



March 18th

Dear Public Works Committee,

Investing in parks is investing in solutions. As the only citywide nonprofit dedicated to supporting people, parks, and recreation for all in Oakland, Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation is committed to reigniting civic imagination to align toward integrated solutions that include the natural and community resources of parks. In this way, together, we can increase community resilience and safety and substantively address the challenges of homelessness, mental health, gentrification and racial and climate justice.

We hope our presentation will serve as an invitation and pathway to augment funding for our precious parks and recreation system as an essential community resource. We will focus on:

***Our seminal survey report and executive summary, "Parks & Equity: The Promise of Oakland's Parks."*** This report demonstrates that: parks are not neutral but rather provide essential community benefits and operate at the fulcrum of justice; Oaklanders have a deep understanding of this truth but are experiencing barriers to parks that deepen race, economic, and inter-generational inequity; and Oaklanders strongly support investment in park and recreation facilities for their wellbeing and their communities.

***Our presentation slides.*** Providing these in advance we hope affords you time to surface questions and areas of greatest interest.

Each of you came to serve Oakland because of a positive vision and a love for the heritage, passion, beauty, and resilience of this special place and people. We hope our upcoming conversation shows a way through the challenges and demonstrates that OPRF is here to support you in visionary and just work for Oakland through activated parks.

Sincerely,

Mandolin Kadera-Redmond  
President/Interim Executive Director

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