FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Oakland passes two-year budget to build police force, create jobs, protect family services

Oakland, CA – The City Council approved a budget Thursday night that invests strongly in public safety, job creation and family services while setting aside money to help the City negotiate fair contracts with employees.

The “all-in” budget funds nearly all of the public safety priorities proposed by Mayor Jean Quan in April, including:

- Ongoing funding to graduate two police academies each year, which will grow the department to 700 officers over two years and secure resources to continue building the force after that,
- Continuing the City’s contract with CHP, which bolsters neighborhood patrols up to four nights a week while the new officers are recruited and trained, and
- Hiring five additional dispatchers to strengthen the City’s 911 call center.

“I am deeply proud of Oakland today,” Quan said. “Our residents, our employees, our stakeholders and our elected leaders all came together to work for our shared highest priority: public safety.”

Quan added, “This is the strongest law enforcement budget we’ve had in many years, but safety isn’t just a matter of policing: we also have to create opportunity for our residents. So I’m very happy that we’re protecting our economic development staff, affordable housing staff and Head Start programs against state and federal cuts.”

The final budget, which had been authored by Councilmembers Lynette Gibson McElhaney, Dan Kalb and Rebecca Kaplan and included minor changes proposed by Councilmember Libby Schaaf, supported the vast majority of what Quan proposed in April.

Revenue projections have grown since April, and the Council directed some of those new funds to hire additional civilian police staff and pothole patch crews, boost illegal dumping and graffiti clean-up services, and support job centers in both West Oakland and East Oakland.

The final budget also included a $6 million set-side to allow City negotiators to discuss employee contribution issues at the negotiating table.

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