



Media Contact:

Kiana Gums
Communications Director
kgums@oaklandca.gov
(510) 930-8019

From the Office of Councilmember Loren Taylor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***COUNCILMEMBER LOREN TAYLOR'S STATEMENT ON
THE MURDER OF DIRK TILLOTSON***

Oakland, CA – “Last Friday, our city lost one of its giants. A loving husband, neighbor, friend and most notably a fierce activist for education equity, Dirk Tillotson was a pillar of our community. As so many of us mourn his tragic death, I ask that we all uplift his family and loved ones in our thoughts and prayers. For those who can provide financial support, please also consider donating to his family’s [GoFundMe](#) to assist with funeral and other expenses.

As Dirk’s Councilmember, I feel a deep responsibility to get to the bottom of what happened and ensure whoever was involved is held accountable. While I have supported and worked to secure funding for both violence prevention measures (ceasefire and MACRO) as well as response (security cameras in commercial corridors and police academies), I recognize that that as a city we must do so much more.

With Dirk’s death marking Oakland’s 105th homicide, it is essential that we do not become desensitized to the tragedy of death. Beyond their collective indication that our city is in a state of emergency, with each live lost we are also losing the wisdom, beauty, and talent of a community member.

Recognizing the inequity of our school system, Dirk advocated on behalf of low-income Black and Brown students in Oakland. A solution-oriented leader, he founded the non-profit [Great School Choices](#), where he fought to level the educational playing field by setting our most vulnerable students up for a better future.

To honor his legacy, let us embrace Dirk’s same level of tenacity and dedication to fight for a better community. Let us ensure we are all doing our best to keep each other safe and whole.

As previously shared, it is going to take all of us to solve our city’s public safety issues. I remain confident that together, we in Oakland can turn this current crisis around.”

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