



e-mail: Oaklanders@makeoaklandbetternow.org
Web: www.makeoaklandbetternow.org
Blog: www.oaktalk.com

December 10, 2012

Via E-Mail

Chair Person Pat Kernighan
Oakland City Council Public Safety Committee
Public Safety Committee Members
Nancy Nadel, Larry Reid, Rebecca Kaplan
Oakland City Hall
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 2nd Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Allocation of Funds for Cease-Fire Manager
December 11, 2012 Public Safety Committee Meeting
Agenda Item 8

Dear Chair Person Kernighan and Committee Members:

Make Oakland Better Now! is a citizens advocacy organization dedicated to improving the City of Oakland in the areas of public safety, budget reform, accountability and transparency in city government. Our five-point Public Safety Plan includes, as point four, the following:

The City must fully implement long-term Cease Fire programs for gun violence reduction and open-air drug market elimination, based on the Cincinnati /Boston model. The City must regularly report to the citizens on the extent to which these programs are reducing gun violence and eliminating open-air drug markets.

In this regard, we have been carefully following Oakland's recent efforts to implement Project Cease Fire. We have been please by, and want to give full credit to the careful and thoughtful planning and implementation efforts by Reygan Harmon, Oakland Police Department Lt. Leronne Armstrong and Stewart Wakeling, Vaughn Crandall and Daniela Gilbert of the California Partnership for Safe Communities.

While we do not question the commitment of Ms. Harmon and Lt. Armstrong, who have been acting as co-project managers, we have been concerned that this important City project has had to compete with their other job responsibilities.

Chair Person Pat Kernighan
Members of the Oakland City Council
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December 10, 2012
Re: December 11, 2012 Public Safety Committee Meeting
● Page 2

Everyone who has been involved in a successful Cease Fire project agrees on the importance of a dedicated project manager, something that has so far been lacking in Oakland.

For that reason, we urge the Public Safety Committee to forward a recommendation to Council to enact a resolution allocating \$150,000 of Measure Y reserve funds to facilitate two-year's hiring of a Cease Fire Project manager. We understand that an additional \$150,000 is available from CalGRIP, and the combined funds will provide this position with the stability that a program of this importance should have.

Sincerely,



Bruce Nye
For Make Oakland Better Now!