



AGENDA MEMO



TO: Oakland City Council and Members of the Public

FROM: At-Large Councilmember
Rowena Brown

SUBJECT: Resolution In Recognition Of May 2026 As
Affordable Housing Month And Recognizing The
Importance Of Deeply Affordable Housing For Creating
Healthy, Safe, And Economically Vibrant Communities

DATE: May 19, 2026

City Council Colleagues and Members of the Public,

Quality affordable homes are vital to healthy, safe, and sustainable communities. Rising housing costs displace longtime residents, drive overcrowding, and fuel homelessness — threatening our region's racial diversity, economic opportunity, and shared history.

The federal administration's efforts to reduce or completely eliminate affordable housing funding make local and regional advocacy more critical than ever. Millions of dollars in federal housing grants have already been canceled, and proposed HUD budgets threaten housing vouchers, affordable development projects, and homelessness assistance programs that our communities depend on.

Despite these challenges, Oakland continues to lead in affordable housing development. The city is exceeding its California Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) targets and will continue to support all Oaklanders regardless of housing status. Long delayed, Measure U funds are finally reaching crucial projects, enabling construction to begin and reaffirming Oakland's commitment to housing its most vulnerable residents.

With the newly created Office of Homelessness Solutions and its Homelessness Strategic Action Plan, Housing & Community Development's Anti-Displacement Strategic Action Plan, and the Mayor's 5-Point Plan, the alignment of intentions and resources is crucial to turn our commitment into action.

East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO) has organized around Affordable Housing Month for decades, bringing together a coalition dedicated to producing, preserving, and protecting affordable housing. I am proud to join EBHO and our local partners to continue the tradition and recognize May 2026 as Affordable Housing Month in Oakland.

Sincerely,

Rowena Brown
City of Oakland, Councilmember At-Large