



City of
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California

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Oaklanders Show Support for a Public Safety Measure that Reduces Gun Violence, Supports At-Risk Youth

The City of Oakland and Oakland community groups announce an effort to renew a parking and parcel tax revenue stream to reduce violent crime and provide support for at-risk youth.

Oakland, CA – The City of Oakland announced efforts to renew a special tax for public safety (known as Measure Y) in consultation with community organizations like Oakland Community Organizations (OCO) and Make Oakland Better Now (MOBN). This renewal would extend funding but change the policy framework of the measure to focus on proven crime reduction strategies.

Voter research commissioned by the City (with the input of community groups) indicates that voters support the idea of a renewal of the parcel tax with no increase in rate. Voters also indicated supported for the key elements of this targeted measure: reduction of gun violence and support for at-risk youth. See more on the poll results at <http://www2.oaklandnet.com/w/OAK046498>.

Pastor Billy Dixon, OCO Board member, stated “Community safety and gun violence reduction are critical concerns for OCO members. We are working closely with the City and other community groups to develop a measure that is focused on crime reduction strategies that will make a difference over the next 10 years. We believe this measure must ensure a balanced approach between proven violence reduction strategies and law enforcement.”

City Administrator Fred Blackwell stated “It is wonderful working in partnership with the community to craft this critical policy. As Oaklanders, we all want to feel safe in our community and we are building on important lessons from what we have done in the past to improve our public safety strategies. We will continue our partnership with our community by improving the citizen oversight functions of the measure to ensure accountability and performance.”

Bruce Nye of Make Oakland Better Now (MOBN) said, “We all know we need more police; we are working with the City to make sure this measure will help us get there. We also believe it should draw on what we’ve learned in past years about anti-violence programs and help us focus our program funding in the areas that get results.”

To place a measure on the November 2014 ballot, the Oakland City Council must approve a resolution by late July calling for an election. The current effort will develop a policy framework in the next month or so and share the framework broadly with Oakland residents. Elements of the ballot measure will be discussed at the Public Safety Committee in June and then by the full City Council in July.

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