term through transparency and accountability as described above and per the recommendations of the Reimagining Public Safety Taskforce.

I look forward to our meeting on June 30th to review our proposed amendments and engage in discussion toward achieving a balanced budget.

Thank you to the City Administrator, Finance Staff and other Department Staff for supporting our budget deliberations.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Nikki Fortunato Bas  
Council President, District 2

Attachment: Exhibit 2