



CITY OF OAKLAND

From the office of

Lynette Gibson McElhaney

PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

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Date: Monday, March 16, 2015

To: Mayor Libby Schaaf
City Administrator John Flores
Asst. City Administrator Donna Hom

Cc:

From: Lynette Gibson McElhaney, Council President

Re: 2015-17 Budget Priorities

Dear Team Oakland:

Thank you for your diligent work to help the Council adopt a fiscally sound 2015-17 budget. We all recognize the difficult choices that lay before us and we appreciate the sensitivity and care you all take to provide timely and accurate information. Our work will be extremely demanding in the upcoming weeks and I wanted to extend my appreciation in advance.

My guiding principal is a “City that works for all.” This expresses my deep commitment to viewing the budget and our programmatic priorities through an equity lens – a sentiment also expressed by the majority of the Councilmembers during the March 2 Budget Workshop. As we progress through this deliberative process, it is my hope that we all embrace this as a guiding principal to establish budget priorities. Oakland has suffered (and survived) an economic downturn that resulted in a tattered budget of necessities as opposed to a purposeful investment in key priorities that reflect the highest values of our residents. Now, as our economy recovers, we are positioned to be more reflective, intentional and focused to align our resources with our long-range plan to assure a more just, safe and prosperous city.

My focus remains consistent with the priorities I set forth in my campaign: 1) Jobs & Economic Development; 2) Improved Public Safety; 3) Improved Quality of Life and Educational Opportunities and 4) Responsive & Trustworthy Government.

Pursuant to the Consolidated Fiscal Policies, I am pleased to submit for consideration the following budgetary priorities aligned within my governance focus areas. I look forward to receiving from the Administration the cost analysis for these priorities.

► **Jobs & Economic Development**

1. **Increase GPF investment in workforce development** [\$500,000]

At a special hearing in March 2014, the Administration acknowledged that the City of Oakland did not provide any leverage (or additional investment) in the provision of workforce development strategies to serve youth and adults who are unemployed, underemployed and residents on probation and parole.

Other jurisdictions provide significant General Purpose Fund (GPF) support for workforce investment efforts. Providers have alleged that the City of Oakland not only fails to provide additional investment to leverage grant funds but that the City takes critical funding from the system to provide for overhead. In addition to the



funding I request an analysis of the effectiveness of the City maintaining the WIB as compared with the prior model of monitoring the function through a community-based organization or being consolidated with the County of Alameda.

I am requesting that the Administration analyze the need and capacity for increased workforce investment. Most critically is the threatened loss of the Private Industry Council - the system's largest and longest tenured provider of workforce support. We should also examine the scope, impact and effectiveness of the Summer Youth Employment Program. I have not been pleased with the level of engagement, opportunities or outreach to District 3 youth.

➤ **Public Safety**

Public Safety remains the most significant concern for Oakland's residents, workers and businesses. Yet, we know that we need comprehensive solutions to provide both immediate relief from violence and long-term deterrence of crime, violence and exploitation throughout the city. One of the most disturbing trends in Oakland is the rise of human trafficking. The City of Oakland has one of the highest rates of sexual exploitation of children through a thriving underage sex market, and is the epicenter of a trafficking triangle between San Francisco & Contra Costa counties. The majority of CSEC victims are US citizens, 13 to 15 years old, with some as young as 11. From 2006 to 2013 reported more than 2000 sex trafficking cases leading to the rescue of approximately 200 youth. The lack of housing options, however, remains a significant challenge to those seeking to rescue CSEC victims. Not only does this represent a challenge for the youth being exploited but also creates crime havens that compromise the safety and well-being of all who live in the high traffic corridors (e.g. Downtown, West Oakland and the San Antonio District portion of International Boulevard where prostitution of these youth abound).

Similarly, the City of Oakland has made significant strides at curbing violence by re-tooling our policing strategies to integrate the Ceasefire philosophy. The targeted intervention strategies of Ceasefire result in saved lives and saved public dollars. The City of Oakland must make significant investments in crime prevention and intervention. Data reveals that funds invested in prevention and intervention produces significant savings for the public. The priorities below will help the City curb (with the goal of eliminating) both gun-related homicides as well as the sexual exploitation of our children

2. Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Housing Fund [\$580,000]

Despite significant investment in law enforcement strategies by the City of Oakland and the District Attorney Nancy O'Malley, Oakland has one of the state's largest number of sexually exploited minors. Over the past two years, the City's CSEC Task Force along with key staff from OPD and the Administration have made strides to increase awareness of the crisis and to provide young people with information about how to leave their exploiters. The City of Oakland and the County do not yet have adequate housing to support youth escaping from bondage.

Funds requested will be used to double the number of transitional beds provided in the City of Oakland and leverage other grant and foundation support. The most critical need is to purchase the Dream Catcher facility to be leased to the non-profit so that we don't lose this critical resource.



3. Ceasefire Support Funding [\$250,000]

Additional funding to provide adequate supports to incentivize participation. Sustained safety in Oakland requires investment in creating solid pathways into the mainstream economy.

These funds will be used to establish a fund to assist Ceasefire fellows with critical life needs (e.g. job training, transit, education, child custody/care etc.) which is critical to supporting fellows in making the successful transition into the mainstream. A seed fund will allow the City to attract matching funds from foundations, the county and individual donors.

4. Restoration of the Metro Team and Area 1 CID consistent with the Wasserman Recommendations [Needs Administrative Analysis]

Too often protests downtown divert critical policing from Area 1 (District 3) neighborhoods. This is too disruptive to the OPD efforts to create stable and safe neighborhoods. The Metro Area (Uptown, Downtown, Jack London) with its concentration of businesses, entertainment venues and restaurants is also attracts a significant number of local and regional protests. This requires a dedicated team to address the concerns of those who work, recreate and live in this commercial corridor without diverting critical needs from the neighborhoods. The Metro Team will report to the Area 1 commander and have specialized training on crowd control, protests and downtown security.

5. Hire additional code enforcement officers and support analysts [5 officers, one for each area; Needs Administrative Analysis]

The Wasserman/Bratton assessment report suggests the need to decentralize law enforcement. Many of the systemic crime issues are hidden within or encouraged by the unabated presence of vacant, abandoned, unsafe or unsecured structures. Environmental crimes go unpunished and the city is deprived of its revenue. Additional code enforcement officers with adequate support staff will not only improve the quality of life in Oakland, it will also increase revenues to the city through the timely levy and collection of fines.

6. Establish a City-County Re-entry Job Corps [\$1 Million]

With coordination and partnership with Alameda County develop a Job Corps program to provide large numbers of County clients (people on probation or receiving General Assistance, etc.) with employment training, educational assistance, transitional jobs, and support with gaining permanent employment. and have specialized training on crowd control, protests and downtown security.

The County/City Job Corps will directly employ a large number of clients annually through a designated employment program to be administered either by a third-party entity with large scale employment experience, or by a unit within government. Through the Job Corps formally incarcerated individuals or General Assistance recipients seeking employment will be immediately employed in Transitional Jobs.



The funding provided by the City of Oakland will leverage additional funding from the County, foundations and other funders and provide the opportunity for the program to generate its own revenue via social enterprise.

► **Responsive local government**

7. Re-establish a Human Rights & Equity Commission [Needs analysis]

The City will re-establish this Commission to give ensure the rights of every resident in the City to equal economic, political and educational opportunity, to equal accommodations in all business establishments in the City and to equal service and protection by public agencies; to eliminate prejudice and discrimination because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, place of birth, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, domestic partner status, marital status, disability or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, HIV status, weight, height, or association with members of such classes; to inform the residents of the City of Oakland's developments in human relations; to provide expert advice and assistance to the officers, agencies, boards, departments, and employees of the City and County in undertaking ameliorative practices to keep peace and good order; and to officially encourage private persons and groups to promote and provide equal opportunity for and good will toward all people.

This commission may replace or consolidate other commissions that are addressing various subcategories covered herein and may serve as the civilian advisory board to the proposed Department of Race and Equity should the council move to establish it.

A few additional thoughts on revenue projections:

- **Fee & Fine collection:** Provide an analysis on slow recovery on fee revenue especially in Public Works, Fire and Planning & Building.
- **Nexus Fee Study:** Provide an analysis of fees generated in nearby cities that may be considered by Oakland within the budget period.
- **Army Base Revenues:** Provide information about proposed revenues from lease payments and sells concerning the OAB project
- **Public Safety Measure 2016:** Public polls indicate that residents are willing to make additional investments in Public Safety. I'd like to explore a measure that would replace Measure Z with a \$1/day initiative that would double the investments in both OPD and Violence Prevention services.

We look forward to working with you throughout our continued discussions. Thank you for your efforts and for working with us to make Oakland a more just, safe and sustainable city.

On behalf of the residents of District 3,
Lynette, Brigitte, Casey & Zac

