

City of Oakland Community Input Meeting Notes
Police Chief Recruitment Input Session—Citywide Meeting, Castlemont High School, Monday, October 28, 2013

The following is a summary of the comments from the Citywide Meeting for the Police Chief Recruitment held on Thursday, October 24th at the Castlemont High School. 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?

- Concern over robberies, home invasions (new trend)
- Concern over loitering, want neighborhood to feel safe to walk around (convenience stores)
- Lack of unity between the police department and community
- Police morality—(OPD behavior); Police Chief needs to put emphasis on corruption, moral behavior, and consequences for officers.
- Safe neighborhoods in all parts of Oakland
- Keep in mind different neighborhoods/parts of town have different priorities
- Issues of speeding down MacArthur, doing donuts, engaging in sideshow behavior. Running red lights/stop signs.
- Illegal dumping
- Quality of life issues are important to make this a livable community
- Concern over why there are a lot of police officers at crime scenes standing around

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

- Chief needs a plan – important
- Need someone who knows how to work with diversity
- Experience setting the tone and knowing how to manage it
- Needs to understand community policing. Help neighborhood groups get organized— from there, OPD can focus on community priorities.
- Able to do constitutional policing in a highly politically charged environment
- Experience holding officers accountable
- One who knows how to get things done and does what he/she says they are going to do

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

- Hope that new chief is their own person and runs their own department
- Prefer someone from Oakland, but if they do not live in Oakland, they should have roots here (family nearby)
- Need to practice what they preach
- Inclusive Chief
- Honesty and morality
- Able to stand up to the elected officials, and to the Department staff
- Implement culture of respect to community
- Surround themselves with staff with strong skill sets
- Respect for his/her staff—caring for staff in the Department
- Wants a chief to stay for the long term
- Someone who supports restorative justice
- Good communication skills with community and within the City. Keep the community informed.

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

- Ensure that Department members see themselves as public servants
- Succession planning within Department—plan for retirements and help slow attrition
- Understand Oakland has been deeply impacted by the crack/drug epidemic, and be able to implement programs that address those specific challenges.
- Focus on retaining officers
- Raise standards and commitment to the public.
- Let the Chief be the Chief

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

Question not addressed in forum.