



CITY OF OAKLAND

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COUNCILMEMBER LOREN TAYLOR
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AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Date: January 7, 2021
To: Oakland City Councilmembers
From: Councilmember Loren Taylor
Subject: Urging The District Attorney To File Additional Charges In Oscar Grant Case

Colleagues on the City Council:

As we seek to reimagine public safety in our country, starting right here in the City of Oakland, we must acknowledge that public trust is a major problem to overcome. Many members of the public do not trust government institutions to hold its operators accountable, specifically law enforcement officers. It doesn't matter what legislation or policies we create, or how much we defund, or how many community programs our officers are involved in if we are not willing to hold law enforcement officers accountable for their egregious actions that result in unjustified loss of life, excessive force, and abuse of power.

After more than 12 years, we in Alameda County have the opportunity to restore trust and correct a denial of justice in the killing of Oscar Grant on January 1, 2009. While Officer Johannes Mehserle was ultimately found guilty of involuntary manslaughter, according to an independent investigation commissioned by BART, "Officer (Anthony) Pirone's overly aggressive and unreasonable actions and conduct in violation of policy and acceptable standards, contributed substantially to the escalation of the hostile and volatile atmosphere during the course of the incident," And that "Pirone was, in large part, responsible for setting the events in motion that created a chaotic and tense situation on the platform, setting the stage, even if inadvertent, for the shooting of Oscar Grant."

According to reports one of those officers present on the platform, Anthony Pirone, participated in the detainment of Mr. Grant and his companions, and both struck and kned Mr. Grant while detaining him, with the autopsy report revealing that Mr. Grant suffered trauma in his facial area and significant brain injury. Other reports acknowledged Officer Pirone directing a racial slur at Mr. Grant.

In October 2020, Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley announced that she was re-opening the Oscar Grant Case and exploring the opportunity to bring additional charges in the case. Since that announcement progress has been slow, according the family of Oscar Grant and the Oscar Grant Community Coalition, to bring charges that several prominent civil rights lawyers have publicly acknowledged solid justification for bringing forward.

Special City Council Meeting
January 12, 2021



Council colleagues, I kindly request you support for the attached resolution to urge swift action to help restore public trust, bring community healing, and ensure that a grieving family and community receives their day in court to receive long overdue justice. Thanks to Council President Nikki Fortunato Bas, and Councilmembers Carroll Fife and Treva Reid for joining as co-sponsors of this legislation.

I respectfully ask for your support of this important legislation.

Yours in Service,

Loren Taylor
Councilmember District 6