



CITY OF OAKLAND  
M E M O R A N D U M  
*from the Office of*

**Lynette Gibson McElhaney**

COUNCILMEMBER ~ DISTRICT 3

CITY HALL ■ 1 FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor ■ OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612

Date: Monday, February 25, 2019

To: Members of City Council and to  
Members of the Public

CC: Libby Schaaf, Mayor  
Sabrina Landreth, City Administrator  
LaTonda Simmons, City Clerk  
Barbara Parker, City Attorney  
Courtney Ruby, City Auditor

From: Councilmember Lynette Gibson McElhaney

Re: District 3 High Level Priorities for FY2019-21 Budget

Colleagues,

Our constituents are begging us to focus our collective efforts on the most pressing and distressing matters that impact our communities. To this end, I urge the Council to focus our collective efforts on delivering high quality public health and public safety services. This is the fundamental role of our government.

Our progressive electorate is deeply compassionate. There are many good causes that tug on our collective consciousness and yet, it is clear, that the limited resources of the City are not adequate to right every social and economic injustice that persists in our nation and our city. To become effective and efficient, this Council is called to make hard choices about which issues and crises will command our attention first.

I'm excited by the expertise and energy of this Council. I believe that through our intentional and deliberate policy making that we will transform the quality of services our residents enjoy.

To that end, I support a budget that will be organized to deliver the follow LoveLife results:

- **Save Human Life**
- **Significantly Reduce Street Homelessness**
- **Improve the Built Environment**
- **Consciously Work to Improve Internal Efficiency**

**Objective 1:** Reduce homicides by 80% within the next 3 years.

**Objective 2:** Attain 80% clearance rate, including of cold cases, within the next 3 years.

**Objective 3:** Attain a 50% reduction in overall street homelessness and the functional end of childhood homelessness.

Item 3



**Objective 4:** Establish a Proactive Rental Inspection program that will mitigate housing displacement and public health risks associated with substandard dwelling units.

**Objective 5:** Establish monitoring and evaluation processes to ensure we all stay focused on our highest shared priorities.

To attain these objectives, I urge the Council to:

1. **Fund the Department of Violence Prevention (DVP) to improve outcomes and monitor the Administration's progress to embracing the 80-in-3 objective.** This means:
  - Completing the hiring authorized in the 2017-2019 Budget and using the unexpended funds to advance the community-led engagement process and community-informed intervention and restorative practices.
  - Hire the Chief of Violence Prevention, with direct reporting to the City Administrator.
  - Hire the Deputy Chief of Violence Prevention who will be responsible for leading efforts to redress Violence Against Families and Children.
  - Hire the DVP analyst and fund continuous evaluation.
  - Establish a Victim Support Services unit in the DVP.
  - Fund the development of an online resource center hosted by the City of Oakland and a 24 hour hotline for families seeking services.
2. **Stop cycles of retaliatory violence and bring closure for families** by improving our clearance rate for homicides, clearing cold cases, and providing victim advocacy services.
  - Increase staff in the homicide unit to bring investigators' caseloads in-line with industry standards to more quickly clear homicides and prevent cycles of retaliatory violence.
  - Create two additional cold case homicide units to bring closure for traumatized families.
  - Create a victim advocacy team for families of homicide victims.
3. **End youth homelessness** by partnering with the County and School District to create a housing campus on unused OUSD land by utilizing prefab construction techniques. Create this within the next 18 months by funding a high-level project manager.
4. **Plan to effectively manage street homeless** so that unsheltered residents and their housed neighbors achieve a better quality of life while permanent solutions to homelessness take 3-5 years to come on-line.
  - Fund a high-level administrator to focus solely on coordinating the City's response to street homelessness.
  - Expand existing effective interventions such as the 'community cabins' model.
  - Establish and monitor camping 'safe zones' where unsheltered residents are allowed to camp and increase humane enforcement in those areas outside the safe zones
5. **Eliminate childhood lead poisoning through establishing a modern, proactive code enforcement program.** Oakland's children are exposed to lead at higher rates than in Flint,



MI with devastating lifetime impacts to their ability to learn, emotionally regulate, and reach their full potential. I recommend that the City fulfill its previous commitments to bring its healthy homes inspection protocols into the 21<sup>st</sup> century through a Proactive Rental Code Inspection policy that focuses first on lead paint hazards. The recent lead paint lawsuit settlement provides over \$20 million for homeowners to make repairs at no-cost and we should pair that program with enhanced enforcement to ensure all homes are safe for children.

6. **Improve quality of life in flatland neighborhoods by funding solutions to illegal dumping, graffiti, and litter.** Providing quality City Services means addressing the intolerable conditions on West Oakland streets from deteriorating streets and sidewalks and continuous issues from trash, dumping and graffiti.
7. **Increase funding levels for libraries, parks, recreation and senior centers** to better provide essential services that keep our residents, especially youth and elderly constructively engaged, healthy, happy and safe. Our constituents are deeply invested in improving the West Oakland Library and West Oakland Youth Center and completing a protected bicycle and scooter lane around the entirety of Lake Merritt.
8. **Improve health outcomes** for Oakland's poor and people earning less than the median income by programming funds through OPRYD and Oakland Senior services to address diabetes, hyper-tension, obesity, arthritis, ADHD and other maladies associated with over consumption of sugary foods and beverages

In this two-year cycle, I want the City Council to establish and adhere to shared Policy Priorities that we seek to accomplish. I urge that we require the Administration to report on progress quarterly to the Finance and Management Committee.

The policy priorities below represent my proposals for what the City should focus on:

1. **Increased Middle-Class Homeownership.** Create incentives to help more Oaklanders who earn at or below 150% of the area median income to achieve homeownership, which has been proven to stabilize families, neighborhoods and provides an effective means to help poor families enter the middle-class and the intergenerational transfer of stability and assets.
2. **Improve Safety and Security in the Downtown.** Restore the Metro Division within OPD to accommodate the rapid growth in population, entertainment venues and evening events within the downtown core, to help deter burglaries, robberies, auto-break-ins and shootings.
3. **Fulfill the Ghost Ship/2551 San Pablo Promises.** Finish the reforms to building inspections, fire inspections and special permitting that began with the Ghost Ship and 2551 San Pablo tragedies.
4. **Make Investments in Efficiency.** Prioritize investments and projects that will lead to efficiencies and cost savings – especially regarding internal city services in human resources, IT, and finance.
5. **Improve Reporting Processes.** Regular reporting to committees by Department Heads to track progress on the highest priority goals that each department seeks to accomplish over the next two years.



6. **Improve Ballot Measure Process.** Adopt a process for analyzing, deliberating, and ultimately choosing whether or not to submit ballot measures to the electorate. We've fashioned an improved process for budget deliberations and I believe it is time to do the same for ballot measures.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynette Gibson McElhaney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with large, connected letters.

Councilmember Lynette Gibson McElhaney

