

CITY OF OAKLAND



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#LoveLife
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Date: October 5, 2021
To: Members of City Council and Members of the Public
From: Vice Mayor Rebecca Kaplan
Re: **Children's Environmental Health Month**

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

The City of Oakland is committed to ensuring that all children have clean drinking water, clean air, and are protected from environmental risks. According to the U.S Census Bureau data from 2019, approximately 21.6% of Oakland residents are under 19 years old¹. It is vital that we protect children in areas such as East and West Oakland, which have historically been harmed from pollution, and make changes to improve the air and water quality in those communities. That is why I have introduced this resolution to declare October 2021 as Children's Environmental Health (CEH) Month in the City of Oakland.

The aim of CEH Month is to raise awareness about the importance of clean air and water, safe food and consumer products, healthy environments, and stable climates to children's health and development. A statewide CEH Month was established on September 1st, 2021 by the California State Assembly. It provides a means to celebrate the progress of the children's environmental health movement and create an even stronger network of child health advocates. Additionally, it encourages individuals and organizations to raise awareness and understanding of children's environmental health issues, seek improved protections for all children, and to work on sustainability and environmental health. This can help support some of the efforts we have been working on locally, such as our work to provide zero-emission trucks and reduce diesel emissions on our communities, to expand access to healthy food, to abate lead and other hazards, and more.

It is important that we recognize the need for clean air and water, and the steps necessary to keep our children safe and healthy. I hope you will join me in supporting this resolution and declaring October 2021 as Children's Environmental Health Month in the City of Oakland.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, reading "Rebecca Kaplan", enclosed in a rectangular box.

Vice Mayor Rebecca Kaplan
Oakland City Councilmember At Large

¹ <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=Oakland%20city,%20California&tid=ACSDP1Y2019.DP05>