



# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR &  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Edward D. Reiskin  
City Administrator

**SUBJECT:** Reimagining Public Safety Task  
Force Recommendations

**DATE:** April 26, 2021

City Administrator  
Approval

Date: Apr 29, 2021

## INFORMATION

The Oakland City Council established the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force (RPSTF) on July 28, 2020 (Resolution No. 88269 CMS), a seventeen-member body tasked with the goal to “rapidly reimagine and reconstruct the public safety system in Oakland by developing a recommendation for Council consideration to increase community safety through alternative responses to calls for assistance, and investments in programs that address the root causes of violence and crime...with a goal of a 50% reduction in the Oakland Police Department (OPD) General Purpose Fund (GPF) budget allocation.” Since the creation of the RPSTF, the City Administrator’s Office has played a supporting role as a member of the Executive Committee, along with Task Force Co-Chairs Council President Fortunato Bas and Councilmember Taylor and Co-Facilitators PolicyLink and the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform.

On February 3, 2021, the RPSTF adopted a set of 22 Guiding Principles ([view here](#)), designed to inform its deliberative process and the development of the final recommendations. The second guiding principle states that the Oakland City Council must include the following criteria when adopting recommendations: 1) Description of Recommendation; 2) Cost Analysis; 3) Safety Impact Analysis; 4) Likely Impact on overall workload per officer; 5) Transition/ Implementation Plan; 6) Evaluation Criteria; and 7) Community Feedback. The goal of City Administration is to work with the City Council to ensure that all 22 guiding principles are considered when moving recommendations forward. The Administration thanks the RPSTF for developing these foundational principles and their work in developing recommendations that will assist in guiding this work forward.

Since its establishment, the Administration has worked diligently with the Co-Chairs, Co-Facilitators, and Task Force and Advisory Board members to support the work of the RPSTF. On March 10 and March 17, 2021, the Task Force adopted a total of 88 recommendations. The Task Force Co-Facilitators subsequently merged several, creating more distinct and actionable categories, resulting in a reduction in the total number of recommendations from 88 to 48 ([view here](#), pages 25-31). Administration has reviewed the recommendations approved by the Task Force, noting that the recommendations do not propose reducing the OPD GPF allocation by 50%, but rather recommend various enhancements to OPD, other City services, and other policy

initiatives. Staff is committed to continuing the process, dialogue, and information sharing to ensure that the City assesses and evaluates public safety strategies that support the guiding principles of the RPSTF to the extent directed by the City Council.

The Administration supports Task Force Recommendation #47 – the “implementation of a second phase of Reimagining Public Safety with facilitation rooted in community practice, such as being trauma-informed to interrupt sexism, and racism, so that the process does not perpetuate the harm” that the RPSTF process seeks to undo. Staff looks forward to continuing as a partner in this journey and monitoring this effort as it works through the budget process. We look to the City Council for that direction and the continued support of the RPSTF.

To that end, City staff and the City Council have already initiated and/or taken steps to implement some of the tasks and objectives identified and prioritized by the RPSTF. Policies currently in place or in development by the City include, but are not limited to, the following described in **Table 1**, below.

**Table 1: Recommendations Currently in Development**

| Recommendation   | Lead Department                      | Status  |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| <p><u>Mobile Assistance Community Responders of Oakland (MACRO):</u></p> <p>#37: Institute Cross Functional Team to Approach Crisis Response</p> <p>#56: Create a citywide Behavioral Health Unit</p> <p>#57: Immediately make long-term investment in MACRO</p> | <p>Oakland Fire Department (OFD)</p> | <p>OFD has taken the following steps towards implementation of the MACRO program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funded Program Manager position for MACRO (Resolution adopted at April 12, 2021 City Council meeting)</li> <li>• Working with Human Resources Management Department to develop job classifications for Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Community Intervention Specialist, drafts under review</li> <li>• Working with ACBH (Alameda County Behavioral Health) on collaboration for clinical oversight</li> <li>• Working with Oakland Police Department (OPD) and OPD Dispatch on call determinants for MACRO team response</li> <li>• Semi-monthly meetings with consulting firm to track progress</li> <li>• Attended two townhall meetings to hear directly from community</li> <li>• Hosted various internal and external stakeholder meetings</li> <li>• Dispatch protocols between OPD and FDC are being created for MACRO team dedicated computer-aided dispatch (CAD) channel and Radio identifier</li> </ul> |

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| <p><u>OPD Data Reliability and Transparency:</u></p> <p>#49: Streamlining and Making Public Multiple Forms of Data from OPD</p> <p>#54: Data Management</p> <p>#55: Data Transparency</p> | <p>Oakland Police Department (OPD)</p> | <p>The Oakland Department of Transportation (OakDOT) is working with OPD and the Information Technology Department (ITD) on creating a Stop-Data dashboard to provide community access to stop-data. The City has contracted with the Slalom group on the development of these dashboards and is in the final stages of the project. The City expects to go live with the dashboards shortly.</p>   |
| <p><u>Universal Basic Income</u></p> <p>#82: Launch a basic income program</p>  | <p>N/A</p>                             | <p>Oakland Resilient Families, a collaboration between the Oakland-based community organization Family Independence Initiative and the national Mayors for a Guaranteed Income, recently announced that it will launch one of the largest guaranteed income pilot projects in the country in Oakland. Oakland Resilient Families will give 600 Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) families with low incomes an unconditional \$500 per month for at least 18 months.</p> <p>The City’s Human Services Department is also exploring the development of a universal income pilot that would focus on transition-age youth who are homeless.</p> |
| <p><u>Neighborhood Crime Prevention Councils (NCPCs)</u></p> <p>#98: Establish NCPC Community Safety Stewardship Program</p>  | <p>City Administrator’s Office</p>     | <p>Recommendation includes direction to “restructure the existing NCPC programs, moving them, the Neighborhood Services Coordinators, and the Neighborhood Services Division from the Oakland Police Department to better support proactive neighborhood community safety activities...”</p> <p>As part of the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Adopted Midcycle Budget, the Neighborhood Services Division was transferred out of the Oakland Police Department and into the City Administrator’s Office.</p>   |

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| <p><u>Create a robust response to mental health related calls for service supported by significant county investment</u></p> <p>#102: Expand County-provided Mental Health Services</p> <p>#150: Urging the County of Alameda and City of Oakland to immediately begin talks to implement delivery of behavioral and mental health services.</p> <p>#109: Create school-site based violence prevention and crisis intervention teams</p> | <p>N/A</p>   | <p>In partnership with the Council President’s Office, City Administration supports engaging Alameda County and the Oakland Unified School District leadership in further dialogue to ensure a coordinated response to mental health-related calls.</p>   |
| <p><u>Create civilian teams to respond to nonviolent, non-mental health, incidents</u></p> <p>#60: Create a civilian Community Ambassadors program to respond to nonviolent, non-mental health incidents</p> <p>#125: Civilian team to respond to calls where no threat or harm</p>  | <p>Department of Violence Prevention (DVP)</p> <p>Oakland Fire Department (OFD)</p> <p>Human Services Department (HSD)</p> | <p>The DVP is currently working on a systematization of a culturally congruent ambassador model that can be tailored to diverse communities. Estimated time is 3 to 6 months in which the model will be completed</p> <p>This also touches on MACRO in many ways and OFD is engaging with community peer support members on cross-training and building the collaborative efforts for follow-up and wrap-around services to meet the intent of the original community supported scope of work for MACRO.</p> <p>Supporting an aspect of this work, HSD manages street outreach teams under homelessness services that have a harm reduction goal and specific focus on linking unsheltered individuals to link to health services, shelter and housing.</p> |

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| <p><u>Transfer special event duties out of OPD and create an Oakland specific Crowd Control Ordinance</u></p> <p>#1: Create an Oakland Specific Crowd Control Ordinance</p> <p>#86: Transfer special event duties out of the Oakland Police Department</p> | <p>Oakland Police Department (OPD), City Administrator's Office (CAO), Oakland Parks, Recreation and Youth Development (OPRYD)</p> | <p>Pursuant to Resolution No. 88236 CMS, the permitting of special events is transferring from the Oakland Police Department to the Special Activity Permits Division of the CAO. Staff anticipates finalizing this transfer in the Fall of 2021 upon City Council's passage of amendments to the City's Special Events Ordinance and the allowance of gatherings under local and state COVID-19 public health orders.</p> <p>The Oakland Department of Parks, Recreation and Youth Development (OPRYD) currently manages some permitting operations and, with increased staff support, could take-on additional permitting functions. OPRYD is currently exploring re-establishing the Park Ambassador program to assist with event operations and controls, as well as creating "Festival Monitors" to educate the public and enforce Park Rules and Regulations; additional staffing and resources would be required to implement.</p> |
| <p>Increase Police Commission staff</p> <p><u>#103/88: Make the Police Commission more equitable by increasing its staff and adding a monthly stipend for Commissioners</u></p>  | <p>Oakland Police Commission; Community Police Review Agency (CPRA)</p>  | <p>CPRA staff are working with the Mayor and City Administrator to add staff in the fiscal year 2021-23 proposed budget to address mandated positions described in Measure S1 that will increase staff support for the Police Commission, the Inspector General, and CPRA.</p>  |

The consolidated 48 recommendations encompass a broad range of public safety-related priorities, needs, and outcomes which will require further analysis and evaluation as the Reimagining Public Safety process transitions into the next phase. As recommended by Task Force Recommendation #47, in coordination with Guiding Principal #2, the Administration looks forward to the next stage and the additional resources to support Phase II of the Reimagining Public Safety process to build upon the work done by the RPSTF and to ensure meaningful assessment of recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,



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EDWARD D. REISKIN  
City Administrator

For questions, please contact Rose Rubel, City Administrator Analyst, at 510-238-6587.