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City of Oakland Passes \$2.7 Billion Budget

Two-Year Budget Makes Major Investments in Addressing Homeless Crisis, Improving Infrastructure, and Preserving and Acquiring Affordable Housing

Oakland, CA – On Thursday night the Oakland City Council passed a \$2.7 billion two-year budget for fiscal years 2017-2019. This budget includes major investments in supportive services for the City’s unsheltered residents, infrastructure improvements, and affordable housing, while closing an estimated \$32.5 million funding gap.

“A City budget reflects a community’s core priorities and shared values,” **Council President Larry Reid** said. “This budget makes strategic investments where our residents most need them. We are trying to keep our communities healthy and whole in the face of crises around homicides, homelessness and blight.”

Key highlights of the final adopted budget include:

Homeless Services

- Provides resources for a second Navigation Center similar to the Henry Robinson Center.
- Provides additional resources for on-site health and hygiene services, and to help unsheltered residents transition into permanent housing.

Affordable Housing

- \$55 million in Measure KK funds to preserve and acquire affordable housing.
- Funds the Healthy Housing Code Enforcement Proactive Rental Inspection program system to reduce childhood lead poisoning and asthma in most impacted neighborhoods.

Sustainable Infrastructure

- Triples the funding applied to street repaving and repair through bond and others funds, and doubles bicycle, pedestrian, and other complete street investments.

Quality of Life

- Adds crews and equipment to address illegal dumping.
- Restores a Tree Crew to address street trees as an element of traffic safety.

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Media Contact:

Karen Boyd
(510) 238-6365
kboyd@oaklandnet.com

Sean Maher
(510) 238-6358
smaher@oaklandnet.com

Workforce and Jobs

- Extends support services and protections for vulnerable day laborer population for another two years.
- Provides \$100,000 in funds for Youth Workforce Intervention.

Arts and Culture

- Provides \$230,000 in cultural arts grants and staff support for the revived Arts & Culture Commission.

Equity

- Adds the new positions required to support the new Police Commission approved by voters last November.

Safety

- Nearly triples the number of Fire Prevention Inspectors from 8 to 20 by the end of two years.
- Adds 20 additional building inspector and administrative support positions to enhance the effectiveness of code enforcement activities.
- Establishes a Department of Violence Prevention and adds a Director and Deputy Director Positions to lead this new Department.
- Funds an additional 8 crossing guard positions.

Per council policy, all *one-time* revenue expenditures for *ongoing* expenses were removed from the adopted budget.

"This budget is a realistic approach that tackles costs head on and invests in the future and overall quality of life for Oaklanders," **Mayor Libby Schaaf** said. "We are dedicating \$120 million to improve our city's infrastructure, thanks in large part to Measure KK, and we are partnering with Alameda County to make an unprecedented investment of \$185 million to tackle homelessness in the immediate and long term. This includes expanding on-site health and hygiene services, opening a second navigation center, and building more affordable housing. I am proud to continue working together with the City Council and diverse members of the community to guide Oakland forward in the right direction."

"A healthy future encompasses the big issues like housing affordability, anti-displacement protections and public safety that affect our entire city and our economic vitality as well as ongoing basic responsibilities like upgrading our parks and filling potholes in our neighborhoods," **Council President Pro Tem Abel Guillén** said.

"In this budget, we put our money where our heart is by prioritizing the needs of our most vulnerable citizens. Homelessness is an epidemic that has rippling effects on our entire city and we must do all that we can to alleviate the acute pain and suffering of our most vulnerable citizens while building a healthy and prosperous future for all of Oakland" **Vice Mayor Annie Campbell Washington** said. "Oakland resident's voices are represented in this budget. Residents identified homelessness, affordable housing, illegal dumping, and public safety as their highest priorities – the budget adopted by the City Council tonight mirrors these priorities."

“This budget reflects the Council’s commitment to honor Oaklanders’ votes for Measures HH, LL, KK and Z by funding the police oversight commission, setting aside funds for the sugar-sweetened beverage advisory board, advancing infrastructure and affordable housing projects and dedicating staff to improve coordination and outcomes of our violence prevention efforts,” **Councilmember Lynette Gibson McElhaney** said.

"Our adopted budget increases the City's commitment to fighting displacement of our renters, reducing trash on our streets, and minimizing wildfire risk in the hills," **Councilmember Dan Kalb** said. "We also upped our commitment to affordable housing and addressing the challenging homeless crisis. We have more to do, but this keeps us moving in the right direction."

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