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Honorable Treva Reid
Councilmember, District 7

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Date: March 15, 2021
To: Mayor Libby Schaaf
Administrator Ed Reiskin
Re: District 7 Budget Priority Memorandum

Dear Mayor Schaaf and Administrator Reiskin,

Our constituents are looking for us to focus our budget efforts on the most pressing and distressing matters that impact our community, as we begin to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. There are endless priorities we would like to champion, yet the fiscal reality will call on Council to make tough decisions about which issues will need our attention first. To this end, I urge us all to focus on delivering critical and essential City services, prioritizing equity in funding allocation.

As our budget sustains the operation of government citywide, it is my duty as the District 7 Councilmember to advocate for my constituents, whom have been the hardest hit with a myriad of challenges, facing great disparities and inequities before and during the pandemic.

With that being said, I am offering my budget priorities that will deliver more equitable outcomes for East Oakland and the City as a whole:

- Strong Fiscal Stewardship
- Community Vitality
- Police Accountability and Public Safety

Through **Strong Fiscal Stewardship** we can now work to further regain and sustain our financial footing, because as you said, “The American Rescue Plan, is the Oakland Rescue Plan.” The \$192 million allocation from the federal government prevented the City from falling off the fiscal cliff. As we progress through this pandemic with heightened structural and long-term financial challenges, we must lead out in an equitable and prudent manner managing the budget, ensuring sufficient unrestricted revenue and emergency reserves to tackle the rising expenses.

We must prioritize keeping our employees working during these difficult times. The Administration and Council must assess reducing any areas of non-essential services and program grants. We must continue to work towards and invest in maintaining the critical and essential municipal services such as wildfire protection, library, youth, senior services, parks and recreation that our residents deserve.

One of the ongoing challenges we face is with overspending and underbudgeting in the Oakland Police Department (OPD). This historic fiscal cycle results in OPD exceeding its annual budget due to the fact that we provide public safety services through the use of overtime funding every fiscal year. This irresponsible fiscal practice by the City undermines transparency and confidence in our fiduciary responsibility.



It is also critically important that the City manages its unfunded liabilities such as the Police and Fire Retirement System (PFRS) and Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB). I applaud the City Council for adopting the OPEB Funding Policy that manages the tens of millions of dollars in PFRS and OPEB obligations. Managing our unfunded liabilities should remain a top priority, with the City working to reduce our liabilities, improve our bond ratings and long-term financial solvency. To that end, we must continue to improve our financial standing by investing in:

- An Oakland Police Department budget that meets our needs and reinvests in alternative public safety measures*
- Resume the OPEB contribution policy*
- Replenish our Vital Services Stabilization (Rainy-Day) Fund*
- Funding to develop an engineer's report and ballot measure to put before the voters to reauthorize, or an equivalence of, the Wildfire Prevention Assessment District
- Maintain District 7 project carry forward funding toward parks and recreational space

Community Vitality means safe, clean, environmentally healthy, walkable communities with sustained small businesses, more affordable housing in public transit corridors and throughout the City. Our housing and homeless crisis is deeply felt in District 7 which has many encampments throughout. We must remove barriers to housing stability and house our unhoused with permanent affordable housing as well as the preservation of an equitable allocation of existing funding. My budget priorities for community vitality are:

- Overtime funding for our Illegal Dumping crews in District 7*
- Illegal Dumping Cameras
- Traffic calming measures to reduce vehicle speeding to improved neighborhood safety*
- Ongoing funding for Safe Recreational Vehicle (RV) Parking
- Identify underutilized City owned land and funding sources to support the development of deeply affordable housing*
- Funding/Hiring the Deputy Director in the Department of Workforce and Employment Standards
- Support Service Opportunities for Seniors (SOS) Meals on Wheels programing for the delivery of 300,000 meals to underserved seniors
- Support small business through multilingual technical assistance to access financial resources
- Oakland Youth Advisory Commission (OYAC):
 - Stipends for our youth who serve on City Commissions and Boards (\$50,000)
 - Citywide Youth Strategic Plan
 - OYAC Staff (Full-time Employee and Permanent Part-time Employee)

Police Accountability and Public Safety must be grounded in the City of Oakland's Task Force to Reimagine Public Safety's goal to achieve 50% reduction in OPD's General Purpose Fund budget. We must make informed decisions on how to reallocate and reinvest millions in the challenging areas we face with resourced strategies and approaches — trauma-informed community policing and culturally competent training, with independent police oversight.

We must ensure proactive, extensive community involvement. Listening to our community and engaging them more in these impactful discussions, with transparency, accountability, and accessibility throughout the process. To that end my priorities to address the increased public safety concerns are:



- A fully funded Sideshow Enforcement Unit, or an equivalence through a multijurisdictional partnership*
- Additional public safety presence for violence prevention and intervention such a Ceasefire
- ShotSpotter above Highway 580 and expanded throughout District 7*
- Additional resources and policy directives to reduce the backlog of removing abandoned vehicles

I look forward to working with both of you, along with my Council colleagues, in a community driven process to pass a balanced budget that encompasses our shared values and goals for the City of Oakland.

I respectfully submit my budget priorities for your consideration.



Councilmember Treva Reid
District 7

CC: Margaret O'Brien, Interim Finance Director
Lisa Agustin, Budget Administrator

* Identified weighted budget priorities, per the Consolidated Fiscal Policy

