

City of Oakland Community Input Meeting Notes
Police Chief Recruitment Input Session—Citywide Meeting, City Hall
Thursday, November 7, 2013

The following is a summary of the comments from the Citywide Meeting for the Police Chief Recruitment held on Thursday, November 7th at City Hall. The summary is compiled from staff notes. It is not a verbatim account of all discussions that occurred at the public meeting.

Question#1: What are the most important issues/priorities that you would like the new Police Chief to address?

- Public trust
- Go to community meetings and be able to handle angry residents
- Someone with charisma
- Accountability of the Department to the public with consequences for their actions
- Identify the position not the person

Question #2: What experience and track record should the new Police Chief have?

- Experience solving crimes
- Resources for investigations
- New innovative ideas that have worked in previous cities
- Community policing
- Ability to operate effectively in a political environment
- Experience working with immigrant communities
- Experience working with diversity
- Experience working with gangs
- Able to handle the free speech/civil disobedience
- Battling crime with limited resources
- Experience with human trafficking
- Experience handling a Department (protecting officers and staff, getting the job done, morale building, lowering staff attrition)

Question #3: What skills and characteristics are the most critical for a new Police Chief to succeed in Oakland?

- Would like to see the Chief or department/division heads speak on happenings rather than the public information officer.
- Vulnerability (show emotion in statements rather than appearing stoic or detached)
- Comfortable speaking on camera

- Able to deal with mandates (esp. Federal Mandates)
- Understanding of the nature of organized crime and how intimidation affects the community

Question #4: Is there anything else you would like the City to consider when selecting the new Police Chief?

- Distance themselves from ICE raids
- Ease immigrants' concerns about speaking with OPD or reporting crime
- From Oakland would be a plus
- Show the community OPD cares
- Skilled in day to day management of Department
- Understand the cultural environment of Oakland
- Consider what will work in Oakland

Question #5: What are you willing to do or contribute to help the new Police Chief?

Question not addressed in forum.