

CITY OF OAKLAND



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Police Commission

June 5, 2019

Oakland City Council

Via e-mail: Council President Rebecca Kaplan, President Pro Tempore Dan Kalb, Vice Mayor Larry Reid, Nikki Fortunato Bas, Noel Gallo, Lynette Gibson McElhaney, Loren Taylor, Sheng Thao

Honorable Council President Kaplan and Members of the Oakland City Council,

On Thursday, May 23, the Oakland Police Commission heard a presentation by Jacob Savage describing an innovative program under way in Eugene, Oregon. The program CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets) seeks to remedy the skill mismatch and wasted expense when police officers and EMS personnel respond to non-emergency mental health and health related crisis calls. Since implementing the program in 2014, Eugene has seen both a cost savings and improved outcomes for clients.

The program was brought to the Commission's attention by Anne Janks of the Coalition for Police Accountability.

After hearing Mr. Savage's presentation and reading the accompanying materials, the members of the Police Commission voted unanimously to support efforts within the City Council to fund exploration of whether Oakland can and should implement a similar program.

We look forward to a partnership with the City Council as we consider this community engaged, creative approach to serve the people of Oakland.

Sincerely,

Regina Jackson

Regina Jackson
Chair, Oakland Police Commission