

CITY OF OAKLAND



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Date: October 20, 2020
To: Members of City Council and Members of the Public
From: Council President, Rebecca Kaplan
Re: Adopt A Resolution Declaring Stopping Gun Violence To Be The Top Law Enforcement Priority For The City Of Oakland Supporting The Decrease Of Illegal Guns And Gun Violence By Increasing Gun And Shell Casing Tracing And Improving Response To Notifications Of Shootings And Prioritizing Actions To Stop And Respond To Gun Crime And Request An Informational Report On Gun Response, Including Response Times To Notifications Of Shootings And Armed Robberies

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

In the Special Meeting with the Council, the Police Commission, the SSOC, and the CPAB, we discussed information from OPD that in the past two years, there has been an upward trend in gun violence, which has increased in recent months. In order to reverse this upward trend in gun violence, I am recommending and asking my colleagues to adopt a Resolution declaring, “Stopping Gun Violence to Be The Top Law Enforcement Priority” for the City Of Oakland.

The overwhelming majority of gun crime is committed with guns acquired illegally. Illegal gun dealing is putting all of our community at risk, and there is extensive concern that gun crimes are not receiving high enough priority response, including in a recent wave of armed robberies, during which hundreds of police officers were directed to remain downtown and not responding to any crimes, while gun crime took place elsewhere in our city.

In the past, Oakland, and other cities, have adopted policies designating certain things to be “low law enforcement priorities,” such as cannabis for example. Thus, it would also be helpful to be clear about what our high priorities are. In addition, in prior years, we have advocated for, and won, funding for steps like the technology to enable shell casing tracing and gun tracing, and gunshot detection technology to allow for a more immediate response. We are also asking for a report on such response, including what proportion of the time there is an immediate deployment to notification of shots fired; what numbers of shell casings and weapons are being successfully traced, and to identify further steps, from more effective gun buy-back programs, to shutting down sources of illegal and stolen guns, to helping stop gun violence from endangering our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rebecca Kaplan".

Rebecca Kaplan
Oakland City Council President

Oakland City Council Meeting
October 6, 2020
File #20-0670