Urge Your Councilmember to Support Police Staffing Compromise

Dear Oaklanders,

This Thursday, the Oakland City Council could pass the city’s $3.8 billion budget that will dictate your public services — including public safety — for the next two years.

The budget includes funding for bold new strategies to reimagine public safety and prevent violence in our communities. At the same time, we also need to ensure a basic level of funding for our police department to provide critical public safety services such as responding to urgent 911 calls.

Last week, I wrote to you about Council President Bas and her budget
team of Councilmembers Kalb, Gallo and Fife’s proposal to significantly cut the police budget, decimating 911 response and reducing officer staffing levels significantly.

But yesterday, Councilmember Loren Taylor (D6 Central East Oakland) proposed a way to mitigate these cuts without reducing any of the new laudable investments proposed by the Council President’s budget. Read it here.

He is asking the Council to:

- Accelerate the new police officer training academies by holding 3, rather than just 2, academies in this upcoming year, and then

- Prioritize any new revenues, which typically come in during the year, to fund a 5th police academy in the following year.

This plan can keep the Oakland Police Department from falling below the mere 717 officers we have today and reduce the current excessive levels of expensive and unsafe overtime work.

This proposal does not reduce a single one of the new proposed budget investments, including those from the Reimagining Public Safety process. All Councilmember Taylor is asking his Council colleagues to do is to prioritize any new revenues to preserve existing levels of police services at a time when gun violence in Oakland has roughly doubled.

In 2018-19, when we were nationally recognized for cutting gun violence in half with our community-led Ceasefire strategy, we had 747 officers – 30 more than we have today.

It is CRITICAL you spread the word and urge all Oaklanders to contact their representatives before the Council Meeting this Thursday, June 24th at 10:30am!

Please email council@oaklandca.gov and urge the City Council to vote for Councilmember Taylor’s compromise proposal to maintain adequate police staffing.
At a time when so many are suffering from the devastating impacts of gun violence, we must preserve what has worked in the past, while also investing in new prevention and response models. Passing Councilmember Taylor’s proposal will allow us to do both.

With Oakland-love,
Libby

Please pass along this message to neighbors and friends!
To observe the Council meeting or Speak during Public Comment at the beginning of the meeting, click on this link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88555241060 at 10:30am on 6/24 or call 888 788 0099 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0276 (Toll Free) Webinar ID: 885 5524 1060.

You may also phone Oakland City Councilmembers as follows:

Dan Kalb (District 1 North Oakland): 510-238-7001
Nikki Fortunato Bas (District 2 Crocker/Chinatown): 510-238-7002
Carroll Fife (District 3 West Oakland/Adams Pt): 510-238-7003
Sheng Thao (District 4 Montclair/Laurel): 510-238-7004
Noel Gallo (District 5 Fruitvale/Glenview): 510-238-7005
Loren Taylor (District 6 Central East Oakland): 510-238-7006
Treva Reid (District 7 East Oakland): 510-238-7007
Rebecca Kaplan (At-Large Citywide): 510-238-7008
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