



# Black Oakland Demand S

**IN LIGHT OF COVID-19 AND RATES  
OF BLACK DEATH**

Across the country, Black People are being infected and dying at disproportionate rates from COVID-19. In order to respond effectively to the needs of the Black community our elected officials, health experts, advocates and organizers must take a look at the ways in which the descendants of slaves, Black, African and African-Americans are most impacted by this virus through a racial and class lens.

**SIGN ON TO THE BLACK  
NEW DEAL DEMANDS [HERE](#).**

READ THE LETTER TO  
PUBLIC OFFICIALS [HERE](#).

This past Saturday,  
[Community Ready Corps](#) and  
[The Anti Police-Terror Project](#)  
convened a wide range of  
Black leaders in Oakland  
gathered virtually to develop a  
set of demands in terms of  
what we expect of our City's  
response to this crisis. We are  
not the only impacted  
community but we are the  
most impacted and we are  
clear that unless Black people  
are healthy and safe then no  
community is healthy and  
safe.

WE, as the Descendants of  
Enslaved People, Black,  
African American organized in  
order to force  
acknowledgement of the  
impact of this crisis on the  
Black community to forge a  
path forward to health,  
demand equitable treatment  
from all public, local and state  
government and to establish a  
space for Black voices at all  
tables that plan around,  
impact and shape our lives.

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NEW DEAL DEMANDS [HERE](#).**

Black people are not suffering  
at higher rates of COVID-19  
because we are “lazy” or  
“unhealthy”. We are suffering  
at higher rates as a direct  
result of 500 years of  
discriminatory treatment.

East and West Oakland have the worst air quality in the City of Oakland, we have the least access to healthy food, the least access to quality education and jobs and face the most discrimination by city policy and policymakers.

***This is a state of emergency for Black people that demands immediate action equal to those enacted in the presence of such a declaration.***



**Immediate Demands:**

**General Demands:**

- *The disproportionate impact on Black people demands a disproportionate*

*response - most of the resources must be given/directed to the greatest need.*

- *Publish desegregated data by race and zip code to properly track spread and to inform allocation of resources.*
- *No person, company or entity should be allowed to profit off of a pandemic. Nor should the city of Oakland direct COVID disaster funding towards ongoing development plans without being informed by relevant data to support those decisions as being a science based response to the pandemic.*
- *No government can place a demand on a people without incurring responsibility for the costs those demands will exact – free masks for all, testing, retesting, contact tracing and healthcare, internet access, etc.*
- *Reparations for Black people, who as a demographic are disproportionately*

*affected in this moment  
as a result of historic  
structural, institutional,  
and systemic racism*

**Testing, Public Health, and  
Patient Rights:**

- *To have free, full,  
accessible testing and  
retesting sites, both  
walk-up and drive-  
through, in East and  
West Oakland and at  
encampments  
throughout Oakland.*
- *Supply 500,000  
reusable face masks  
and 500,000 bottles of  
hand sanitizer to the  
African American  
community.*
- 
- *Give anyone of African  
or African American  
ancestry priority status  
for testing, the same as  
medical personnel, first  
responders, and  
essential workers.*
- *Black maternal health  
and birth workers'  
rights are prioritized to  
offer greater safety and  
better outcomes for  
Black mothers and  
babies.*
- *Better resource the  
already culturally*

competent and  
accessible clinics in  
East and West Oakland,  
with funds to enable  
them to buy tests and  
offer unlimited testing.

- Data is collected and  
that the race of all  
people impacted and  
the outcomes of their  
interaction with COVID  
19 such as  
hospitalization,  
ventilation, or death,  
are recorded and  
desegregated by zip  
code.
- Ventilation and other  
care for COVID 19 not  
be denied due to anti-  
Blackness.
- 
- Systemic racism be  
addressed, through  
both short and long  
term solutions, as a  
root cause of the  
disproportionate  
impact of COVID 19 on  
Black people.
- 
- Alameda County to  
scale up their overall  
testing capacity, as  
more testing sites are  
needed countywide,  
including in many  
hospitals such as  
Highland Hospital.

- *All people are entitled to free masks, testing, contact tracing, and care - especially people who are currently incarcerated, living in congregate living situations, and newly released and entering into a living situation with family and/or other people.*

- *Consistent best practices put in place, monitored, and enforced in all congregant living spaces that house vulnerable minority populations in danger of being infected by staff or one another, mass death due to lack of intentional care should be considered as a threat to life*

- *An end to all permits regarding potential pollutants in opportunity zones, closures for non-essential businesses that impact the environment, and concrete action on factors contributing to a toxic environment in Oakland.*

- *Free healthcare and access to testing,*

*including antibody testing, for all people.*

- *Testing and a policy concerning containment at transitional homes.*
- *Specific, relevant and community-led mental health resources for Black people to be made free, accessible and available to all, including grief support for people who have endured loss due to COVID 19 and beyond.*

**Education and Families:**

- *A moratorium on school closures and co-locations in Oakland.*
- *Universal passage of all students during this time due to lack of technology equity and redistribution of resources to ensure that all students have access to what they need.*
- *Measures to increase access to the internet including buses with wifi in neighborhoods to provide internet access and making internet a*



*public utility to ensure access for all.*

- *Shelter, housing protections, and healthcare for all students and their families.*
- 
- *No criminalization of youth in Oakland related to COVID 19 precautions such as wearing a mask, etc.*
- 
- *Investment in community schools once students return, with wraparound services such as health clinics, nurses, mental health services, food for students and families.*
- 
- *Divest in school police departments altogether and invest instead in health services, arts and culture programming, and student supports.*
- *Recognize the difficulty of distance learning for many students and create accessible resources. All students should have equal access.*

- *Hold a fair vote for the school board that is open to youth.*
- *Have a community oversight body that is chosen by community members to oversee a holistic transition back to school.*
- *Create meaningful programs to offer mental health support for youth in their respective community.*
- *Retention of and protections for Black Educators, including a right to return to jobs.*

**Support for Black Workers  
and Small Business Owners:**

- *Protection, security of employment rights and immediate paid sick days for all essential service workers, the majority of whom are Black people.*
- 
- *Personal protective equipment for all frontline workers and financial compensation for the risk that essential frontline workers are taking.*

- 
- *Mandatory free testing and retesting for all frontline workers and protection and paid time off for people who are self-isolating, parenting children or caring for others.*
- 
- *Overall support for the livelihood of Black people during this time.*
- 
- *Additional protection and support for rebuilding for Black businesses to ensure their survival, including a dedicated fund that is low-barrier and without application process.*
- 
- *Deferral of current payments and taxes for Black businesses and forgiveness of debts.*
- 
- *Requirement of the city to contract specifically with Black businesses in order to provide much-needed income.*
- 
- *Small businesses with fewer than 500 employees to receive no interest loans, reimbursements, and debt forgiveness.*

- *Right to return requirement to combat systemic racism for all employees.*
- *Community oversight body to ensure that ‘return to normal’ does not usher in a new era of even more violent capitalism and greater dispossession for Black people and businesses.*
- *Transparency around the cruise ship that docked in Oakland and the impacts on the workers, as well as free healthcare and testing for all workers who were exposed and their families. And any other major events that jeopardize the health and safety of workers, and communities—the right to know*
- *The ability to declare and receive compensation for a standby for health and safety.*
- *Right to return for workers who are laid off and right to stay for workers who do not want to leave their jobs.*

*And right to return to those who elect to protect their health in a pandemic.*

- *Protection for Black union leaders.*
- *Congress should create a supplementary direct assistance program for the self-employed and microbusinesses to help cover the cost of lost business, paid sick leave, individual health care costs, and fixed expenses.*
- *Self-employed Americans depend on critical e-commerce infrastructure, including financial services, shipping, and Internet connectivity. The federal government should ensure that these essential services remain fully operational, even as the public and private sectors take greater measures to contain the spread of the virus.*
- *PPES mandatory for all Frontline and essential workers. State/County/City should make them available to employers*

at cost. Currently they have to get them at retail this is an additional cost they can't afford.

- 
- Employers should receive subsidies as an incentive to protect their workers.
- 
- Unemployment Insurance rates should not increase because of COVID layoffs – rates should stay flat.
- 
- Workers compensation insurance should be covered for employers so that they do not take a hit when workers are out sick with COVID 19.
- Congress should expand Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) by increasing the income threshold (which is dependent on [a number of factors](#)), including younger and childless workers, and eliminating the marriage penalty. Lawmakers should also allow it to be calculated and administered on a quarterly basis instead of annually, which would better support individuals struggling to

manage short-term  
income volatility.

- The City of Oakland and the County of Alameda should help facilitate a local Small Business Relief fund. The fund will be Hosted by The California Endowment, the **Small Business Relief Fund** to provide immediate support to struggling self-employed and small business owners. TCE will partner with [Opportunity Fund](#), California's largest nonprofit microlender, to ensure critical capital remains available to these entities throughout this crisis.
- Six-month income replacement program conditioned upon full and continued employment of all restaurant staff, payment of rents to landlords, and ongoing payables to suppliers.
- Provide rent abatement for the duration of the administrative closure followed by percentage rent through 2020 for tenants. This must be coupled with mortgage forgiveness for landlords.

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- *Permit deferral of utility payments until reopening. Mandate that fees charged by third-party delivery platforms to our local restaurants be capped at a maximum 10% of the order.*
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- *Require business loss insurance to cover COVID-19 closures for hospitality businesses. The Governor must declare that the pandemic has caused physical loss and damage.*
- 
- *Suspend the payment of all insurance premiums (and, protect against a spike in premium related to COVID-19), utility payments, fines and provide cure periods to businesses for violations that do not pose an immediate hazard to the public and workers. All taxes, fees, premiums and fines must be suspended indefinitely until a thorough and thoughtful strategy can be implemented to address these payments.*
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- *Add flexibility to the definition of small business to allow small to mid-size restaurants to apply for aid.*
- *Establish an on-call pool of African American restaurants to provide food and beverages throughout all city departments for all events, functions, meetings, etc. This list is not exhaustive.*
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- *City/County should contract with Oakland based businesses for office supplies, cleaning supplies, paper, vehicles, etc. This list is not exhaustive.*
- 
- *Corporate accountability- no more subsidies, no more tax breaks! Corporations, real estate investors, developers must pay their fair share to fund public resources we rely on like public health, affordable housing, etc.*
- *Create a pool of funding to support the programming of CBOs, cultural institutions, direct service*

*nonprofits, and artists  
whose services are  
essential to the cultural  
preservation and  
artistic health of  
marginalized  
communities*

**Public Safety/Criminal  
Justice Reform:**

- *Decarceration for the safety of all people, including those inside prisons who are incarcerated and also for the workers inside jails.*
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- *Mandatory testing for all people inside jails to prevent community spread.*
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- *Re-entry resources for people who are released, including financial support, identification, food, housing, MediCal and funds for family members who house and care for newly released people.*
- *The removal of barriers resulting from a criminal record in accessing key essential human necessities.*

- *End the militarization of police.*
- *No national guard or military enforcement.*
- *No further criminalization, fines or arrest of Black people based on the COVID 19 mandates, including orders on masks, travel, etc. especially for unhoused people who are disproportionately targeted and impacted.*
- *All law enforcement must immediately cease profiling Black people, including health authority, housing authority, Oakland Police Department, sheriffs, BART and other transit police.*
- *End all requirements that people meet with parole officers, attend court, and other appointments. End all penalties related to this.*
- *Stop criminal enforcement and divert funds to invest in public health workers, education and*

*distribution of  
resources.*

- 
- *Cease police use of  
pandemic to conduct  
raids.*
- 
- *No expansion of the  
surveillance state.*
- *No increased  
surveillance in  
connection to slow  
streets project.*
- *No use of disaster  
funds by City to  
implement non  
COVID19 data to  
implement non  
essential programming  
connected to non  
essential  
development/gentrifica  
tion.*
- 

**Housing:**

- *Access to hotel rooms  
and vacant units for all  
unhoused residents  
who want them now.*
- *A humane, dignified,  
harm reduction  
approach to non-  
infected residents in  
housing or hotels, to  
allow for the same  
shelter-in-place  
guidance and guidelines  
as the general public.*
- *Provide safe and secure  
off or onsite storage for*

*all belongings of  
unhoused residents  
while sheltering in  
hotels or spaces.*

- *Access to jobs for hotel workers on a voluntary basis, to work in hotels providing housing and a right to return for all of the hotel's usual workers once business returns to normal.*
- *No over-policing of people who are unhoused and sheltering in hotels.*
- 
- *Resources for new mothers and babies in sheltering spaces, including diapers, wipes, and other essentials.*
- 
- *Debt forgiveness of back rent for renters who cannot pay rent or utilities during this time.*
- 
- *Personal protective equipment, training, testing, and paid sick leave for all people working in transitional housing and shelters. Protections for residents and workers.*
-

- *The return of buildings to the people once developers default, abandon it or leave it vacant.*
- 
- *The use of private hotels, closed schools, the Henry J. Kaiser Convention Center and the Coliseum to provide housing for those who need it.*
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- *Rent and mortgage moratorium and forgiveness across the board for the length of time necessary not to experience massive evictions.*
- *No evictions citywide.*
- *Stop all sweeps of houseless settlements and provide bathrooms, showers, hand washing stations, soap, drinking water, laundry vouchers, dumpsters, vermin abatement, and cleaning supplies.*

#### **Transportation:**

- *Protections for transit drivers including partitions between driver and passengers, space for physical distancing, paid sick*

*leave, and personal protective equipment.*

- *Disclosure of COVID 19 positive status for emergency services drivers who are transporting someone who has COVID 19.*
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- *AC Transit must implement safety guidelines for drivers and passengers.*
- 
- *Guaranteed free public transportation for frontline workers, including BART.*
- *Protection and funds for families of transportation workers and mandatory free testing and retesting for all transportation workers.*

**Other Resources:**

- *Stop all nonessential construction in marginalized high-risk communities.*
- *Transparency on the use of COVID disaster funding in Oakland.*

- *The City of Oakland's Department of Race and Equity must activate itself around the disparity of this moment and be given additional resources and staff to do so.*
- *City of Oakland shall Fully implement the ordinance establishing the Department of Race & Equity and increase staffing with an additional 7 FTE and requisite funding for the Department of Race and Equity.*
- *Prioritizing community projects- City and County staff time and resources should go to community projects first (affordable housing, small business support, etc) and private profit-driven projects and proposals last.*
- 
- *Food access- ensure all Black people have access to healthy and fresh food even when the market drives up food prices in the crisis.*
- *Diversify the boards and commissions that inform and govern city*



*decisions to ensure  
Black folks are part of  
decision making.*

- 
- *Ensure pedestrian  
safety and traffic  
calming measures in  
East and West Oakland  
neighborhoods so that  
Black children and  
youth can walk, play  
and bike outside  
without fear of injury or  
fatality. Without the  
isolation or  
criminalization through  
enforcement of  
communities, with  
impacted communities  
at the table to be part  
of any plans.*

#### **Long Term Demands:**

- *Reparations, which  
include: debt  
forgiveness, free  
education, free  
healthcare,  
enforcement of CA  
Slavery Era Insurance  
Registry & similar local  
slavery era disclosure  
ordinances including  
mandatory reporting,  
imposition of maximum  
fines & penalties,  
mandatory fund  
contribution from  
companies that have  
disclosed already, and  
distribution of funds to  
Black-led organizations  
serving Black  
populations. Possibly*

*even expand law to  
include profiteers from  
the housing/financial  
crisis and carceral  
systems.*

#### **Healthcare:**

- *Access to long term  
mental health care,  
funding of culturally  
competent free clinics,  
cooperatives,  
community  
programming centered  
around healing and  
facilitation of individual  
and group agency.*
- *Environment -  
cessation of  
environmentally  
compromising projects  
placed in black and  
brown communities,  
united and systematic  
planning, and  
immediate remediation  
of toxic neighborhoods.*

#### **Food Security:**

- *Create neighborhood  
food banks.*
- *Fund urban farms.*
- *Fund urban gardening.*
- *Utilize public land to  
grow food for*

*distribution.*

- *Plant edible plants in marginalized neighborhoods.*
- *Tax property owners for boarded ‘unavailable’ housing discouraging vacancies to raise prices or to divest neighborhoods for speculators.*

#### **Education:**

- *No more privatization of public schools serving Black communities.*
- *Fully functioning state of the art facilities with the appropriate technology.*
- *Culturally relevant curriculum.*
- *No sale of school land to private developers.*
- *Community oversight.*
- *Staff should reflect student body recruitment and incentivize to become educators.*

- 
- *Find out of school community based enrichment.*
- *College fund.*
- *Professional/craft/trade training.*
- *No police in schools.*

#### **Housing:**

- *Land trust for Black people in East and West Oakland. Utilizing eminent domain over vacant or underutilized properties to create a land trust for housing and economic development for Black people. This would be a form of reparations for many things but specifically for the use of eminent domain to displace Black residents from Oakland and ongoing gentrification etc.*
- *Toxic-free communities, immediate repudiation, right to be housed elsewhere during remediation with funds to relocate with right to return/right of first*

*refusal at the previous rate.*

- *Equitable neighborhood services including cleaning and access to parks.*

### **Criminal Justice Reform**

- *Alameda County must increase diversion programs that keep people out of cages and allow them to successfully thrive.*
- *End cash money bail.*
- 
- *No late night releases out of Santa Rita jail.*
- *An audit of the Santa Rita jail by an impartial party.*
- *Redistribute recidivism funds to culturally competent programming invested in education, job training, and service to those incarcerated.*
- *Remove all police from schools and redistribute those funds to student materials and needs.*

## **Public Safety**

- *The Oakland Police Commission should have the autonomy to function without interference from city leadership. The citizens of Oakland have agreed with the establishment of the concept of the Police Commission in order to create proper and impartial oversight for OPD.*
- *The city of Oakland must create and implement a response to mental health crisis, interpersonal violence and substance abuse that does not lead with law enforcement.*
- *The city of Oakland must redefine public safety to include jobs, housing, education, clean streets, mental health and access to food, water and clean air.*
- *The Oakland Police Department must be transparent and honest about incidents of Use of Force which still disproportionately*

*impact Black  
Oaklanders.*

### **Transportation**

- *Provide free transportation to unhoused/displaced persons with a means to access health care and other human needs.*
- *Provide free transportation to all low-income community members.*

### **Signatories**

*Black Leadership:*

Cat Brooks - Anti Police-Terror Project/Justice Teams Network

Carroll Fife - AACE Action

Tur-Ha Ak - Community READY Corps/Anti Police-Terror Project

Desley Brooks - Community Citizen

Harold Mayberry - Senior Pastor, First AME Church

Patrisse Cullors - Co-founder Black Lives Matter

BK Woodson - Faith in Action

Jackie Byers - Black Organizing Project

Saabir Lockett

Zach Norris - Ella Baker  
Center/Oakland Not For Sale

Mama Ayanna Davis - MXGM-  
Bay Area/Congo Angola  
Capoeira Institute/Healthy  
Black Families

Keith Brown -  
Teacher/President OEA

Derrick Muhammad - ILWU

Esther Goolsby

Ayodele Nzinga - BAMBD  
CDC/LBP, INC

Dr. Noha Aboelata - ROOTS  
Clinic

Candice Elder - East Oakland  
Collective

Allyssa Victory - Afrikan Black  
Coalition

Kampala Taiz-Rancifer, OEA -  
Black Women's Caucus

James Burch - Anti Police-  
Terror Project/St. James  
Infirmary

Jakada Imani

John Jones III

Pastor Anthony Jenkins

Jahmese Myres - Oakland  
Resident

Kev Choice -  
Musician/Educator/Activist/O  
akland Arts  
Commissioner/Recording  
Academy-SF Chapter  
Secretary

Lateefah Simon



Melina Abdullah - Black Lives  
Matter Los Angeles

Black Lives Matter California

Gerald Lenoir - Other &  
Belonging Institute

Sonia Lewis - Sacramento for  
Black Lives

Asantewaa Boykin - APTP  
Sacramento

Nana Gyamfi - Black Alliance  
for Just Immigration

Kweli Tutashinda - Owner of  
Imhotep Chiropractic/Board  
Member of Brotherhood of  
Elders Network

Beatrice X

Uncle Bobby X

Young Women's Freedom  
Center

Peace Out Loud

Tonya Love - California Dem  
Party AD18 Delegate/2021  
Alameda County Central  
Committee Member

Ethi Love - Oakland Resident

Ryan Nicole Austin

Eric Arnold - BAMBD  
CDC/CCED-Oakland

Marc Philpart - Alliance for  
Boys and Men of Color

Michael McAfee - PolicyLink  
President and CEO

Rasheed Shabazz - Habari  
Ummah

Wright Institute Black  
Students Union

## ***Allies***

George Galvis - Communities  
United for Restorative Youth  
Justice

Annie Banks - Anti Police-  
Terror Project/Justice Teams  
Network

Daniela Kantorova - Healers  
for Abolition/Psychologists  
for Social Responsibility/Anti  
Police-Terror Project

Dan Siegel - Attorney, Siegel  
& Yee

Tony Douangviseth - Youth  
Together

POOR Magazine

National Brown Berets

Reverend Deb Avery

WeCopWatch

Anand Subramanian -  
PolicyLink

Neighbors for Racial Justice  
(N4RJ)

Psychologists for Social  
Responsibility (PsySR)

**ABOUT**

**OUR TEAM**

**OUR VISION**

**CAMPAIGNS**

**HEALING JUSTICE TOOLKIT**

**APTP FIRST RESPONDERS GUIDE**

**ENDING CALIFORNIA POLICE SECRET  
PROTECTION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**LETTER TO PUBLIC OFFICIALS**