

22 January 2013

SUPPORT ALL 4 PUBLIC SAFETY RESOLUTIONS

Dear Oakland City Council Member:

There are four proposals before City Council tonight that are intended to help address the public safety problems in Oakland. On behalf of our Board of Directors and over one thousand members I urge you to support all four of these resolutions.

Any long term solution to our crime problem requires a plan and a Chief of Police to carry out that plan. For this reason we support amending the contract with Strategic Policy Partnership, to have Bill Bratton help develop a Citywide Reduction and Community Safety plan. Mayor Quan has spoken powerfully of the need to utilize these talents while recognizing control of the Oakland Police Department (OPD) remains with her and the Chief. It is eminently reasonable to support Chief Jordan as he asks for the assistance he needs to get done the job we are all asking him to do.

Also in a longer term effort it is important that OPD hold regular Police Academy's to raise our sworn staff level from about 600 today back towards the 800+ we enjoyed just a few years ago. Please support funding for the Police Academy scheduled for September 2013.

Another initiative to improve service to Oakland residents and free up sworn officers to handle situations they uniquely can perform is the hiring of 20 Police Services Technicians and one Latent Print Examiner. Cuts over the last few years have hit non-sworn staff at OPD even harder than sworn staff and this resolution begins to return these much needed services to their proper level.

In an effort to help bolster the number of sworn officers on the street quickly, Chief Jordan has worked out an arrangement with Alameda County Sheriff for 90 days of crime suppression assistance. Under this temporary plan the Sheriff will deploy ten deputy sheriffs and one Sergeant, two days each week. OPD leaders have indicated they will deploy these additional forces in to areas most in need of immediate officer attention.

Each of these resolutions alone is worthy of support although none of them alone will solve all of our crime problems. It is important that we work together and give the Chief the support he needs. We encourage your support of all four of these public safety resolutions.

Sincerely,



Joseph J. Haraburda
President & CEO

C Mayor Quan, City Administrator Santana & Chief Howard Jordan