



CITY OF OAKLAND

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

COUNCILMEMBER LOREN TAYLOR
DISTRICT 6

(510) 238-7006
District6@Oaklandca.gov

AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Date: November 12, 2020
To: Oakland City Councilmembers, Staff and Members of the Public
From: Councilmember Loren Taylor
Subject: Local Business Empowerment Through Contracting (LBETC)

Colleagues on the Committee, Staff and Members of the Public:

As you are well aware, this period of financial crisis due to the global COVID-19 pandemic has forced Oakland businesses to close, has more than doubled our unemployment rates, and has left many Oaklanders facing housing, food and other financial insecurities. We must adopt policies that allow us to better support adversely impacted residents and speed up our city's economic recovery. One way to do so is by better using the power of our contracting and procurement spending to help local Oakland businesses grow and employ more Oaklanders.

Studies show that it is our local and small local businesses that are responsible for most of the jobs in urban cities like Oakland. In Oakland, our local and small local businesses have a higher percentage of underrepresented minorities as business owners and employees, so supporting local businesses also increases equitable outcomes for our underserved Black and indigenous people of color (BIPOC) communities. The evidence continues to show significant barriers that limit our local small businesses from accessing contracts and procurement opportunities with the City, despite the existence of Oakland's Local and Small Local Business Enterprise Program. By focusing on specific barriers that continue to prevent local and small local businesses from accessing contracting and supplier opportunities, we will increase local job opportunities, help stabilize local businesses, and improve racial equity with respect to financial and economic outcomes in the City of Oakland.

The legislation we are introducing has been drafted and developed with extensive stakeholder conversations that included meetings with various City of Oakland departments, key community stakeholders including BIPOC business owners, and members of the labor community. We look forward to receiving even more public comments and feedback leading up to Tuesday's Community & Economic Development (CED) Committee, and afterward leading up to either of the two Council meetings in December.

Special Community and Economic Development
Committee Meeting
November 17, 2020



I respectfully ask for your support of this important legislation for empowering local businesses and their employees in this critical time of much needed economic recovery.

Yours in partnership and in service of Oakland,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Loren Taylor".

Loren Taylor
Councilmember District 6