



CITY OF OAKLAND

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COUNCILMEMBER LOREN TAYLOR
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AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Date: October 15, 2020
To: Oakland City Councilmembers and Members of the Public
From: Councilmember Loren Taylor
Subject: Prioritizing Gun Violence and Delivering a Coordinated Public Safety Response

Colleagues on the Committee and Members of the Public:

As you are acutely aware we are facing a troubling upward trend in gun violence across our city that puts us on track to see a loss of life greater than we have seen for each of the past 5 years in Oakland. This upward trend is not acceptable, and even as we acknowledge the way our global pandemic has contributed to these alarming numbers, we can't use that as an excuse for complacency.

I am grateful to City Council President Kaplan for acknowledging that something must change and that the current trend requires a bold response. I am sure that we all agree that Gun Violence and the subsequent loss of life is one of the highest public safety priorities in Oakland. Gun violence disproportionately affects District 5, 6, and 7 where 78% of all homicides occur. It is my focus on the loss of life across our city and especially in the East Oakland flatlands that gives me pause when we say that we are going to deprioritize all crimes that are not related to gun violence (~20% of homicides in Oakland this year were not gun related). Another question that this raises for me is the correlation of other crimes to more serious acts of gun violence and if no longer enforcing some of those highly correlated crimes might in fact lead to more incidences of gun violence. I think it is important to have these and other questions answered as we move forward and look forward to learning more about how prioritizing gun violence as the "highest priority" relates to potentially deprioritizing other types of violence and crime, and if there might be an adverse impact that we haven't yet contemplated.

In addition to establishing a council/city priority, there are other bold and transformational approaches and responses we should consider to address the rise in gun violence. We must no longer see police as a synonym for public safety and instead one of several tools that should be used to keep our communities safe. We should not only consider police, but also our Department of Violence Prevention, and our local community members who live in, are from, and are intimately connected to the neighborhoods most impacted by gun violence. I propose that we as a Council consider demonstrating how much we prioritize solutions to gun violence by endorsing the use of the Triangle Incident Response method which has proven successful under the leadership of our very own, Guillermo Cespedes, Chief of Oakland's Dept of Violence Prevention when he worked on similar issues in Los Angeles. As such, I request that we hear an

City Council Meeting
October 15, 2020



oral report from Chief Cespedes on the Triangle Incident Response model and how it can be applied here in Oakland as part of our discussion in Tuesday's Council Meeting on prioritizing our response to Gun Violence.

Thanks to you all for your continued partnership and commitment to addressing this significant health crisis of gun violence that is plaguing our communities during the global COVID-19 pandemic. I look forward to implementing meaningful solutions that will change the trajectory of gun violence and other violent crime in our city.

Respectfully submitted,

Sincerely,

Loren Taylor
Councilmember District 6