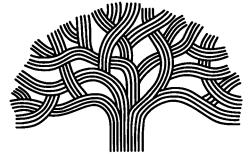


# CITY OF OAKLAND



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Office of the Mayor  
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June 6, 2013

Dear Fellow Oaklanders,

A city's budget is a statement of values, and a budget that serves Oakland must reflect our highest priority: public safety. That means investing heavily in both law enforcement and economic opportunity for our residents.

Revenues are growing, and we are faced with a challenge we're lucky to have: how do we share this growth fairly and make the best investments for Oakland's future? How can we make a full investment in public safety while balancing other important priorities?

I am grateful to see support on the City Council for my overall budget proposal, including the public safety and economic priorities I set forth. However, even with the City's revenues growing, the Council is facing many difficult decisions and weighing priorities with finite resources. Hundreds of residents attended budget town halls over the last two months, building to this final phase. ***It is now vitally important that our community members weigh in over the next two weeks and voice their priorities as the Council makes its final decision.*** I strongly encourage all our stakeholders to make their voices heard, by writing letters, making calls or attending Council meetings.

We have heard loud and clear from our residents that Oakland's highest priority is to be a safe and livable city. A "fair share" budget that supports that priority should:

- **Invest heavily in public safety;**
- **Protect economic development, affordable housing and preschool; and**
- **Restore employee contributions and community services by ending furloughs, and building in budgeting flexibility to negotiate a fair contract.**

As I have proposed, Oakland's budget needs to grow our understaffed police department by committing ongoing funding to graduate two police academies each year. This is important because we must continue growing our police force for the foreseeable future, and committing ongoing funds secures that growth. We also need to make the most of our police department dollars, by investing in less-expensive civilian police staff to handle important work that doesn't require sworn officers. We should continue partnering with the California Highway Patrol, which has brought critically-needed extra patrol support

to our streets up to four nights a week. And we should fund five more police dispatchers to bolster our overburdened 911 call center.

I'll be clear: ***these are enforcement resources we must have***. Oakland residents have demanded a stronger police force, and we must deliver on that demand. My job as mayor has been to show a clear path to make these investments, and it's now the Council's job to weigh them with other important priorities and decide.

Public safety is never a matter of enforcement alone. Oakland needs to be a livable place of opportunity for everyone. We must revitalize our neighborhoods, build our economy and create jobs for our residents. This budget fills painful state cuts to maintain affordable housing staff we need to ensure that people of all income levels can afford to live here. It invests in economic development staff to move forward major projects that will beautify and enhance our city, produce thousands of jobs for residents, and grow our revenues for staff and services. And it invests in Head Start, a vital program badly hurt by federal cuts -- preserving it with City funds will help us protect vulnerable children and families.

Finally, to help us reach a "fair share" budget, I am asking the Council to build in some budget flexibility, to allow the City to seriously consider employee compensation issues at the bargaining table. We should be able to negotiate in good faith with our unions to reach a fair contract without pitting them against our top priority of public safety. However, we need to respect the collective bargaining process and leave the specifics at the bargaining table for now.

The budget process will continue at the next City Council meeting, at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 13, at City Hall. If the Council doesn't pass a budget that night, their final meeting and vote will be at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 27.

We hope residents will turn out to make their priorities clear. If you're unable to attend, please call or write to your councilmember. The budget should address your needs as your elected leaders weigh difficult choices. We have come so far together already: now is a time when we can truly choose safety and prosperity for Oakland.

Sincerely,

Mayor Jean Quan