



REBECCA KAPLAN
Vice Mayor
atlarge@oaklandca.gov

(510) 238-7008
FAX: (510) 238-6910
TDD: (510) 839-6451

AGENDA REPORT

Date: January 25, 2021
To: Members of City Council and Members of the Public
From: Vice Mayor Kaplan
Re: Resolution To Amend Resolution No. 88174, Which Adopted The Fiscal Year 2020-21 Mid-cycle Amendments, To Among Other Things, Prevent Cuts To Fire Services.

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

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt A Resolution That Amends Resolution No. 88174, Which Adopted The Fiscal Year 2020-21 Mid-Cycle Amendments, To Among Other Things, Prevent Cuts To Fire Services.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is essential that we identify sources of funding to balance the budget and restore the proposed budget cuts that hurt and endanger our communities, especially during this pandemic. These amendments are part of what will be an ongoing effort to responsibly find funding sources that will assist in the effort to prioritize savings and fund vital community safety needs as well as essential COVID response.

At the January 15th meeting of the Coliseum Authority, the Board confirmed that there is \$20 million, \$10 million each to the City of Oakland and the County of Alameda, available to be disbursed and transferred. These funds, coupled with the \$1.5 million obtained from adjusting general fund reserve to align with new budget numbers, can fund the following vital public safety and public health programs and services: to prevent cuts to fire services; to expand and continue Lake Merritt Vendor Program; to provide a grant to the Department of Violence Prevention to support and expand civilian assistance phone line for Mental Health First Oakland (MH1); to launch the process to review and re-authorize Oakland Measure Z; to restore the Administration's planned cuts to the OK (Our Kids) Program. We will continue to seek additional funding sources and lobby for federal and state relief, and if other funds become available for these programs, we will restore the General Purpose Fund for additional Council allocation. \$5 million will be held back for Council allocation for service preservation/gap fill decisions pending obtaining additional data on other funds, and the administration's proposal for additional budget adjustments.

The budget amendments also contain a number of important policy directives. Many of these directives address the housing crisis that the City of Oakland is currently facing and request reports to the Finance Committee on March 8th. These include: completing the process of hiring for previously allocated positions to have evening/weekend hours for planning/permitting, including with focus on ADUs and small projects;

undertaking a process to authorize use of pre-approved templates for ADU's; providing an analysis and option for fee waiver and expediting for affordable housing and small local business projects; pursuing FEMA reimbursements for costs expended around homeless strategies (hotels), fire, police and other expenditures; and pursuing an option to improve housing options and restore Transient Occupancy Tax revenue by issuing interim allowance for medium-term stays at hotels, subject to transient-occupancy terms (report not required).

There are four other policy directives included in the budget amendments that pursue opportunities that may improve Oakland's financial status. These directives also request a report back to the Finance Committee on March 8th. They ask staff to: undertake revisions to Master Fee Schedule, including truck weight fee amount and frequency, scooter/bike fee, outdoor drive-in events; pursue assistance funds from the State and Federal government; pursue selling Oakland's interest in the Raiders Practice Facility in Alameda (no specific report back date); and, ask the Administration to provide a full breakdown on Fund 2415 (Development Services Fund) funding, available, budgeted, expected expenditures, and allowable uses.

BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE HISTORY AND ANALYSIS

In December 2020, the Administration has publicly stated that to save money, they intend to close fire stations, which would significantly cut fire and emergency medical services in Oakland. Numerous community members and other officials have joined together in expressing concerns about the plan. There has not been a presentation about the intended fire station closures at any public meeting, as it is normally done in a democratic budget process. This means that Oakland community members have not had an official public opportunity to offer their comments. Furthermore, City Council has also neither approved, nor voted for, the closure of fire stations.

The high risk for wildfires is no longer restricted to a few months, due to climate change, and fire season has become a year-round fight. These cuts are a danger to not only thousands of Oakland residents living in our high wildfire risk areas, but to the safety of all Oaklanders and our neighboring cities. These closures also significantly endanger the health and safety of Oakland residents in the middle of a devastating pandemic. Over the last ten months, Firefighter Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians have provided essential front-line services to our community, facing great personal risk to protect us all. They are often first on scene in any emergency, including gun violence.

This \$11.32 million in re-allocated funds to vital programs and services will keep our communities safe and healthy during this COVID-19 crisis. It is critical that the City of Oakland address the needs of our communities and ensure that we act with a sense of urgency.

Thank you to Council President Fortunato Bas and Councilmember Fife for their input, as well as numerous community members.

Respectfully submitted,



Vice Mayor Rebecca Kaplan
Oakland City Councilmember At Large