

CITY OF OAKLAND



CITY HALL • 1 FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612

REBECCA KAPLAN
Council President
atlarge@oaklandnet.com

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

Date: November 10, 2020
To: Members of City Council and Members of the Public
From: Council President, Rebecca Kaplan
Re: Adopt A Resolution In Support Of Enactment Requiring Residential Properties Being Considered For Tax Auction Be Treated Similarly To Other Surplus Lands Held By Local Agencies, And Therefore, A Written Notice Of Availability Would Be Sent To Affordable Housing Entities Regarding The Purchase Of Residential Housing Properties Subject To Tax Auction Prior To Public Tax Auctions.

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

I am urging your support to adopt a resolution supporting and requesting that the California State Legislature enact legislation that would support affordable housing by requiring that the affordable housing entities be given access to tax auction properties on the purchase of residential housing properties subject to tax auction.

Homelessness increased 47% in Oakland since 2017, in part because of the soaring housing prices and real estate speculation by large investment corporations. Wages for Black and brown populations remain stagnant as the city becomes more gentrified, increasing the risk of eviction and housing insecurity. California is home to 12% of the nation's population, but a disproportionate 22% of the nation's homeless populations. The majority of Californian renters pay more than 30% of their income toward rent, and nearly 1.5 million households are paying more than 50% of their income toward rent.

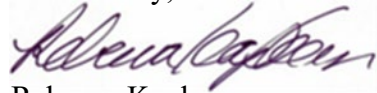
The California Surplus Lands Act is an important tool for getting lands deemed no longer necessary for an agency's use and making these lands available for affordable housing development. The Act provides that the local agency disposing of surplus land to send, prior to disposing of that property or participating in negotiations to dispose of that property with a prospective transferee, a written notice of availability to affordable housing entities.

What we ask is that residential properties, that would be disposed of at tax auction, should be treated in the same manner as Surplus Lands, then the rules governing Surplus Lands should apply and a written notice of availability should be sent to all interested parties, including the affordable housing entities. While the California Legislature's 2019 expansion of the Surplus Lands Act was an important step forward to promoting affordable housing, the absence of a

specific provision regarding the treatment of residential surplus lands prior to tax auction was an important omission.

Let us continue to work towards preventing further displacement of our Oakland communities by urging our California State legislature for support in reclaiming residential housing, requiring that affordable housing entities be given right of first refusal on the purchase of residential housing properties subject to tax auction. We must preserve the historically rich culture and diversity in Oakland and ensure Oakland and California remains accessible to all socio-economic levels.

In solidarity,



Rebecca Kaplan
Oakland City Council President