

CITY OF OAKLAND



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#LoveLife

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| NIKKI FORTUNATO BAS Council President District 2 | CARROLL FIFE Councilmember District 3 | REBECCA KAPLAN Vice Mayor District At Large | SHENG THAO President Pro Tem District 4 |
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Date: December 7, 2021
To: Members of City Council and Members of the Public
From: Vice Mayor Kaplan, Council President Fortunato Bas, President Pro Tem Thao, and Council Member Fife
Re: **Resolution Requiring The City Administrator To Return To Council With A Budget Amendment To The Biennial Budget For Fiscal Years 2021-2023 That Fully Funds All City Of Oakland's Head Start/Early Head Start Programming No Later Than May 2022 When Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Midcycle Budget Amendments Will Be Considered; And Committing The Council To Return With A Budget Amendment For The Current Biennial Fiscal Year 2021-2023 Budget To: 1) Add A Budget Policy Directive That Would Make It A Budget Priority That, If Existing Head Start/Early Head Start Programs Are Restructured It Will Be Done In A Manner To Retain All Existing Program Staff, That No Head Start/Early Head Start Programming Be Reduced And That No Head Start/ Early Head Start Staff Layoffs Occur Through The End Of The Current Fiscal Year 2021-2022, And 2) Fully Fund All City Of Oakland's Head Start/Early Head Start Programs And Staff Through June 30, 2022**

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

On September 1, 2021, the Oakland City Council passed Resolution No. 88801 C.M.S., providing \$1.836 million to restore Head Start/ Early Head Start services in Oakland, and support the re-opening of the Arroyo, Franklin and Tassafaronga Head Start/ Early Head Start centers. Given the clear distress potential closures caused children and families served by these centers and Head Start/ Early Head Start staff, this resolution safeguards funding Head Start/ Early Head Start as a priority for the City and that no staff layoffs occur.

Head Start/ Early Head Start are early childhood education programs, which promote school readiness for children from birth to age five, and offer free early childhood education and family services. One of the primary goals of Head Start/ Early Head Start is to improve educational and family outcomes and eliminate racial disparities for the community. Scientific research proves time and again that nurturing and educating children during ages zero through five have a significant impact on their development, growth, academic performance and overall life success. Cuts to childcare and staff layoffs, therefore, undermine the quality of life impeding access to jobs due to childcare and places undue pressure on the City's ability to hire and retain workers.

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Lack of access to affordable childcare has been clearly identified as a major barrier to effective labor force participation, harming community economic recovery, and undermining the lives and livelihood of parents – disproportionately impacting women of color.

Providing Head Start services is good for children, families, parents, employers, and the economy.

Ensuring Head Start/ Early Head Start are adequately funded now and in the future is also an important equity issue. The backbone of Early Head Start and Head Start membership is overwhelmingly Black women and people of color, who have historically and disproportionately borne the brunt of the economic difficulties our society experiences. Furthermore, these communities are also disparately impacted when childcare is not available. It is vital to engage front-line workers directly impacted by investments, and center conversations around these workers in a transparent budget process.

Stable funding ensures staff retention, and that existing Head Start/ Early Head Start facilities are properly maintained. To ensure the sustainability and prosperity of Oakland’s Head Start/ Early Head Start programming, we ask you to join us in supporting this resolution which will require that if Head Start/Early Head Start programs are restructured or reorganized before June 2022, all existing staff, who represent decades of experience and expertise serving low-income communities of color in Oakland, are retained.

Further, the City Administrator will be required to return to Council with a budget amendment to the biennial budget for fiscal years 2021-2023 that fully funds all City of Oakland's Head Start/ Early Head Start programming no later than May 2022 when fiscal year 2022-2023 midcycle budget amendments will be considered; and commit the Council to return with a budget amendment for the current biennial fiscal year 2021-2023 budget to: 1) that the City Administrator return to Council with a budget amendment to the Biennial Budget for Fiscal Years 2021-2023 that fully funds all City Of Oakland’s Head Start/ Early Head Start programming no later than May 2022 when the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Midcycle Budget Amendments will be considered; and 2) that the Council shall return with a budget amendment for the current Biennial Fiscal Year 2021-2023 Budget to: 1) add a budget policy directive that all existing Head Start/Early Head Start staff are retained if programs are restructured, that would make it a budget priority that no Head Start/Early Head Start programming be reduced and that no Head Start/Early Head Start staff layoffs occur through the end of the current fiscal year 2021-2022, and 2) fully fund all City of Oakland’s Head Start/Early Head Start programs and staff through June 30, 2022

Finally, the resolution requires the Human Services Department to create a transparent, strategic planning process for the operation and management of the Head Start/Early Head Start programs.

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