

Newcomb, Melanie,

From: Renia Webb [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 3:48 PM
To: Ethics Public Comment; Ethics Commission
Subject: Item #4 Parcel Tax to Fund Oversight Agencies

Public Ethics Commission Special Meeting 12/16/24 Item #4 - Parcel Tax to Fund Oversight Agencies

Renia Webb, Oakland Native Oakland Mayoral Candidate 2025, Special Election For Reference:

Concerns surrounding newly released FBI documents involving Oakland City Department leaders, City Administrator Jestin Johnson and Larry Gallegos, Economic and Workforce Development (same Dept. that missed out on \$15M Business Grant).

As reported in the San Francisco Chronicle on November 24, 2024, these individuals are implicated in an FBI probe related to the failed business Evolutionary Homes. What's alarming is that these highly paid city employees, with Administrator Johnson earning \$340,000 and Gallegos earning \$170,000 providing assistance and guidance on accessing tax dollars and rerouting designated funds. This includes Measure KK funds intended for affordable housing and public transportation. Furthermore, it's disturbing to learn that they were discussing the changing of city ordinances to funnel federal housing dollars into this failed business. This is the same business at the center of the FBI probe, which also involves our recalled Mayor, other business leaders, and elected officials. I urge the Public Ethics Commission to refuse any requests for additional funding and first take the necessary actions to ensure transparency and accountability within our city government.

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/eastbay/article/oakland-fbi-probe-thao-duongs-19936405.php>

PEC, I strongly oppose Agenda Item 4, which proposes yet another parcel tax to fund independent oversight agencies and programs in Oakland. While I understand the importance of these agencies, I'm concerned about the lack of transparency and accountability in how our tax dollars are being spent.

As a taxpayer, I want to know where my money is going and what tangible results we're getting from these agencies. Unfortunately, the city's track record on fiscal responsibility and transparency is questionable at best.

We've seen numerous parcel taxes and ballot measures in recent years, yet we're still not seeing the desired outcomes. It's time for us to take a step back, conduct a thorough audit of our budget and the services provided by these agencies, and ensure that our tax dollars are being used effectively and efficiently.

We need to stop the cycle of imposing excessive parcel taxes and ballot measures that only serve to line the pockets of our elected officials and their associates. It's time for honesty, transparency, and accountability in our city's governance. Let's work together to create a more equitable and sustainable solution for Oakland's taxpayers.

Thank you for your consideration. Thanking you in advance for voting NO on Item #4. No More Excessive Taxing of the People!!

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