



October 31, 2022

To those in authority,

The leaders of Faith in Action East Bay (FIAEB) and Block By Block Organizing Network (BBBON) are demanding our elected and appointed city officials take immediate action to monitor continuously and permanently remove the illegal dumping, abandoned vehicles, and the encampment surrounding the homes of families living on 45th Avenue and Bond Street.

On September 19, 2022, our organizations held a virtual public action meeting with nearly 200 citizens, a mayoral representative, members of the Oakland City Council, the Director of Oakland Public Works, the Deputy Director of Transportation, an Alameda County Supervisor, and their staff. It was important for our elected and appointed officials to hear the outcry of 45th Avenue and Bond Street neighbors, the principal, and students from neighboring Fremont High School. Their fear, frustration, and disappointment rest on the city's lack of action and accountability for their community's health and physical safety.

This neighborhood lives in constant fear. Complaints to our elected and appointed officials have fallen on deaf ears. Little or nothing has been done to eradicate the illegal dumping, abandoned vehicles, unhoused encampments, and criminal activity conducted behind the Cardenas Market all hours of day and night. On Friday, October 8, 2022, less than 3 weeks after the community asked our elected and appointed officials to clean up that area, one man was killed and another wounded in a shooting behind the market. These shootings and other criminal activities occur right in front of their homes, where children walk to and from school daily. The back of Cardenas Market faces 45th Avenue.

Enough is enough! How many more lives must be lost before our voices are heard and deliberate action is taken? Our neighborhoods are in a health and safety crisis and the City of Oakland must stop ignoring its citizens. **We demand that within 72 hours (starting at 8 am Monday, November 21, 2022) the area in and around 45th Avenue and Bond Street be cleared of all abandoned vehicles, encampments, and all loitering and kept clean permanently.** Once again, we propose to the city officials that the continuous oversight of this area become a **pilot program**, used as a model for the city workers to learn from and replicate across all of Oakland.

Sincerely,

Rev. George C. L. Cummings, Ph.D.
FIAEB Regional Executive Director

Rev. James Hopkins
FIAEB Board of Directors Co-Chair

Rev. Michael Wallace
FIAEB Board of Directors Co-Chair

Barbara Lafitte-Oluwole, Cherie Woods, Chris Moreno, Emma Paulino, Ernestine Wilson, Dr. Ida Oberman, Irene Gonzalez, Lesbia Morones, Lidia Leon, Manuel Arias, Maria Suarez, Mary Forte, Nidya Baez, Paula Cook

We are leaders and organizers from Faith In Action East Bay, and Block By Block Organizing Network, representing thousands of families from the flatlands of East, Central, West, and North Oakland.