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City Administrator's Office

MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR &
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Deanna J. Santana

SUBJECT: Retirement of Andrea Youngdahl

DATE: December 2, 2011

INFORMATION

It is with mixed emotions that I am informing you that Andrea Youngdahl, Director of the Department of Human Services, has notified me of her intent to retire on February 4th. Andrea has accepted a post-retirement position with Alameda County as the Director of the County's Interagency Children's Policy Council. Her new position will begin the week of February 20th. While I celebrate Andrea's new journey, her presence and many contributions to the City will be deeply missed.

Andrea has directed the Department of Human Services (DHS) for over 11 years. During the course of her leadership, DHS has developed into a dynamic, multi-faceted locus for the City's contributions to the broader human services landscape. Through Andrea's cultivation and support of a strong team of division managers and staff, DHS has more than doubled its budget and taken on a variety of challenging opportunities, including the implementation of Measure Y Violence Prevention Services, the creation of an action plan to end homelessness, and strategic investments in early childhood, children and youth, and aging and adult services.

It is worth noting that a number of DHS programs and initiatives have received local, statewide and national recognition for their innovation and exemplary practices. Examples include efforts to address the digital divide, re-entry support and employment, comprehensive after school, street outreach violence prevention, leveraged funding to create permanent supportive housing, early literacy, and integrated health and mental health prevention in early childhood centers.

Andrea's commitment to social change and equity is evidenced throughout her work. Her focus on collaboration, partnerships and expanding opportunities for Oakland's residents has been a constant thread during her tenure. Andrea has brought integrity, thoughtfulness and compassion to her work. The fruits of her labors are evidenced by a well-managed department, which has continued to be efficient and effective despite budgetary challenges and at the many multi-system and community tables where DHS represents the City.

As an integral, long-standing member of my Senior Management Team, Andrea's presence will be missed. However, I am certain that her work will continue. She has laid a strong foundation in

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DHS, and I know Andrea will remain connected to the important work we are doing in the City of Oakland.

Please join me in appreciation to Andrea for her many contributions, and in wishing her well in the next phase of her life. Over the next two weeks, I will appoint an Interim Director.

Respectfully submitted,



DEANNA J. SANTANA
City Administrator