



## **SAFETY AND SERVICES OVERSIGHT COMMISSION (SSOC)**

SSOC created by the Public Safety and Services Violence Prevention Act of 2014 (Measure Z)

**Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, March 25, 2024 at 6:30pm**

**1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, CA 94612**  
**City Council Chamber, 3rd Floor**

### **Oversight Commission Members:**

*Kelly Cure (D-1), Chair: Omar Farmer (D-2), Paula Hawthorn (D-3),*  
**Vice Chair:** *Yoana Tchoukleva (D-4), VACANT (D-5), VACANT (D-6),*  
*Gloria Bailey-Ray, (D-7), Michael Wallace (Mayoral), Sonya Mehta (At-Large)*

The Oakland Public Safety and Services Oversight Commission encourages public participation in the online board meetings. The public may observe and/or participate in this meeting in several ways.

### **OBSERVE:**

**You may appear in person on Monday, February 26, 2024, at 6:30pm at**  
**1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, CA 94612 in Council Chamber**

**OR**

**To observe, the public may view the televised meeting by viewing**  
**KTOP channel 10 on Xfinity (Comcast) or ATT Channel 99 and locating**  
**City of Oakland KTOP – Channel 10**

**Please note: The ZOOM link and access numbers below are to view / listen**  
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***Please click the link below to join the webinar:***

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Instructions on how to join a meeting by phone are available at:  
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/enus/articles/201362663>, which is a webpage entitled "Joining a Meeting by Phone."

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

*The Oversight Commission welcomes you to its meetings and your interest is appreciated.*

- If you wish to speak before the Oversight Commission, please fill out a speaker card and hand it to the Oversight Commission Staff.
- If you wish to speak on a matter not on the agenda, please sign up for Open Forum and wait for your name to be called.
- If you wish to speak on a matter on the agenda, please approach the Commission when called, give your name, and your comments.
- Please be brief and limit your comments to the specific subject under discussion. Only matters within the Oversight Commission's jurisdictions may be addressed. Time limitations shall be at the discretion of the Chair.
- Comment in advance. To send your comment directly to the Commissioner's and staff BEFORE the meeting starts, please send your comment, along with your full name and agenda item number you are commenting on, to Felicia Verdin at [fverdin@oaklandca.gov](mailto:fverdin@oaklandca.gov).

Please note that eComment submissions close one (1) hour before posted meeting time. All submitted public comment will be provided to the Commissioners prior to the meeting.

If you have any questions about these protocols,  
please e-mail Felicia Verdin at [fverdin@oaklandca.gov](mailto:fverdin@oaklandca.gov).

Do you need an ASL, Cantonese, Mandarin or Spanish interpreter or other assistance to participate? Please email [fverdin@oaklandca.gov](mailto:fverdin@oaklandca.gov) or call (510) 238-3128 or (510) 238-2007 for TDD/TTY five days in advance.

¿Necesita un intérprete en español, cantonés o mandarín, u otra ayuda para participar? Por favor envíe un correo electrónico a [fverdin@oaklandca.gov](mailto:fverdin@oaklandca.gov) o llame al (510) 238-3128 o al (510) 238-2007 para TDD/TTY por lo menos cinco días antes de la reunión. Gracias.

你需要手語, 西班牙語, 粵語或國語翻譯服務嗎? 請在會議前五個工作天電郵 [fverdin@oaklandca.gov](mailto:fverdin@oaklandca.gov) 或 致電 (510) 238-3128 或 (510) 238-2007 TDD/TTY.

***Each person wishing to speak on items must complete a Speaker Card  
Persons addressing the Safety and Services Oversight Commission shall state their names and the organization they are representing, if any.***

ITEM	TIME	TYPE
• Call to Order	6:30 PM	AD
• Roll Call	2 Minutes	AD
• Approve Meeting Minutes	2 minutes	A
• Open Forum – For items not listed on the Agenda	5 Minutes	I
• Presentation by Urban Institute on Measure Z Evaluation	30 minutes	I
• Update on New Measure Z by Oaklander's Together (Anne Marks)	30 minutes	I
• SSOC Dashboard – (1) Verified Response Item 4: <a href="https://oakland.granicus.com/player/clip/5962?view_id=2&amp;redirect=true">https://oakland.granicus.com/player/clip/5962?view_id=2&amp;redirect=true</a> (2) MACRO, (3) CARE, (4) SSOC & RPSTF (Farmer)	30 Minutes	I
• SSOC members will review and take possible action on remote participation amendments to bylaws (Tchoukleva)	20 minutes	A
• Ceasefire Update by the (Farmer/Tchoukleva)	20 minutes	I
• Report from Staff – Schedule Planning	5 Minutes	AD
• New Business	5 Minutes	
• Adjournment	1 Minute	A

A = Action Item / I = Informational Item / AD = Administrative Item /



**SAFETY AND SERVICES OVERSIGHT COMMISSION (SSOC)**  
SSOC created by the Public Safety and Services Violence Prevention Act of 2014 (Measure Z)

**DRAFT Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, February 26, 2024 at 6:30pm**

**1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, CA 94612**  
**City Council Chamber, 3rd Floor**

**Roll Call**

In attendance: *Kelly Cure* (D-1), **Chair:** *Omar Farmer* (D-2), Paula Hawthorn (D-3),  
**Vice Chair:** Yoana Tchoukleva (D-4), Michael Wallace (Mayoral),

Absent: Gloria Bailey-Ray, (D-7), Sonya Mehta (At-Large)

Open Forum: No public comment.

Agenda ITEMS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Presentation on Autonomous Robot Technology</b> <b>Mark Dallesandro, Knightscope</b></li></ul> <p>Chair Farmer provided an introduction on this item. He indicated that autonomous robot technology has been used strategically by police departments and private organizations to decrease calls for service and to deter different types of burglaries and robberies which is an objective of Measure Z. The technology could also reduce calls for service could improve 911 processing and response times.</p> <p>Mr. Dallesandro made a PowerPoint presentation on the technology that was included in the agenda packet.</p> <p>Members of the SSOC proposed a series of questions regarding this item ranging from concerns. This was an informational item, and no action was taken.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Report by the Department of Violence Prevention on the Measure Z school strategies</b></li></ul> <p>Chief Holly Joshi and Gillian Caplan with DVP made a PowerPoint presentation with data and background information suspensions and other data. This is pilot project. The PowerPoint presentation was included in the packet.</p> <p>The SSOC had a range of questions about the effectiveness of the program, including outcomes data. The Urban Institute will provide a preliminary evaluation report this summer on this program.</p>



This was an informational item, and no action was taken.

- **Report on MACRO Ad Hoc**

- **Omar Farmer**

Chair Farmer provided an update on the MACRO Ad Hoc. There was a spreadsheet included in the agenda packet and there are 8 items that the SSOC is using to track the work of MACRO. In March or April, the SSOC, MACRO adhoc will meet to discuss how to move forward on these priorities and will provide an update.

- **Update on Community Activity Research and Elevation (CARE) Outreach Omar Farmer and Gloria Bailey-Ray**

Chair Farmer provided an update on community two (2) community presentations made in East Oakland. Commissioner Bailey-Ray observed the community meeting. There is an update on this item on the spreadsheet included in agenda packet. More community presentations are scheduled in the future.

- **Update Verified Response**

- **Omar Farmer**

Chair Farmer reported that the Verified response is on the next agenda of the Oakland City Council, Public Safety committee.

- **SSOC Planning – Omar Farmer**

- **Reimaging Public Safety Taskforce & DVP Dashboard**

- a. Omar Farmer and Yoana Tchoukleva**

Chair Farmer and Vice Chair Tchoukleva provided an update on the dashboard spreadsheet that was included in the agenda packet. Chair Farmer provided an update on the next version of Measure Z and other items outlined in the spreadsheet. He indicated that the purpose of the dashboard is to guide upcoming agendas of the SSOC through the joint public safety meeting that will take place in November.

- **Report from Staff – Schedule Planning**

Staff reported on the SSOC meeting calendar for 2024. The Commission chose to meet on May 20 instead of May 27, since the 27<sup>th</sup> is a national holiday. The board will determine December

- **New Business**

No new business was discussed.

- **Adjournment**

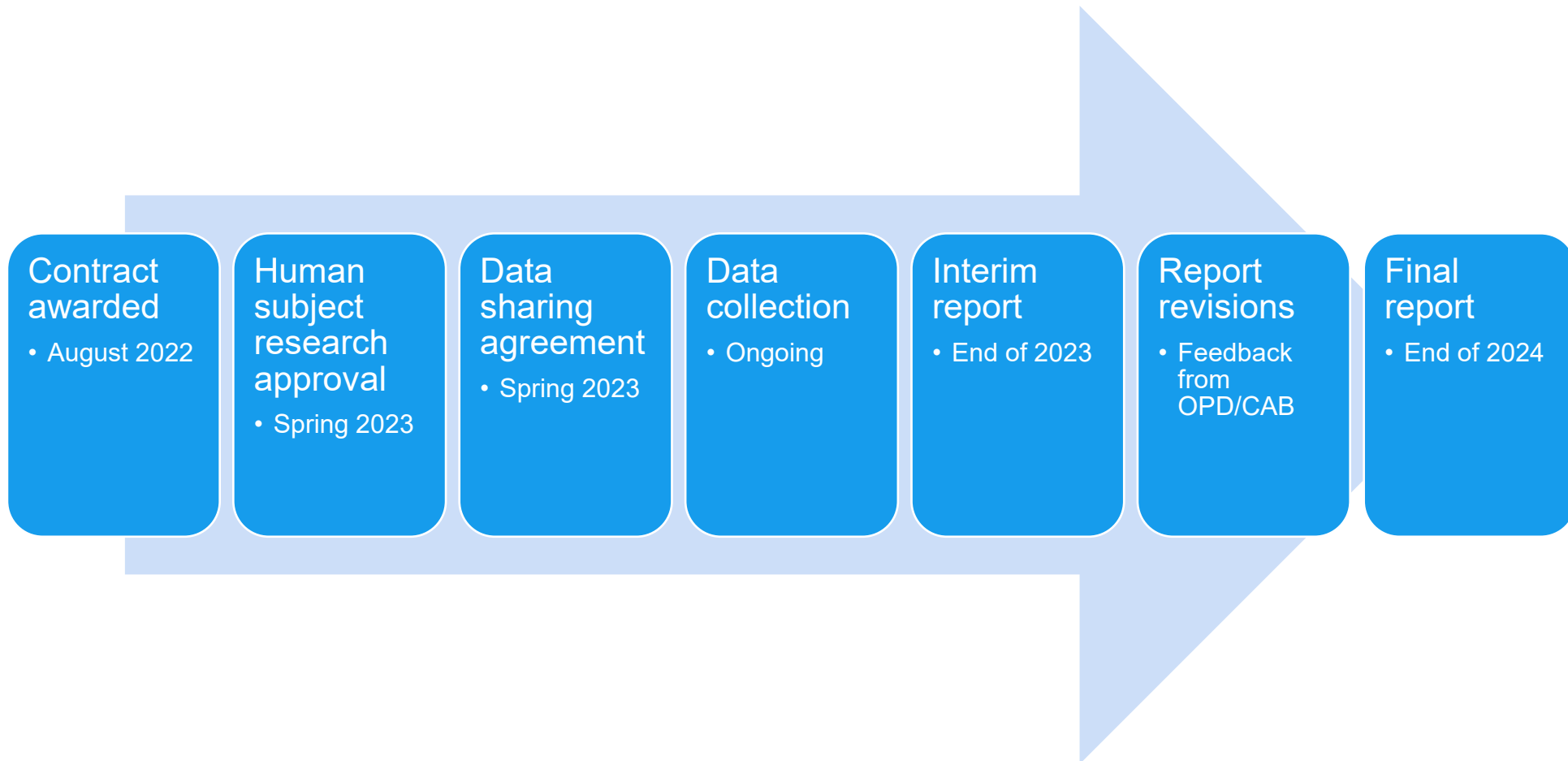
The meeting was adjourned.



March 25, 2024

# Oakland Measure Z Evaluation Updates: OPD Interim Report







## ■ Status Updates

- What have we done so far?
  - Data collection and review
- What have we learned so far?
  - Initial observations
- What are next steps?
  - Expectations for our evaluation

- Identified primary research questions
  - How are the Measure Z-funded OPD activities implemented?
  - Do Measure Z-funded activities affect community perceptions of safety and well-being?
  - Do Measure Z-funded activities affect community perceptions of police?
- Collected, processed, and analyzed various sources of data



## Qualitative

- OPD interviews
- Ride-alongs
- Document review
- Neighborhood council meetings



## Quantitative

- Community survey at Town Nights
- Calls for service
- Crimes
- Officer assignments
- SARANet
- SVS operations

- Violent crime rate increased by 18% from 2020 to 2022.
- Shootings and homicides decreased in 2022-2023.
- Property crime (i.e., burglary, robbery, motor vehicle theft, larceny) rate increased from 2020 to 2022
  - Larger share of increase driven by increased number of motor vehicle theft and larceny

- The majority of respondents expressed overall satisfaction with living in Oakland (50%)
  - But did not feel safe in their neighborhood after dark (48%)
- Many respondents had been personally affected by crime
- Most were concerned with becoming victims of crime



- Oakland residents have a mixed view of OPD
  - Approximately 40% pessimistic, 30% neutral, and 20% optimistic
- If they had a recent encounter with OPD, only a third were satisfied with the encounter
- If they had recently called 911, most disagreed that it was answered in a timely manner (50%)

- OPD is implementing all three strategies funded under Measure Z:
  - (1) geographic policing through Crime Reduction Teams
  - (2) community policing through Community Resource Officers
  - (3) addressing domestic violence and child abuse through the Special Victims Section.
- All three strategies face significant staffing shortages, with fewer officers assigned to the positions than are authorized.
- OPD leadership remains committed to the strategies, but staffing shortages pose challenges in ensuring the high-fidelity implementation of these strategies.

- Continue with data collection and analysis
  - Administrative data analysis
  - Qualitative interviews and observations
  - Follow-up community survey
- Remain engaged with stakeholders to share updates and solicit their input on our evaluation process
- Assess the city-wide or neighborhood-level impact on key public safety outcomes
- Complete OPD evaluation by November 2024

## Urban Institute

Jesse Jannetta: [jjannetta@urban.org](mailto:jjannetta@urban.org)

KiDeuk Kim: [kkim@urban.org](mailto:kkim@urban.org)

Ashlin Oglesby-Neal: [aoglesby@urban.org](mailto:aoglesby@urban.org)

## **Proposed Amendment to SSOC Bylaws – March 2024**

### **ARTICLE VI: Meetings**

#### **1) Quorum**

Ordinance 13303 C.M.S. created a quorum for the SSOC as five (5) members. A quorum shall be called for prior to any official business being conducted at the meeting. If there is no quorum at that time, no official action may be taken at that meeting. In the event that a quorum is not established within thirty (30) minutes of the noticed start time of the meeting, the Chairperson, in her or his discretion, may cancel the meeting or may allow the meeting to make place without any official action being taken at the meeting without a quorum.

#### **2) Voting**

Each member of the Commission shall have one vote. Consistent with Article II, Section 5, a motion shall be passed or defeated by a simple majority of those members present and voting at a meeting where a quorum has been established.

#### **3) Public Input**

##### **(a) Public Input on Items Officially Noticed for the Agenda**

At every regular meeting, members of the public shall have an opportunity to address the SSOC on matters within the SEC's subject matter jurisdiction. Public input and comment on matters on the agenda, as well as public input and comment on matters not otherwise on the agenda, shall be made during the time set aside for public comment. Members of the public wishing to speak and who have filled out a speaker's card, shall have two (2) minutes to speak unless the chairperson otherwise limits the total amount of time allocated for public discussion on particular issues and/or the time allocated for each individual speaker.

##### **(b) Public Input on Items Not Officially Noticed for the Agenda (Open Forum)**

Matters brought before the Commission at a regular meeting which were not placed on the agenda of the meeting shall not be acted upon or discussed by the SSOC at that meeting unless action or discussion on such matters is permissible pursuant to the Brown Act and the Sunshine Ordinance. Those non-agenda items brought before the SSOC which the SSOC determines will require consideration and action and where action at that meeting is not so authorized shall be placed on the agenda for the next regular meeting.

##### **(c) Identification of Speaker**

Persons addressing the SSOC shall be asked to state their names and the organization they represent, if any. They shall be asked to confine their remarks to the subject

under discussion, unless they speak during the Open Forum portion of the agenda.

#### 4) Regular Meetings

The Commission shall meet regularly on the fourth Monday of each month, at the hour of 6:30 pm, in Oakland, California. In the event that the regular meeting date shall be a legal holiday, then any such regular meeting shall be rescheduled at least two meetings prior to the meeting for a business day thereafter is not a legal holiday. A notice, agenda, and other necessary documents shall be delivered to the members, personally or by mail, at least seventy-two hours prior to the meeting.

#### 5) Remote Participation Via Teleconference

Commissioners may participate remotely in meetings of the SSOC under the circumstances authorized by: (1) the traditional teleconference rules of the Brown Act (California Government Code section 54953(b)(3)), as interpreted prior to March 4, 2020; and (2) the new teleconference rules put into effect by Assembly Bill (“AB”) 2449.

This provision of the SSOC Bylaws summarizes guidance provided to all City of Oakland legislative bodies by the City Attorney’s Office on March 30, 2023.

(a) Under the **traditional Brown Act rules**, Commissioners may participate via teleconference if:

- (i) Notices and agendas are posted for each teleconference location from which Commissioners intend to participate;
- (ii) Each teleconference location is identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting;
- (iii) Each teleconference location is accessible to the public, including persons with disabilities;
- (iv) The public could participate in the meeting from each teleconference location;
- (v) A quorum of the Commission participates from locations in Oakland.

Commissioners who wish to use the traditional rules for remote participation need to coordinate with the SSOC staff liaison to ensure that all Brown Act requirements are met. No limit exists on the number of times a Commissioner may participate via teleconference using the traditional Brown Act teleconference rules. All votes during the meeting must be by roll call.

(b) Under the **provisions of AB 2449**, Commissioners may participate via teleconference for “just cause” and “emergency circumstances” regardless of whether a state of emergency exists and without providing notice of or public access to the teleconference location.

If Commissioners invoke the “Just Cause” basis for remote participation, they have to comply with the following requirements:

- (i) “Just cause” remote participation is allowed for any of the following:
  - (A) A childcare or caregiving need of a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner that requires them to participate remotely;

- (B) A contagious illness that prevents a Commissioner from attending in person.
  - (C) A need related to a physical or mental disability not otherwise accommodated.
  - (D) Travel while on official business of the Commission or another state or local agency.
- (ii) Timing of Notice: The Commissioner must notify the SSOC of their need to participate remotely at the earliest opportunity possible, up to the commencement of the meeting.
- (iii) What to include in the Notice: The notice must provide a general description of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely at the given meeting.
- (iv) No action by Commission required: Invoking the just cause exception is self-executing and no further action by the body is required.
- (v) Per-meeting notice is not required: Unlike the emergency circumstances exception, it does not appear that separate notices are required for participating remotely under the just cause exception. Thus, a member could provide notice of remote participation for just cause for up to two meetings—the maximum number of times just cause can be used—if the member is aware of the need in advance, such as for childcare or official travel.

If Commissioners invoke the “Emergency Circumstances” basis for remote participation, they have to comply with the following:

- (i) “Emergency circumstance” entails a physical or family medical emergency that prevents a Commissioner from attending in person.
- (ii) Timing of Request: The Commissioner must request that the SSOC allow them to participate in the meeting remotely due to emergency circumstances as soon as possible, preferably with enough time to place the proposed action on the posted agenda for the meeting for which the request was made. However, if the timing of the request does not allow sufficient time to post the matter on the agenda, the Commission may take action at the beginning of the meeting.
- (iii) What to include in the Request: The Commissioner need not provide any additional information at the time of the request, but they do need to provide a general description at the time of the meeting of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely. The general description need not exceed 20 words and shall not require the member to disclose any medical diagnosis or disability, or any personal medical information that is already exempt under existing law.
- (iv) Action by legislative body is required: the Commission may approve a member’s request by a majority vote.
- (v) Per meeting request is required: A member must make a separate request for each meeting in which they seek to participate remotely.

In addition to these requirements, AB 2449 imposes strict limits on the use of its provisions:



- (i) AB 2449 can only be used by the SSOC a total of two times per calendar year, regardless of the basis for remote participation (just cause or emergency circumstances).
- (ii) AB 2449 can be used only when members of the public are also allowed to participate remotely (i.e. to listen/observe and provide comment). AB 2449 does not apply and cannot be used for meetings that are only offered in-person or that are in-person with teleconference options set to “observation only” such that the public cannot provide comment via teleconference.
- (iii) AB 2449 can be used only if a quorum of Commissioners participate in person from the same location within the City, and location must be clearly identified on the agenda and open to the public.
- (iv) Commissioners participating remotely under AB 2449 must participate both on camera and via audio.
- (v) Additionally, before any action is taken, Commissioners participating remotely must disclose if anyone 18 or older is in the room at the remote location with them, and the general nature of the relationship with the person or persons.
- (vi) The agenda must identify the call-in option, internet-based service option and the in-person location of the meeting.
- (vii) All votes must be by roll call.
- (viii) In the event of a disruption that prevents the Commission from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public, or in the event of disruption within the agency’s control that prevents members of the public from offering public comment, the Commission must not take further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting is restored. In-person public comment and discussion by the Commission may continue, and the Commission may pause the meeting while technical difficulties are resolved.

#### 6) Notice and Conduct of Regular Meetings

Notices and agendas of all regular SSOC meetings requiring notice shall be posted in the City Clerk's Office and on an exterior bulletin board accessible twenty-four hours a day. Notice of regular meetings shall be posted at least seventy-two hours before the meeting. Action may only be taken on items for which notice was provided in compliance with the Sunshine Ordinance and the Brown Act.


#### 7)) Minutes

Minutes shall be taken at every SSOC meeting. Minutes shall be prepared in writing by the Custodian of Records. Copies of the minutes of each SSOC meeting shall be made available to each member of the SSOC and the City. Approved minutes shall be filed in the official SSOC file.



# Phase I

Recommendation can be implemented within **1 year** of Council adoption and directly impacts the goals of

**(proposed)** (see report in 4/13 agenda) **reducing the footprint of OPD, and reinvesting savings in alternatives to policing** 

**43.** Demilitarize OPD

**38.** Eliminate (page 22) the BearCat ASAP

**152.** Eliminate Mounted Horses Unit



**44.** Renegotiate the MOU in 2021

**51.** Prioritize the Renegotiation of the MOU

**106.** Improve Outcomes in the Next OPOA MOU



**37.** Institute Cross Functional Team to Approach Crisis Response

**56.** Create a Citywide Behavioral Health Unit



**57.** Immediately Make Long Term Investment in MACRO

**58.** Fund, Create, Community Hotlines and Transfer 911 Call

Center out of OPD

**8.** Remedies for Misconduct

**29.** Look for Trends in Officers with Misconduct

**32.** Update Manual of Rules & Discipline Matrix



**105.** Impose Discipline on OPD Managers/Supervisors for

Discriminatory Policing

**143.** Amend City Charter on Police Discipline (2.45.140)

**144.** Invest in Community Workers and Violence Interrupters

**149.** Prioritize Funding Violence Prevention Strategies that  
address GBV, Shootings, and Homicides



**60.** Create a Civilian Community Ambassadors Program to  
Respond to Non-Mental Health and Non-Violent Calls

**125.** Civilian Team to Respond to Calls Where There's no  
Threat or Harm



**50.** Reinvest Funds from OPDs Budget into Other Areas that  
Increase Public Safety



**66.** Stop Enforcement of Laws that Criminalize Sex Trade  
Between Consenting Adults (non Tier 1)

**61.** Dissolve OPD Unhoused Unit and Reinvest in mobile

street outreach



**64.** Repeal Laws that Criminalize the Unhoused and Poverty

**31/84.** Merge IAD & CPRA



**41.** Reorganize OPDs Internal Structure

**89.** Cap OPD Overtime



**91.** Engage Community to Amend

Measure Z



**53.** Adopt "Verified Response" Standard for Dispatch  
of Patrol Officers to Burglary Alarms



**72.** Increase Funding to Gender Based Violence (GBV)

Response Services



**73.** Expand Flexible Funding for Survivors of Gender Based  
Violence

**74.** Adequately Fund Gender Based Violence Prevention

**150.** The Task Force urges City leaders to advocate to  
County leaders and budget managers that all available  
resources for behavioral health that can serve Oakland  
residents be utilized, and to establish agreements with  
County officials to reduce or eliminate the presence of  
law enforcement in mobile crisis response for mental and  
behavioral health calls.

**34.** Coordinate city & county services to respond to  
special populations (developmental disabilities)



**102.** Expand county-provided mental health services

**1.** Create an Oakland Specific Crowd Control Ordinance

**86.** Transfer Special Event Duties Out of OPD (non Tier 1)

<b>CARE: Community Activation, Research, &amp; Elevation</b>	<b>Members:</b> Omar, Yoana, Gloria		<b>Presentation:</b> <a href="https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1bfhnnCI4jkMqGIAaVShvJd-TMHMGwqdX/edit?usp=sharing&amp;ouid=114868257533086066029&amp;rtpof=true&amp;sd=true">https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1bfhnnCI4jkMqGIAaVShvJd-TMHMGwqdX/edit?usp=sharing&amp;ouid=114868257533086066029&amp;rtpof=true&amp;sd=true</a>						
<b>2023-2024 Presentations</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Feedback</b>	<b>2024 Presentations</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Loation</b>	<b>Potential Presentations</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Status</b>
NCPC 22x	Feb 28th 2023	D4	None to note.	NCPC 35y	Mar 27th 2024 (in-person)	D7	Associated Residents of Sequoyah Highlands	D7	TBD
League of Women Voters	May 9th 2023	City-wide	Upgraded us to a high functioning board. Willing to assist with vacancy advocacy.	NCPC 35x	Apr 3rd 2024 (zoom)	D7	Sobranter Park Resident Action Council	D7	TBD
Violence Prevention Coalition	July 17th 2023	City-wide	Interested in MACRO development and transparency				40x40 PAC group	D7	TBD
NCPC 14y & 16x	Aug 16th 2023	D1 & D2	Recruited Commissioner Cure. Residents need to see DVP success stories. CM Kalb shared the OFD call center # and said to use if you can't get through to 911.				NCPC 32Y	D7	Emailed Feb 1st, No Reply
Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church	Sept 30th 2023	D3	None to note.				NCPC 31Y & 31Z	D7	Emailed Feb 1st, No Reply
Delta Town Hall @ City of Refuge	Dec 9th 2023	D7	Interested in RPSTF rec's.						
NCPC 32x	Feb 15th 2024	D7	Interested in being able to get through to 911 and 311 faster.						
NCPC 33x & 34x	Feb 21st 2024	D7	Collaboration with other boards? Invited to Mar 20th business leader meeting to discuss Knightscope technology						

<b>MACRO Development:</b> Improves 911 response times by taking a portion of the 911 call volume					
<b>Training</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Quantitative Analysis</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Transparency</b>	<b>Status</b>
Develop 911 Dispatcher Curriculum	TBD? Awaiting BART's curriculum for comparison.	Percentage increase of diverted 911 calls per month.	Is that a part of their monthly report?	Launch public information officer position	In progress by OFD
Train dispatchers and MACRO responders on what those parameters are.	TBD?	BART stats or curriculum for development ideas.	Waiting to see their stats.	Create a direct phone number	<b>COMPLETE. PUBLISHED as 510-44-MACRO</b> <del>In progress: by March? Number has been created. Currently doing equipment testing before promoting it. Previously committed to having it ready before the end of Jan.</del>
Evaluate total scope of calls for service MACRO will ultimately be able to go on.	Done during RPSTF process?			SSOC MACRO Sessions	In progress: tentatively put on agenda for April. Need to discuss with MACRO & CAB. Elliott agreed to attending these meetings during our conversation in the hallway on 2/20.
Conduct a daily or monthly review of calls for service and discuss why certain calls could have gone to MACRO or not, and figure out how to do more with MACRO resources going forward	Not happening yet.			Public CAB Meetings	At the Sept or October 2023 meeting OFD committed to having all CAB meetings public in 2024. Held last meeting in Hearing Room 1, but it was not open to the public. Was initially invited to 2/19 meeting then receiving a cancellation notice for. Told by CAB members it was still happening and was asked to attend so I did. While there was told it wasn't open to the public when I tried to speak. Didn't ask me to leave but didn't feel welcome. Was told that I couldn't make any comments unless there was time at the end. They've also changed their mind and now state that they'll only be doing 2 public meetings per year. When TBD. CAB meetings are dysfunctional in terms of what's expected of the members. They appear to starting from square 1 in terms of what their role should be. In addition, the Jan meeting was cancelled and rescheduled 3 times. I received invites to those meetings as well.
				Recommend to city council for MACRO to be governed by a city of Oakland Commission that's governed by the Brown Act for increased transparency and inclusiveness.	Recommendation in progress. Vote on recommendation now then present it to city council at the joint meeting?

RPSTF & SSOC Alignment	RPSTF Final Recommendations	Task Force approval status
1) Omar, Yoana and CM Kaplan to discuss how to bring forward and present to the public Verified Response and MACRO updates	<a href="#">1. Create an Oakland Specific Crowd Control Ordinance</a>	approved on 3/10/21
2) CP Bas's office to send Omar and Yoana the chart they have used to track progress on the 12 recs	<a href="#">7. Achieve Compliance with the NSA</a>	approved on 3/10/21
3) CM File to reach out to Omar and Yoana re: involvement in inside-outside strategy for presenting a new narrative about safety in Oakland	<a href="#">8. Remedies for Misconduct</a>	approved on 3/10/21
4) CM File to speak with Yoana re: details of what info is needed for RJ diversion	<a href="#">21. Changes to Recruiting and Hiring</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">22. Update OPD Promotion Process</a>	approved on 3/17/21
5) Omar and CM Kaplan to complete next steps on Verified Response	<a href="#">24. Train Officers on the History, Engagement of Black and Brown Communities in Oakland, as well as unique Community Sensitivities and Engagement with Youth</a>	approved on 3/10/21
6) CP Bas's office to set up meeting at the end of Feb	<a href="#">29. Look for Trends in Officers with Misconduct</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">31/84. Transfer most of IAD to CPBA</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">32. Update Manual of Rules &amp; Discipline Matrix</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">34. Coordinate City and County Services to Respond to Special Populations</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">36/97. Restructure Oakland Department of Public Safety</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">37. Institute Cross Functional Team to Approach Crisis Response</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">38. Eliminate the BearCat Armored Vehicle ASAP</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">40. Increase Community Engagement</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">41. Reorganizing OPD's Internal Structure</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">43. Demilitarize Police Department</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">44. Renegotiate OPOAs MOU in 2021 instead of 2024</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">46. Investment in Early Literacy (3rd grade and Below)</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">47. Implementing a Second Phase of Reimagining Public Safety (amended on 3/17/21 to include the following language: "Facilitation of the second phase must be rooted in community practice, such as being trauma-informed to interrupt sexism and racism, so that the process does not perpetuate the harm we're seeking to undo.")</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">49. Streamlining and Making Public Multiple Forms of Data from OPD</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">50. Reallocate and Reinvest Funds from the OPD Budget into Other Areas that Increase Public Safety</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">51. The City Prioritizing the Renegotiation of the OPOA MOU</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">52. Build on the Task Force's Guiding Principle #2</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">53. Adopt "Verified Response" Standard for Dispatch of Patrol Officers to Burglary Alarms.</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">54. Data Management</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">55. Data Transparency</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">56. Create a citywide Behavioral Health Unit</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">57. Immediately make long-term investment in MACRO</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">58. Fund/create community hotlines and transfer 911 call center out of OPD</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">59. Move most traffic enforcement to OakDOT</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">60. Create a civilian Community Ambassadors program to respond to nonviolent, non-mental health incidents</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">61. Dissolve OPD Homeless Outreach Unit and reinvest in mobile street outreach</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">64. Reveal laws criminalizing homelessness and poverty (withdrawing "vandalism" and "disorderly conduct" per TF amendment on 3/17/21)</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">65. Provide a public health response to addiction/substance abuse</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">66. Stop enforcement of laws that criminalize sex trade between consenting adults</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">67. Build a restorative justice web of support</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">68. Provide more comprehensive reentry support</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">69/107. Expand restorative justice diversion for youth and young adults</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">70. Invest more in programs, services, and spaces for young people</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">71. Expand and fund existing harm reduction services</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">72. Increase funding to gender-based violence response services</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">73. Expand flexible funding for survivors of gender-based violence</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">74. Adequately fund gender-based violence prevention</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">76. Pay unhoused community members to guide solutions to housing crisis</a>	
	<a href="#">77. Create immediate housing solutions</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">78. Revitalize commercial corridors</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">79. Transform unused vacant lots</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">80. Create a Workforce Equity Fund</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">81. Make all Oakland Community Colleges free for local residents</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">82. Launch a basic income program</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">83. Increase access to affordable and nutritious food</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">86. Transfer special event duties out of OPD</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">89. Cap OPD overtime</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">91. Engage community to amend Measure Z</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">93. Mandate a diverse OPD hiring panel</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">94. Mandate community recommendation for OPD recruits</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">95. Establish Public Works Street Team/Custodial Stewards</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">97. Establish a Department of Public Safety</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">98. Establish NCPD Community Safety Stewardship Program</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">99. Implement racial profiling ordinance to deter false calls for service</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">100. Reach annual alignment on NSA tasks</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">102. Expand County-Provided Mental Health Services</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">103/88. Increase Police Commission staff</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">104. Improve the Police Commission Selection Panel process</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">105. Impose Discipline on OPD Managers/Supervisors for Discriminatory Policing</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">106. Improve Outcomes in the Next OPOA MOU</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">109. Create school-site based violence prevention and crisis intervention teams</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">110. Provide enhanced public and mental health access to underserved communities</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">111. Create a civilian Department of Cannabis</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">112. Invest in equitable development of cannabis industry</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">113. Lower the cannabis business tax</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">114. Establish a Community Reparations Commission</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">122. Increase Investment in OYAC &amp; OPC-YLC</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">126. Civilian team to respond to calls where no threat or harm</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">137. Accountability #1 (Qualified Immunity)</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">138. Accountability #2 (Train officers on MOR)</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">139. Accountability #3 (Change the burden of proof)</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">140. Accountability #4 (Review misconduct for lateral transfers)</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">142. Accountability #6 (SLAs for completing misconduct investigations)</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">143. Amend city charter on police discipline</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">144. Invest in Community Workers and Violence Interrupters</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">145. Eliminate County Court and Jail Fees and Provide Stipend for Re-entry</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">147. Address Food Insecurity</a>	approved on 3/10/21
	<a href="#">148. Establish Department of Children, Youth and Families</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">149. Prioritize funding violence prevention strategies that address gender-based violence, shootings and homicides (plus "youth services" per TF amendment on 3/17/21)</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">150. The Oakland Reimagining Public Safety Task Force urges the elected and administrative leaders of Alameda County and the City of Oakland to immediately begin talks to implement delivery of behavioral and mental health services, including mobile crisis response, using County health funding streams, to all Oakland residents in need of such services, especially the unhoused. (amended on 3/17/21 to include the following language: "The Task Force urges City leaders to advocate to County leaders and budget managers that all available resources for behavioral health that can serve Oakland residents be utilized, and to establish agreements with County officials to reduce or eliminate the presence of law enforcement in mobile crisis response for mental and behavioral health calls.")</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">151. Any new civilian jobs or positions created from the Oakland RPSTF should continue to be valued as they shift to BiPOC workers in communities which have been disproportionately impacted by policing and violence. These jobs must be funded and paid as valued work that creates a skilled, diverse, and experienced workforce that can serve their communities long term and live in Oakland. The starting salary should be no less than \$70K per year plus full benefits. All jobs must avoid creating unnecessary barriers to employment.</a>	approved on 3/17/21
	<a href="#">152. Eliminate the OPD mounted horses unit</a>	approved on 3/17/21

<b>Measure Z (MZ) Objectives:</b>	I. Improve 911 Response Times and Other Services	<b>Strategic Plan Goals:</b>	I. Financial Accountability & Transparency					
	II. Reduce robberies, homicides, burglaries, & gun violence		II. Evaluation of Violence Reduction Measures					
	III. Invest in violence prevention & intervention strategies		III. Outreach & Engagement					
			IV. Policies & Practices to Improve MZ Outcomes					
<b>SSOC Initiatives 2024</b>								
<b>Item</b>	<b>Point of Contact</b>	<b>History</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>MZ Alignment</b>	<b>Strategic Plan Alignment</b>	<b>Strategic Plan - Core Value Alignment</b>	<b>Oversight Duty</b>	<b>Equity Score</b>
							("Evaluate, Inquire, Review, Report, Recommend")	
Future of MZ	Paula, Yoana, Omar, Sonya	Last met in Nov 2023 w/ Mayor's reps. Met with MZ advocates in October 2023.	Staff is reaching out to Brooklyn & Zach. Oaklanders Together will be presenting in March. <b>Include in survey to previous commissioners?</b>	MZ Section 4A6F	Part III	Impact Oriented, Evidence Based rec's	"Evaluate, Report, Recommend"	5 (6,9,10-12)
RPSTF-SSOC Alignment (sheet 4)	Yoana, Omar	Omar & Yoana met with CM's Bas, Kaplan, and Fife on 1/29/24 via Zoom.	Met w/ CMs. Developed action items. Create a phase II presentation.	Objectives I, II, III	Part II	Impact Oriented, Evidence Based rec's	"Evaluate & Recommend"	
CARE Plan	Yoana, Omar, Gloria, Wallace?	In 2023 presented to: Grand Lake NC, 22x, Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, LWVO, VPC	Offsite mtg? Presentations 2/21 (33x34xZoom), 3/27/35y, 4/3 (35xZoom). Work w/ Wallace	MZ Section 1 4A5 & 4A6F. Recommended for new MZ.	Part III	Evidence Based - Qualitative data, Respect & Courtesy, Teamwork	"Inquire & Report"	
Verified Response	Omar	Passed Rules Committee on 2/8. RPSTF Rec #53.	COMPLETE (tentative): Passed Public Safety on 2/27. Passed full city council on 3/5 and the last reading is on 3/19 as a consent item then it will be approved. <b>Create a VR flyer.</b>	Objective I	Part II	Evidence Based - Quantitative Data	"Evaluate & Recommend"	5 (2,6,7,9,10)
ASAP to PSAP	Omar	Needs to be scheduled for the Rules Committee.	Will know more before the end of March.	Objective I	Part II	Evidence Based - Quantitative Data	"Evaluate & Recommend"	4 (2,6,9,10)
Nightscope Technology	Omar	Use of autonomous robot tech to decrease calls for service and to deter auto burglaries and robberies.	Scheduled to present to the SSOC on Feb 26th. Have to reschedule D7 3/20 mtg w/ business leaders.	Objective I, II	Part II	Evidence Based - Quantitative Data	"Evaluate & Recommend"	
Zoom Meeting Access	Paula, Yoana	Residents listening online are unable to make public comments.	Waiting to hear back from CAO? Paula reached out to all commissioners via email for input. Yoana has drafted language we'll vote on it in on 3/25/24	Transparency	N/A	Respect & Courtesy	"Recommend"	
Violence Prevention Dashboard	Yoana, Omar	Promote a holistic approach to public safety by sharing violence prevention and intervention results at DVP.	Meeting with DVP, & D7 on March 27th	Objective III	Part II	Evidence Based - Quantitative and Qualitative Data, Teamwork	"Inquire & Report"	
Evaluation Summary	Omar & Kelly? and/or Sonya?, Gloria?	Summarize all recommendations made through evaluations and summarize their status for the public	In progress. Currently working on OPD's evaluation from 2017 on sheet 5	MZ Section 4A6F	Part I, II, III	Evidence Based - Quantitative Data	"Evaluate & Report"	
Strategic Plan Summary	Yoana, Omar	Summarize in 1-2 slides the impact of the Strategic Plan and any lessons learned.	Due by Oct meeting 2024.	MZ Section 4A6F	Part III	Evidence Based - Quantitative and Qualitative Data	"Report & Recommend"	
MZ Lessons Learned	Omar; but all current and previous commissioners are involved	Staff reach out to previous commissioners for input. Create a survey for them.	Waiting to hear back from staff on contact info for previous commissioners.	MZ Section 4A6F	Part II, III, IV	Evidence Based - Qualitative data	"Evaluate, Inquire, Review, Report, Recommend"	
Community Education Campaign	Omar & Yoana, Sonya? Kelly?	Historically the general public has not been aware of the SSOC. Educate them on its results over the last 10 years + about the new MZ.	Educate the public about the SSOC by using flyers for meetings and social media posts. Include a quick reference guide with our objectives, recommendations, and hyperlinks to info. Educate folks on the history of MZ.	MZ Section 1 4A5 & 4A6F. Recommended for new MZ.	Part III	Respect & Courtesy, Teamwork	"Report"	
MACRO Development	Paula, Yoana, Omar	Improves 911 response times by having calls diverted from 911 to MACRO.	See sheet 3 for details. Need to coordinate scheduling MACRO to come to SSOC meetings. Get an update on the # and if mtg's are public now. Part IV, I, III.	Objective I, III	Part II	Evidence Based - Quantitative Data	"Evaluate, Inquire, Review, Report, Recommend"	
Strategic Plan Objectives for 2024	Omar, Yoana	Summarize which objectives we'd like to have presentations for in 2024.	1.1 Annual fiscal and performance audits. 1.3 Review OPD Hiring Plan. 1.4 Annual Report of SVS. 2.1 Annual Ceasefire Report. 2.2-2.3 Annual CRO & CRT Reports. 2.5 Annual Update Diversity of MZ Positions. 2.6 OFD Annual Report on Call Center. 2.4 Tracking Recommendations from Evaluations	Objectives I, II, III, IV	Objectives I, II, III, IV	Evidence Based - Quantitative and Qualitative Data	"Evaluate & Review"	
Public Safety Officer position	Omar	Slow 911 response times. Have applicants attend both fire and police academies to create a new role.	Increases the number of folks who can respond to both medical/fire + law enforcement issues by increasing officer capabilities. Helps shift from a warrior to a guardian mindset.	Objective I	Part II			
Cross Training OFD call center w/ 911 call center	Omar	911 call center is out of CAL OES standards for call answering times.	Research cross training OFD center folks to augment 911 center staff.	Objective I	Part II			
Self-triage 911	Omar	A way of reducing 911 hold times. Mentioned at joint mtg.	Gathering info and intend to circle back to this rec ASAP. The idea is to be able to press 1 for OPD, 2 for OFD, 3 for MACRO.	Objective II				
Grant writing	Omar	Write a grant for 911 or violence prevention funds	On hold.					

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

As amended by the Public Safety Committee at the February 27, 2024, committee meeting.

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

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**ORDINANCE AMENDING OAKLAND MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 8.02 (BURGLAR ALARM SYSTEMS) TO (1) REQUIRE ALL NEW ALARM INSTALLATIONS TO BE VERIFIED RESPONSE ALARM SYSTEMS; (2) PROHIBIT ALARM BUSINESSES FROM MAKING DISPATCH REQUESTS BASED ON NON-VERIFIED ALARMS; AND (3) IMPOSE CIVIL PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS; AND ADOPTING CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT EXEMPTIONS**

**WHEREAS**, excessive false alarms unduly burden the Oakland Police Department's law enforcement resources; and

**WHEREAS**, governments and private companies wish to make the most effective use of their resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of this ordinance is to establish reasonable standards for users, to ensure that alarm owners are held responsible for the proper operation of their alarm systems; and

**WHEREAS**, public safety agencies recognize the significant burdens placed on state and local law enforcement resources due to responding to false alarm calls; and

**WHEREAS**, adopting these amendments will redirect the Oakland Police Department's resources from responding to false alarms to more critical matters, ultimately contributing to a safer and more secure community; and

**WHEREAS**, efficient resource management is crucial for the success of law enforcement. Ensuring optimal use of available resources can lead to increased productivity; and

**WHEREAS**, adequately installed, monitored, and operated alarm systems are practical tools that can identify criminal offenses in progress, and will lead to a reduction in the incidents of false alarms as well as enhance the safety of responding law enforcement officers; and

**WHEREAS,** False alarms burden law enforcement time and resources. Municipalities must take proactive measures to reduce false alarms so that personnel can focus on genuine emergencies and provide better services to communities; and

**WHEREAS,** reducing false alarms and establishing user responsibilities will improve efficiency and productivity, benefiting all parties.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OAKLAND DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1. Recitals:** The City Council of the City of Oakland hereby determines that the preceding recitals are true and correct and an integral part of the Council's decision to enact this legislation, and hereby adopts and incorporates them into this Ordinance.

**SECTION 2. Amendment of Oakland Municipal Code Section 8.02.010 (Definitions).** Oakland Municipal Code 8.02.010 is hereby amended as set forth below (additions are show as double underline and deletions are show as ~~strike through~~):  
**8.02.010 Definitions.**

"Alarm Administrator" means a person or persons designated by the Oakland Chief of Police to administer the City's security alarm program to issue citations and levy fees pursuant to this Chapter.

"Alarm Appeals Officer" means a person or persons designated by the Oakland Chief of Police to provide impartial judgment and determine whether fees that have been levied for false alarms are justified when a person appeals the assessment of those fees.

"Alarm business" means the business by an individual, partnership, corporation or other entity of selling, leasing, maintaining, servicing, repairing, altering, replacing, moving, installing, or monitoring an alarm system in an alarm site. Alarm businesses do not include persons doing installation or repair work solely on premises they own, lease, or rent where such work is performed without compensation of any kind (i.e., "do-it-yourselfers".)

"Alarm dispatch request" means communication to the police has been initiated by an alarm business (via police dispatch) indicating a security alarm system has been activated at a particular alarm site and Police Department response is requested to that alarm site.

"Alarm installation company" means a person in the business of selling, providing, maintaining, servicing, repairing, altering, replacing, moving, or installing an alarm system at an alarm site.

"Alarm response manager (ARM)" means a person designated by an alarm business or installation company to act as a primary point of contact for the jurisdiction's Alarm Administrator.

"Alarm site" means a single fixed premises or location served by an alarm system or systems. Each unit, if served by a separate alarm system in a multi-unit building or complex, shall be considered a separate alarm site.

"Alarm system" means a device or series of interconnected devices, including but not limited to, systems interconnected with hard wiring or radio frequency signals, which are designed to emit and/or transmit a remote or local audible, visual or electronic signal indicating that an intrusion may either be in progress or being attempted at the alarm site. Alarm system includes both monitored and unmonitored systems. Alarm system does not include an alarm installed in a vehicle or someone's person unless the vehicle or the personal alarm is permanently located at a site.

"Alarm user" means any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity who (which) uses an alarm system at a particular alarm site.

"Automatic voice dialer" means any electrical, electronic, mechanical, or other device capable of being programmed to send a prerecorded voice message (when activated or if self activated) over a telephone line, radio or other communication system, to the police department.

"Dual zone system" means an alarms system that includes motion detection covering the immediate area inside of all major points of entry with magnetic entry sensors.

"Duress alarm" means a silent alarm signal generated by the manual activation of a device intended to signal a crisis requesting a police response.

"False alarm" means response to an alarm dispatch request where the responding police officer finds no reasonable evidence of the commission or attempted commission of a crime, or determines the alarm activation is the result of mechanical failure, improper installation or maintenance, or alarm user negligence.

"Hold up alarm." See "Robbery alarm."

"Major point of entry" means any door through which a person can walk through, including front doors, rear doors, and patio doors of any style.

"Notice of non-compliance" is a formal notification by the alarm administrator to the alarm business of any violations of this Chapter.

"Oakland security alarm business license" is a license required to provide installation and/or monitoring services to alarm users in the City issued by the Police Department to an alarm business or installation company.

"OPD" means the City of Oakland Police Department.

"Panic alarm." See "Duress alarm."

"Person" means an individual, corporation, partnership, association, organization or similar entity.

"Robbery alarm" or "hold-up alarm" means a silent alarm signal generated by the manual activation of a device intended to signal a robbery is in progress or has just occurred.

"Subscriber" means an alarm user who is a customer of an alarm business.

"Verified Response Alarm System" means an alarm system that is monitored by an alarm business and has capacity for secondary indication that a burglary is in progress such as audio, video, or motion detection covering the area immediately inside all alarmed major points of entry.



"Unmonitored alarm system" means an alarm system that is not actively monitored by an alarm business and whose function it is to evoke police response solely by means of a generally audible and/or visible signal.

**SECTION 3. Amendment of Chapter 8.02.020 (Alarm registration and permits).**  
Oakland Municipal Code 8.02.020 is hereby amended as set forth below (additions are show as double underline and deletions are show as ~~strike though~~):

**8.02.020 Alarm registration and permits.**

- A. Police response to private alarm sites in the City is a privilege available only to those alarm users who have a current City alarm permit.
- B. No alarm business providing monitoring service to security alarm sites in the City shall activate alarm monitoring service or initiate alarm dispatch requests relative to any alarm site in the City that is not properly registered in accordance with this Chapter.
- C. Alarm permits are valid for one year.
- D. Alarm permits are issued to a person or persons ("alarm user") having bona fide ownership or control of an alarm site (i.e., home owner, business owner, renter, leaseholder, etc.) specifically for that alarm site or address. Alarm permits remain in the name(s) of the alarm user of record until a change of ownership or control of the alarm site occurs.
- E. Alarm permits are valid only to the alarm site and alarm user; alarm permits are not transferable. No refund of a permit or permit renewal fee will be made. A new alarm site permit must be obtained whenever there is a change of ownership or control of an alarm site.
- F. The initial permit application shall be given to the alarm user by the alarm installation company at the time of alarm installation. The application and fees shall be submitted by the alarm installation company to the alarm administrator (or designee) within 30 days of the installation date.
- G. Registration information is determined by the alarm administrator and shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
  - 1. Name and address of the alarm user (i.e., the person financially responsible for operation of the alarm system being registered).
  - 2. Home, business, and cellular telephone number(s) of the alarm user.
  - 3. Name, address, and telephone number of the alarm business providing monitoring service to the system, if any.
  - 4. Alternate telephone number for verification (i.e., secondary cell phone or other telephone designated by the alarm user).
  - 5. Signature of the alarm user verifying that the information on the permit is factual, and agreement to pay the fees associated with false alarms.

6. Name, address, and telephone number of individual or company who installed alarm system and date of installation.
  7. Whether the system is a verified response alarm system and type of verification system used (video, audio, dual zone motion detection, or any combination of the same).
- H. Upon receipt of a completed application and fees, the alarm administrator (or designee) shall issue a security alarm permit number to the alarm user.
  - I. The security alarm permit number assigned to an alarm user remains the same for as long as the alarm user continuously maintains registration for the alarm site.
  - J. The alarm permit may be renewed under the following conditions:
    1. The alarm site has no past-due fees.
    2. The alarm user either updates ~~his/her~~ their registration information or verifies that the current registration information is still correct.
    3. The appropriate annual permit fee is paid.
  - K. The fee for a new alarm permit shall be collected by the alarm installation company and an alarm permit renewal fee shall be collected by the alarm administrator.
  - L. Renewal information and fees are submitted to the alarm administrator (or designee) on or before the initial permit anniversary date each year.
  - M. The rates for security alarm permit fees are listed in the City master fee schedule.
  - N. Any fee required to be paid by an alarm user under the provisions of this Chapter shall be deemed a debt owed by the alarm user to the City until it has been paid to the City.
  - O. Any fee required to be collected by an alarm business under the provisions of this Chapter shall be deemed a debt owed to the City by the business required to collect and remit such fee, if the alarm business has failed to take reasonable steps to collect the fee.
  - P. Alarm users who install their own alarms shall submit a permit application and fees prior to activating the alarm system.

**SECTION 4. Amendment of Chapter 8.02.030 (Alarm System Standards).** Oakland Municipal Code 8.02.030 is hereby amended as set forth below (additions are show as double underline and deletions are show as ~~strikethrough~~):

**8.02.030 Alarm system standards.**

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person to install or sell an alarm system which upon activation emits a sound similar to sirens in use on emergency vehicles or for civil defense purposes. This action shall not apply to sirens mounted inside a building which cannot be clearly heard from outside the building.
- B. Operating an audible alarm system that does not shut off (by manual or automatic operation) within 15 minutes from the time of activation is unlawful. If the alarm system has an automatic shutoff with a rearming phase, the rearming phase must be able to

distinguish between an open and a closed circuit, and if the circuit is broken the system shall not rearm.

- C. No automatic voice dialing device shall be used to initiate an alarm dispatch request.
- D. All alarm systems shall have a standby backup power supply that will automatically power the operation of the alarm system for a minimum of four hours, should any interruption occur in power to the alarm system. The transfer of power from the primary source to the backup source must occur in a manner which does not activate the alarm.
- E. Alarm businesses shall not install a device for activating duress, hold-up, or panic alarms in commercial sites that have a single action, non-recessed button.
- F. Beginning July 1, 2024, all new installations of monitored alarm systems must be verified response alarm systems.

#### **SECTION 5. Amendment of Chapter 8.02.040 (Alarm User Responsibilities).**

Oakland Municipal Code 8.02.040 is hereby amended as set forth below (additions are show as double underline and deletions are show as ~~strike though~~):

#### **8.02.040 Alarm users responsibilities.**

- A. Each alarm user is annually responsible for:
  - 1. Registering the alarm system by obtaining an alarm permit;
  - 2. Paying the permit fee; and
  - 3. Providing current registration information.
- B. Alarm users who operate an alarm without a permit shall be charged a ~~non-compliance remediation fee~~ civil penalty (listed in the master fee schedule.)
- C. Each alarm user is responsible for assuring that the alarm system is used properly and in accordance with the manufacturer's directions and the law. Inherent in this responsibility is:
  - 1. Assuring that all persons with access to the alarm system are properly trained on correct use of the system and are authorized to cancel accidental activations, and
  - 2. Assuring that procedures and practices are followed that minimize the risk of false alarms.
- D. Each alarm user is responsible for keeping the alarm system properly maintained and in good working order.
- E. Each alarm user is financially responsible for paying cost recovery ~~service~~ fees when police respond to false alarms from the alarm site (see Section 8.02.080).
- F. Each alarm user is responsible for providing the Police Department with access to the structure or premises, within 45 minutes of the alarm dispatch request so that the alarm may be verified. Access may be granted by the alarm user or designated responder.
- G. Failure to meet the responsibilities listed in this Section may lead to revocation of an alarm permit and loss of the privileges associated with that permit.

**SECTION 6. Amendment of Chapter 8.02.050 (Alarm business responsibilities).**  
Oakland Municipal Code 8.02.050 is hereby amended as set forth below (additions are show as double underline and deletions are show as ~~strikethrough~~):

**8.02.050 Alarm business responsibilities**

The duties of the alarm business shall be to:

- A. Designate one individual as the Alarm Response Manager (ARM) for the business. The individual designated as the ARM must be knowledgeable of the provisions of this Chapter and respond to requests from the Alarm Administrator. The name, contact number, and e-mail address of the ARM shall be provided to the Alarm Administrator.
- B. Provide the alarm administrator (or designee) with an electronic data file and hard copy file with name, complete address and account number of each new alarm user in the City no later than the last day of each month.
- C. Notify the alarm administrator by the 15th day of each month of all their alarm users within the City that have discontinued their alarm service with the business in the previous month. For each discontinued alarm user that is not listed on the notification, the alarm business shall pay a fee as set forth in the master fee schedule. Fees shall be waived when the alarm business provides credible evidence that it has a valid contract with the respective alarm user, or that the alarm user discontinued service without formal termination.
- D. Comply with California licensing requirements, and maintain a valid copy of the State of California Department of Consumer Affairs alarm company and/or alarm company employee permit with the alarm administrator.
- E. Ensure that installation of all new alarm components adhere to manufacturer's installation guidelines.
- F. Install alarm systems and alarm system components appropriate for the location; be available to maintain the system in good working order, and take reasonable measures to prevent the occurrence of false alarms.
- G. Submit an alarm permit form, the correct fee and required documentation on behalf of the alarm user to the alarm administrator (or designee) within 30 days of the installation date of a new alarm system. Alarm businesses and alarm installation companies shall hold fee revenues received from customers in trust for the City.
- H. Provide alarm users with alarm ordinance and false alarm fee information, with each new installation.
- I. Provide accurate and complete instruction to the alarm user on the proper use of its alarm system. Specific emphasis shall be placed on the avoidance of false alarms. Each business that sells alarm systems, whether or not it is an alarm business as defined in this Chapter, is similarly responsible for instructing the buyer of the alarm system on the proper use of their system.

- J. Institute quality control procedures to track and prevent the occurrence of false alarms for the first 30 calendar days after installing a new alarm system.
- K. Obtain written documentation (with newly installed alarm systems) from alarm users that they have been trained to operate the new system.
- L. Provide group training to commercial users for installations, including false alarm prevention.
- M. Not sell or transfer an alarm contract during the warranty period, without transfer of the existing warranty or insuring the warranty remains in force for the warranty period.
- N. Comply with all Verified Response Alarm System requirements as set forth in this Chapter.

**SECTION 7. Addition of Section 8.02.072 (Verified Response Alarm Systems).** Section 8.02.072 is hereby added to the Oakland Municipal Code as follows:

**8.02.072 Verified Response Alarm Systems**

Beginning July 1, 2024, it shall be unlawful for an alarm business to make an alarm dispatch request based on the breach of a single major point of entry without a secondary indication that a burglary is in progress. Secondary indication may be audio or video evidence of an intrusion, ~~or~~ the tripping of a motion detector, or verbal confirmation from the alarm user or designee, in addition to the breach of a major point of entry. An alarm business who violates this section shall be subject to a \$1,000 penalty for each violation.

This section shall not apply to alarm systems installed prior to July 1, 2024, which lack secondary verification capacity, for which the users have continually maintained an active permit unless the alarm business has, ~~at any time after July 1, 2024,~~ made ~~an~~ two alarm dispatch requests ~~for the property based on a false alarms,~~ at any time after July 1, 2024.

**SECTION 8. Amendment of Chapter 8.02.080 (Appropriating public police services for private purposes subject to cost recovery fees).** Oakland Municipal Code 8.02.080 is hereby amended as set forth below (additions are show as double underline and deletions are show as ~~strikethrough~~):

**Chapter 8.02.080 Appropriating public police services for private purposes subject to cost recovery fees**

- A. Causing police to engage in a false alarm response constitutes an appropriation of public police services for private purposes and is subject to a cost recovery fee.
- B. The alarm user is responsible for payment of ~~his~~ their permit and cost recovery fees.
- C. When, in the opinion of the responding police officer(s), an alarm dispatch request can be reasonably associated with an actual or attempted criminal offense at the involved alarm

site, the alarm is valid and the response is considered a basic police service not subject to cost recovery fees.

1. The following actions constitute use of an alarm system that improperly appropriates police services for private purposes and are subject to cost recovery fees:
2. Activating an alarm system with the intent to report:
  - a. Suspicious circumstances;
  - b. Any non-criminal incident; or
  - c. A need for fire, medical or other non-police services; or
- D. When, in the opinion of the responding police officer(s), an alarm dispatch request can be reasonably attributed to an earthquake, hurricane, tornado or other unusually violent act of nature, a cost recovery fee shall be not assessed.
- E. When, in the opinion of the responding police officer(s), an alarm dispatch request cannot be reasonably attributed to the conditions described in Subsections C. or D. of this Section, the incident is a false alarm and the police officer response is considered an appropriation of public police services for private purposes that is subject to cost recovery.
- F. When the responding officer(s) is (are) unable to determine if an alarm is valid or false because of inaccessibility of the alarm site, the response is presumed to be a false alarm response, and is subject to cost recovery fees (see Section 8.02.010).
- G. The cost recovery fees for appropriating public police services for private purposes are listed in the City master fee schedule.
- H. Cost recovery fees are assessed based on the response requested. For example, an alarm dispatch request reporting a robbery alarm is subject to the false alarm ~~penalty~~ fee applicable to robbery false alarm responses, even if the alarm activation should properly have been reported as a burglary alarm.
- I. All fees are due and payable upon receipt of invoice.
- J. The City may establish an online Alarm User Awareness Class for the purpose of educating alarm users about the responsible use, operation, maintenance of alarm systems and false alarm reduction strategies. The class shall inform alarm users of the problems created by false alarms and instruct alarm users how to help reduce false alarms. The City may grant the option of attending an online class in lieu of paying one assessed false alarm cost recovery fee.

**SECTION 9. Amendment of Chapter 8.02.090 (Appeals).** Oakland Municipal Code 8.02.090 is hereby amended as set forth below (additions are show as double underline and deletions are show as ~~strikethrough~~):

#### **Chapter 8.02.090 Cost Recovery Fee Appeals**

Cost recovery fees may be appealed to the alarm appeals officer, as follows:

- A. The appeal process is initiated by the alarm user sending a letter to the alarm appeals officer requesting that the cost recovery fee be waived (an appeal conference,) specifying the reasons for the appeal, and submitting the scheduled appeal fee. This letter and appeal fee must be received by the alarm appeals officer within 30 calendar days after mailing of the initial invoice to the alarm user.
- B. Service fees may be appealed only on the grounds that the incident cited as the basis for the service fee was, in fact, not a false alarm response. The alarm user must (in ~~his~~ or her their letter requesting an appeal) describe detailed, credible evidence in ~~his/her~~ their possession that supports the contention that the involved incident was a valid alarm, as described in Subsections 8.02.080 C. or D.
- C. The alarm appeals officer may reject requests for appeals that are not supported by detailed, credible evidence of criminal activity or for one of the listed reasons in the City false alarm appeal guideline form by the appellant. Notice of rejection of a request for this initial appeal shall be sent to the appellant in writing within ten working days following receipt of the appeal request by the alarm appeals officer.
- D. Whenever the first appeal is denied, the alarm user may then file a second written appeal requesting an in-person hearing.
  - 1. This request must be received within 30 calendar days from the mailing of the denial of the first level of appeal.
  - 2. All hearings shall be heard by an appeals officer appointed by the Chief of Police.
  - 3. The alarm administrator shall serve as the City's representative in these hearings.
- E. The filing of a request for an appeal conference with an alarm appeals officer sets aside the pending service fee or related service suspension/revocation in appeal until the alarm appeals officer either rejects the appeal request, as described in Subsection A. of this Section, or renders a final decision.
- F. The alarm appeals officer, on receipt of a request for a hearing, shall conduct an appeal conference within 30 working days after receiving the appeal request. The alarm administrator may also contact the appellant and offer a resolution or modification of the cost recovery fees prior to the scheduled hearing.
- G. At the conference, the alarm administrator shall present evidence on the City's behalf supporting the case that the applicable cost recovery fees are based on police response to an actual false alarm. The alarm appeals officer shall consider this evidence and any information presented by any interested person(s).
  - 1. Because false alarm responses are based on the professional judgment of the responding police officer using the facts known to the officer at the time of the incident, the burden of proof in appeals is on the appellant.
  - 2. The appellant must establish with credible evidence that facts known to, but not considered by the police officer, existed at the time of the incident, that would have lead a reasonable police officer to the conclusion that the incident involved was a valid alarm, as described in Subsections 8.02.080 C. or D.

3. The alarm appeals officer shall make ~~his/her~~ their decision based on the presence of such facts and conclusions.
- H. The alarm appeals officer shall render a decision and notify the appellant and the alarm administrator thereof in writing within 20 working days after the appeal conference is held. The alarm appeals officer may:
1. Affirm,
  2. Waive (in whole or in part),
  3. Cancel, or
  4. Modify the ~~penalty~~ fees or actions that are the subject of the appeal.
- I. If the alarm appeals officer affirms or modifies the amount of a service fee due, that amount becomes immediately due and payable.
- J. Appeal decisions are reviewed and approved by the City Administrator prior to becoming official. The official decision of the alarm appeals officer is final, and no further appeals or remedies are available.

**SECTION 10. Addition of Section 8.02.091 (Civil Penalty Appeals).** Section 8.02.091 is hereby added to the Oakland Municipal Code as set forth below:

**8.02.091 Civil Penalty Appeals.** Civil Penalties assessed under this chapter may be appealed in accordance with procedures established by the City Administrator for appealing civil penalties assessed pursuant Chapter 1.08.

**SECTION 11. Direction to City Administrator.** The City Administrator is directed to provide an informational report to Council as soon as practicable after July 1, 2026, regarding the efficacy of the verified response alarm system requirements adopted herein, and to make a recommendation to Council regarding whether secondary verification requirements should be imposed on alarm users with alarm systems installed prior to July 1, 2024.

**SECTION 12. California Environmental Quality Act Compliance.** The legislation contains no provisions modifying the physical design, development, or construction of residential or nonresidential structures. Accordingly, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that it: (1) may have a significant effect on the environment and/or (2) would result in any physical changes to the environment. As a result, this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the following CEQA Guidelines, taken together and each as a separate and independent basis: Section 15301 (existing facilities), Section 15378 (regulatory actions), Section 15060(c)(2) (no direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment), and Section 15061(b)(3) (no significant environmental impact).

**SECTION 13. No Conflict with State or Local Law.** Nothing in this Ordinance shall be interpreted or applied so as to create any requirement, power, or duty in conflict with any federal or state law.



**SECTION 14. Correction of Errors.** The City Council hereby authorizes the City Administrator or designee to make non-substantive, technical conforming changes (essentially correction of typographical and clerical errors) to this legislation prior to formal publication of the Amendments in the Oakland Municipal Code.

**SECTION 15. Administrative Regulations.** The City Administrator is authorized to promulgate and amend administrative regulations and forms consistent with this legislation.

**SECTION 16. Severability.** If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the Chapter. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance and each section, subsection, clause or phrase thereof irrespective of the fact that one or more other sections, subsections, clauses or phrases may be declared invalid or unconstitutional

**SECTION 17. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall become effective immediately on final adoption if it receives six or more affirmative votes; otherwise it shall become effective upon the seventh day after final adoption.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES – FIFE, GALLO, JENKINS, KALB, KAPLAN, RAMACHANDRAN, REID, AND  
PRESIDENT FORTUNATO BAS

NOES –  
ABSENT –  
ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
ASHA REED  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the  
City of Oakland, California

Date of Attestation: \_\_\_\_\_

## **NOTICE AND DIGEST**

### **ORDINANCE AMENDING OAKLAND MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 8.02 (BURGLAR ALARM SYSTEMS) TO (1) REQUIRE ALL NEW ALARM INSTALLATIONS TO BE VERIFIED RESPONSE ALARM SYSTEMS; (2) PROHIBIT ALARM BUSINESSES FROM MAKING DISPATCH REQUESTS BASED ON NON-VERIFIED ALARMS; AND (3) IMPOSE CIVIL PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS; AND ADOPTING CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT EXEMPTIONS**

This Ordinance would require all monitored alarm systems newly installed after July 1, 2024, to have capacity to provide secondary indication that a burglary is in progress such as audio, video, or motion detection. With limited exceptions for systems installed prior to July 1, 2024, this ordinance would impose civil penalties for calling in an alarm dispatch request based on the breach of a single major point of entry without a secondary indication that a burglary is in progress.



# AGENDA REPORT



**TO:** Honorable Mayor and  
members of the City Council

**FROM:** Councilmember Kaplan  
At-Large District

**SUBJECT:** Adopting Verified  
Response

**DATE:** February 15, 2024

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

Councilmember Kaplan recommends that the City Council adopt an ordinance.

**ORDINANCE AMENDING OAKLAND MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 8.02 (BURGLAR ALARM SYSTEMS) TO (1) REQUIRE ALL NEW ALARM INSTALLATIONS TO BE VERIFIED RESPONSE ALARM SYSTEMS; (2) PROHIBIT ALARM BUSINESSES FROM MAKING DISPATCH REQUESTS BASED ON NON-VERIFIED ALARMS; AND (3) IMPOSE CIVIL PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS; AND ADOPTING CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT EXEMPTION**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A Verified Response System mandates private alarm companies to verify that a crime is indeed taking place before contacting the police. This places the responsibility and cost on the alarm companies to ensure their equipment works correctly as intended. Excessive false alarms unduly burden the Oakland Police Department's law enforcement resources. Adopting these amendments will redirect the Oakland Police Department's resources from responding to false alarms to more critical matters, ultimately contributing to a safer and more secure community.

The City of Oakland (hereinafter "The City") regulates security alarm companies to prevent false alarms from reducing the availability of police services for the public. Additionally, the regulation aims to avoid penalizing residents who cannot afford or choose not to use security alarm systems.

A Verified Response System intends to foster and promote the health, safety, and welfare of the public, not to protect individuals or create (or otherwise establish or designate) any particular class or group of persons who will or should be significantly benefited by the terms of this Chapter. The ordinance places no duties on The City. Compliance and liability fall solely on those responsible for security alarm systems.

## **BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY**

A Verified Response system mandates an alarm system to confirm that an alarm activation is not accidental. This confirmation can be obtained by sound, video, a manually activated panic button, or an eyewitness account indicating that a crime is occurring. When an alarm is verified, it is considered a "verified" response. Verification can also be done when an alarm company agent, property owner, or witness at the activation scene confirms that police are needed because a crime has occurred.

Excessive false alarms unduly burden law enforcement, impacting resources. A conventional alarm system can only sense motion and cannot detect criminal intent. It can only report human error, system malfunctions, and unusual conditions, most of which are not related to any criminal activity.

False alarms draining law enforcement resources is a nationwide issue. Oakland is not an exception in proposing a practical solution for reducing the cost of false alarms on law enforcement resources. For example, cities across the western United States, most notably Las Vegas, collectively shared data indicating that most or nearly 98% of police responses to alarm activations are false alarms. Las Vegas adopted a Verified Response practice to great success. Furthermore, the Las Vegas Deputy Chief of Police, Mike Ault, believes NOT implementing a VR response and shifting the burden of alarm response to law enforcement is illegal as it comes down to contracting with a government entity without a contract. The link to the report can be found [here](#).

In The City, the Public Safety and Services Oversight Commission (SSOC) has helped carve the essential pieces of these proposed amendments. Furthermore, the SSOC has expressed support for a verified response. A statement from the SSOC is attached to this report as Attachment A.

Adopting a Verified Response system is a practical tool to help unburden law enforcement from dispensing critical resources on false alarms. Furthermore, the Verified Response approach is a familiar idea. Cities like the size and with needs like The City have successfully adopted verified response systems. Cities have found verified response an adequate tool that improves law enforcement. Moreover, the SSOC has cited verified responses as an effective tool.

## **ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES**

A Verified Response has proven an effective law enforcement resource management method in cities across the western United States. The SSOC has also advocated for adopting a verified response system to increase the resources available for public safety matters in law enforcement.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact on the City budget by adopting these amendments. The City of Oakland regulates security alarm companies to prevent false alarms from affecting police services. The goal is to avoid penalizing residents who can't afford or choose not to use security alarm systems.

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST**

No public outreach was deemed necessary for this item. Nevertheless, the ordinance was introduced with the aid and insights of the SSOC. The SSOC is a commission made up of members of the public whose specific task is to recommend practices that can enhance public safety.

## **COORDINATION**

The At-Large office has coordinated with the SSOC in drafting these proposed amendments.

## **SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES**

***Economic:*** Adopting these amendments does not impact the City's budget. The City regulates security alarm companies to prevent false alarms from reducing the availability of police services for the public. Additionally, the regulation aims to avoid penalizing residents who cannot afford or choose not to use security alarm systems.

***Environmental:*** Adopting these amendments does not impact the environment.

***Social Equity:*** By adopting these amendments, law enforcement can focus on increasing public safety and utilizing resources more efficiently.

**ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**Councilmember Kaplan recommends that the City Council adopt an**

**ORDINANCE AMENDING OAKLAND MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 8.02 (BURGLAR ALARM SYSTEMS) TO (1) REQUIRE ALL NEW ALARM INSTALLATIONS TO BE VERIFIED RESPONSE ALARM SYSTEMS; (2) PROHIBIT ALARM BUSINESSES FROM MAKING DISPATCH REQUESTS BASED ON NON-VERIFIED ALARMS; AND (3) IMPOSE CIVIL PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS; AND ADOPTING CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT EXEMPTION**

For questions regarding this report, please contact Michael Alvarenga, Legislative Analyst, at [malvarenga@oaklandca.gov](mailto:malvarenga@oaklandca.gov)

**Attachment A** – SSOC statement letter

Respectfully submitted,

Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan  
At-Large District

Prepared by:  
Michael Alvarenga, Legislative Analyst  
Office of Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan

**Date:** 2/14/24

**To:** Council Member Kaplan  
**From:** Omar Farmer, SSOC Chairperson  
**Cc:** Yoana Tchoukleva, SSOC Vice-Chairperson; Felicia Verdin, SSOC Staff; Michael Alvarenga, At Large Legislative Analyst

**Subject:** Verified Response Progress

The Verified Response recommendation was created by retired OPD Deputy Chief Michael Holland in 2021 as part of the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force (RPSTF) process. He also wrote the original burglary ordinance that's being proposed to be updated to reflect a new verified response requirement.

After reaching out and discussing this with him in 2022 the SSOC subsequently adopted it as a recommendation for city council to adopt because it assists in accomplishing one of the primary objectives of the Measure Z ordinance, the SSOC oversees, which is improving 911 response times. As he points out in his RPSTF recommendation #53, 98% of the burglary alarms OPD responds to are false alarms. The time spent on these false alarms equates to 4.5-6.8 annual FTE hours wasted of police officer time.

We look forward to implementing this updated version of the burglary ordinance that's designed to cut down on the hours wasted by OPD so they can spend more time on calls related to gun violence for example. Another objective of the Measure Z ordinance.

For the past two years we also collaborated with the California Alarm Association on this initiative and we appreciate their input. Further, thank you to Council Member Kaplan, for her willingness and determination to complete this project. The SSOC is grateful to everyone for the time and energy spent that's been spent on this initiative.

Kind regards,



Omar Farmer  
SSOC Chairperson

February 23, 2024

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OAKLAND

VIA HAND-DELIVERY

Ms. Asha Reed  
City Clerk, City of Oakland  
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza  
First and Second Floors  
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Oakland Community Violence Reduction and Emergency  
Response Act of 2024

Dear Ms. Reed:

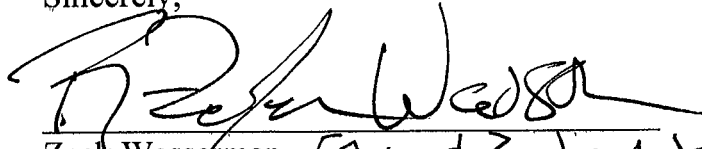
Enclosed please find a "Notice of Intent to Circulate Petition," and the text for a proposed initiative ordinance in the City of Oakland, the "Oakland Community Violence Reduction and Emergency Response Act of 2024," along with the \$500 filing fee. I request that you immediately forward a copy of the proposed ordinance to the City Attorney for preparation of a Ballot Title and Summary. Also, enclosed please find the proponent's signed statement required by California Elections Code section 9608.

This letter authorizes my legal counsel Jim Sutton and Eli Love (copied here) to submit the initiative and accompanying documents to your office, and also authorizes you and other City officials to correspond with Mr. Sutton and Mr. Love for any and all matters related to this proposed initiative.

As soon as the Ballot Title and Summary are prepared, please e-mail it to Mr. Sutton and Mr. Love (jsutton@campaignlawyers.com, elove@campaignlawyers.com; 415/732-7700).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Please direct all correspondence and questions regarding this initiative ordinance to Mr. Sutton and Mr. Love.

Sincerely,

  
Zack Wasserman [Robert Zachary Wasserman]  
3833 Lakeshore Ave.  
Oakland, CA 94610

Attachments

cc: James R. Sutton, Esq.  
Eli Love, Esq.



**Proponent's Signed Statement Pursuant to Elections Code Section 9608**

Pursuant to California Elections Code section 9608, I, as the proponent, hereby submit this signed statement with regard to the proposed initiative ordinance titled "Oakland Community Violence Reduction and Emergency Response Act of 2024:

I, Zack Wasserman, acknowledge that it is a misdemeanor under state law (Section 18650 of the Elections Code) to knowingly or willfully allow the signatures on an initiative petition to be used for any purpose other than qualification of the proposed measure for the ballot. I certify that I will not knowingly or willfully allow the signatures for this initiative to be used for any purpose other than qualification of the measure for the ballot.

Dated this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2024



Zack Wasserman  
3833 Lakeshore Ave.  
Oakland, CA 94610

[Report Zack Wasserman]

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OAKLAND

2024 FEB 23 PM 2:14

Notice of Intent to Circulate Petition

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OAKLAND

Notice is hereby given by the person whose name appears hereon of her intention to circulate the petition within the City of Oakland for the purpose of raising revenue solely to pay for the development, implementation and evaluation of a holistic, results-driven approach to the prevention and reduction of violent crime in Oakland; balancing investments in community violence prevention, police and fire services; creating a Citywide Community Violence Reduction Plan designed to achieve specific violence reduction targets; empowering a citizens' planning and oversight commission and an independent budget auditor to monitor and account for the proper and effective use of revenue raised from this measure; and continuing and increasing the parcel tax and parking tax imposed by the 2014 Oakland Public Safety and Services Violence Prevention Act (Measure Z). The proposed initiative ordinance is titled the "Oakland Community Violence Reduction and Emergency Response Act of 2024."

A statement of the reasons of the proposed action as contemplated in the petition is as follows:

Violent crime is a very serious issue in our City, with most Oaklanders feeling less safe today than a year or two ago. Today Oakland is facing an unprecedented wave of robberies, burglaries and car jackings and break-ins. Oaklanders want city government to implement a results-driven approach to public safety that balances investments in community violence prevention and law enforcement strategies, and is publicly accountable for achieving meaningful reductions in violent crime.

Oaklanders want city government to prioritize the use of local tax dollars to reduce gun violence, improve response times to 911 emergency calls for service, and reduce human trafficking, including the sexual exploitation of minors. Oaklanders expect city government to be transparent and accountable to the general public for its strategic use of local tax dollars in achieving improvements in public safety.

The 2014 Oakland Public Safety and Services Violence Prevention Act and the parcel tax it authorized will expire at the end of 2024 and the continuation of the services provided by that act and the revenues it generates to support those services are critical to maintaining public safety in Oakland. If that Act is not renewed by the voters, the City will lose over \$30 million dollars that support public safety and that provides for critical violence prevention services and 58 sworn police officers.

The revenues received from the Act will be expended exclusively for the benefit of the purposes and goals stated in this Measure.

Please sign this petition so our Oakland voters can continue to provide funds to support critical violence prevention and public safety measures to protect our City.



Zack Wasserman  
3833 Lakeshore Ave.  
Oakland, CA 94610

[Robert Zachary Wasserman]

2/28/2024  
Date

# OAKLAND COMMUNITY VIOLENCE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT OF 2024

The People of the City of Oakland do ordain as follows:

## PART 1. General Provisions

### SECTION 1. Title.

This Ordinance may be cited as the “Oakland Community Violence Reduction and Emergency Response Act of 2024” and may be referred to herein as “the Act”, “this Ordinance” or “Measure”.

### SECTION 2. Findings.

Violent crime is a very serious issue in our City. Most Oaklanders feel less safe today than a year or two ago with Oakland is facing an unprecedented wave of robberies, burglaries and break-ins. Oaklanders want City government to implement a results-driven approach to public safety which balances investments in community violence prevention and law enforcement strategies, and which is publicly accountable for achieving meaningful reductions in violent crime.

Oaklanders want City government to prioritize the use of local tax dollars to reduce gun violence and property crimes which threaten people’s safety, improve response times to 911 emergency calls for service, and reduce human trafficking, including the sexual exploitation of minors. Oaklanders expect City government to be transparent and accountable to the general public for its strategic use of local tax dollars in achieving improvements in public safety.

The 2014 Oakland Public Safety and Services Violence Prevention Act and the parcel tax it authorized which provided over \$30 million each year for these purposes will expire at the end of 2024. The continuation of the services provided by that Act and the revenues it generates to support those services are critical to maintaining public safety in Oakland.

The chief purpose and intent of this measure is to raise revenue solely to pay for the development, implementation, and evaluation of a holistic, results-driven approach to the prevention and reduction of violent crime in Oakland. This approach balances investments in community violence prevention, police, and fire services; creates a citywide Community Violence Reduction Plan designed to achieve specific violence reduction targets; and empowers a citizens’ planning and oversight commission and an independent budget auditor to monitor and account for the proper and effective use of revenue raised from this measure. The taxes imposed under this Ordinance are solely for these purposes and to pay for certain administrative expenses related to the funded programs.

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OAKLAND

### SECTION 3. Objectives.

The tax proceeds raised by the special taxes created by this Ordinance may be used only to pay for costs or expenses relating to or arising from efforts to achieve the following desired goals: (1) reduce homicides, robberies, car jackings and break-ins, domestic violence, and other gun-related violence; (2) reduce response time for 911 emergency calls for service, and improve the quality of response; and (3) reduce the incidence of human trafficking, including the sexual exploitation of minors.

### SECTION 4. Planning, Oversight, and Accountability.

A. Commission: Adoption of this Ordinance shall establish the Oakland Public Safety Planning and Oversight Commission ("Commission") which shall replace the existing Public Safety and Services Violence Prevention Oversight and Accountability Commission.

1. Composition: The Commission shall be composed of five (5) members who shall be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council pursuant to Section 601 of the Charter. The composition of the Commission should be reflective of the diversity of Oakland and shall include members who have expertise in criminal justice, public safety, public health, social services, emergency services, and community violence intervention and prevention programs and/or research, finance and evaluations in those areas. At least one member shall have lived experience with service-eligible populations, and one member shall have professional law enforcement experience, preferably at a command officer level, and/or academic expertise in law enforcement.
2. Conflicts of Interest: Each Commission member shall certify that the member and the member's immediate family members, business associates and employers have no financial interest in any program, project, organization, agency or other entity that is seeking or will seek funding approval under this Ordinance. Financial interest includes, without limitation, salaries, consultant fees, program fees, commissions, gifts, gratuities, favors, sales income, rental payments, investment income or other business income. A Commission member shall immediately notify the City Administrator and the Chair of the Commission of any real or possible conflict of interest between membership on the Commission and work or other involvement with entities funded by the taxes provided for in this Ordinance. Any dispute about whether a conflict of interest exists shall be resolved by the Public Ethics Commission.
3. Duties of the Commission: The Commission shall perform the following duties:
  - a. Develop and approve a Four Year Community Violence Reduction Plan.

- b. Recommend to the City Council the adoption of the Four Year Community Reduction Plan which the Council may approve or reject but not modify; if the Council rejects the Plan, it will return it to the Commission with recommended changes and the Commission will submit a new Plan to the Council which the Council may accept or reject but not modify.
  - c. Evaluate the implementation and impact of the Community Violence Reduction Plan, and, at the Commission's discretion, retain an independent consultant to assist such evaluation.
  - d. Review the seven hundred (700) floor number for sworn police officers, the eight hundred (800) number governing layoffs for police, and the four hundred eighty (480) number governing layoffs for firefighters set in Sections 5(A) and (B) below in 2029 for the City 2030 budget. Upon such review based upon the Four Year Community Reduction Plan, any analysis of the performance of the actions authorized by the Act and other crime factors and statistics, the Commission may recommend a different number for each category to the City Council and the Council may approve or reject the new number; if the Council rejects the recommendation, the number shall remain unchanged.
  - e. Monitor the allocation and use of all revenues generated by this Act;
  - f. Submit any policy recommendations to the Mayor and City Council to ensure the City of Oakland's compliance with the purpose and intent of this Act, including recommendations for corrective actions, if any.
  - g. Review and provide comments on all non-confidential reports and recommendations concerning potential suspension and/or reduction of the number of law enforcement personnel and suspension of the tax.
  - h. At least every three (3) years, the department head or his/her designee of each City department receiving and/or disbursing funds generated by this Act shall present to the Commission a priority spending plan for funds received from this Act. The priority spending plan shall include proposed expenditures, strategic rationales for those expenditures and intended measurable outcomes and metrics expected from those expenditures, all of which shall be incorporated into the Four Year Community Violence Reduction Plan. The first presentation shall occur within 120 days of the effective date of this Act. Twice each year, the Commission shall receive a report from a representative of each City department receiving funds from this Act on the status of the priority spending plans and the demonstrated progress towards the desired outcomes.
  - i. Submit reports to the public that the Commission determines are appropriate to serve its purposes.
4. Community Violence Reduction Planning: All revenue raised from this Act, after payment of the administrative fees described herein, shall be spent on direct services, programs, and strategies designed to achieve the violence reduction and public safety goals and metrics established in the Four-Year Community

Violence Reduction Plans developed by the Commission. The first Four-Year Plan will be effective July 1, 2026 and the second Four-Year Plan will be effective July 1, 2030. Each Four-Year Community Violence Reduction Plan shall describe:

- a. problems/needs to be addressed in this Act's three goal areas as stated herein, using multiple data sources;
- b. specific four-year impact goals and outcome metrics for each goal area;
- c. theory-of-change or strategy, informed by data and evidence-based practices, designed to achieve the specific four-year impact goals and outcome metrics;
- d. formal resource leveraging of and programmatic coordination with other city, county, school district, state, federal, and philanthropic resources to maximize the Four-Year Community Violence Reduction Plan's capacity to achieve four-year impact goals and outcome metrics;
- e. four-year budget and spending plan for the Community Violence Reduction Plan; and
- f. specific roles and relationships of the City's Violence Prevention Department, Police Department, Fire Department, and other City departments in the development and implementation of each Four-Year Community Violence Reduction Plan.

B. The Oakland Community Violence Reduction and Emergency Response Budget Auditor ("Budget Auditor") is hereby established in the Office of the City Auditor. The Budget Auditor shall perform an audit not less than every other year to ensure accountability and proper disbursement of all revenue collected by the City from the special tax imposed by this Ordinance, in accordance with the objectives stated herein and in compliance with provisions of State law. The Budget Auditor will also provide analysis to the Commission of current, past and potential expenditures by the departments funded by this Act, including use of overtime.

C. Annual Financial Report. The City's Finance Director or, at that Director's direction, the Budget Auditor, will make an annual report to the City Council and the Commission containing information about the amount of funds collected and expended pursuant to this Act, and the status of any project required or authorized to be funded pursuant to this Ordinance. At the discretion of the Commission, an independent audit may be performed annually to ensure accountability and proper disbursement of the proceeds of this tax in accordance with the objectives stated herein as provided by Government Code sections 50075.1 and 50075.3.

D. Joint Meetings of Relevant Commissions and City Council: The City Council, the Commission and other public safety-related boards and commissions shall conduct an annual joint special public informational meeting devoted to the subject of public

safety. At each the meeting, the public, the Commission, boards, other commissions and City Council will hear reports from representatives of relevant departments, including the Chief of Police, concerning the progress of all of the City's efforts to reduce violent crime.

#### SECTION 5. Use of Proceeds for Community Violence Reduction Outcomes.

- A. Uses. Through Fiscal Year 2025-2026, all annual revenue from this Act shall be allocated in a manner that continues and extends the 2014 Oakland Public Safety and Services Violence Prevention Act funding allocations. In Fiscal Years 2026-2027 through 2033-2034, all annual revenue from this Act shall be allocated as follows:

Taxes collected pursuant to the special taxes imposed by this Ordinance shall be used only in connection with programs and services which further the objectives set forth in Part 1, Section 3, such as but not limited to the following:

1. Direct Services, Programs, and Strategies designed to achieve violent crime and emergency response reduction goals and metrics. Pursuant to each Four-Year Community Violence Reduction Plan, once passed, revenue raised from this Act may be used to pay for direct services, programs, and strategies such as, but not limited to:
  - a. 911 dispatch and emergency responders
  - b. community ambassadors
  - c. community policing
  - d. community reentry services
  - e. crime lab operations
  - f. crime reduction teams
  - g. domestic violence intervention and response
  - h. education, training and employment services
  - i. group violence intervention
  - j. hospital-based violence intervention
  - k. intensive case management
  - l. intelligence-based policing
  - m. mental health services
  - n. mentoring for vulnerable and justice-involved youth
  - o. non-sworn mobile crisis responders
  - p. police recruitment, retention, and training
  - q. public safety technology enhancements
  - r. victim services
  - s. violence interruption
  - t. violent crime and human-trafficking investigations



2. Administrative Expenses. Includes direct and indirect costs associated with these special taxes and the provision of the aforementioned services, such as but not limited to:

- a. Paying any ancillary costs charged by County of Alameda to collect and remit these special taxes and other costs necessary to levy the special tax; and
- b. Paying any costs related to supporting the Commission, the Budget Auditor, costs to implement a performance tracking system, or to conduct an evaluation of the effectiveness of services or programs that are funded by the special taxes; and
- c. Paying administrative costs required to implement these services and programs.

B. Allocation. The proceeds of the special taxes shall be appropriated in the budget process or by resolution of the City Council. In the first fiscal year that funds from the Act are appropriated during the annual budget process:

1. Three percent (3%) of the total funds appropriated from these special taxes, net of any, audit, financial monitoring, collection and tax levy costs and fees, shall be appropriated for Administrative Expenses.
2. \$3 million of the total funds appropriated from these special taxes, net of any audit, financial monitoring collection and tax levy costs and fees, shall be appropriated for the Oakland Fire Department and associated administrative expenses. Starting in Fiscal Year 2025-26, this amount will increase annually by the same percentage established in Part 2, Section 4 below.
3. Of the amount remaining after the above allocations, net of any, audit, financial monitoring, collection and tax levy costs and fees, sixty percent (60%) shall be appropriated for police services as follows: Ten percent (10%) of the remaining amount shall be specifically allocated to costs associated with operations and functions by non-sworn personnel such as 911 dispatch, maintenance and investments in technology, and operations and functions of the crime lab and associated administrative expenses; and fifty percent (50%) of the remaining amount shall be allocated to costs associated with sworn police officers.
4. Of the amount remaining after the above allocations, net of any, audit, financial monitoring, collection and tax levy costs and fees, forty percent (40%) shall be appropriated for Violence Prevention Services and associated administrative expenses. At least seventy five percent (75%) of the total amount allocated herein for violence prevention services shall be spent on grants to and contracts with community-based service providers.
5. Future year appropriations of the Act's funds, net of any, audit, financial monitoring, collection and tax levy costs and fees, shall be in the same

proportion as those funds appropriated in the first year, rounded to the nearest tenth of a percentage.

- C. Authorized Uses of Tax Revenues. Except as otherwise expressly authorized by this Ordinance, the special taxes authorized and collected pursuant to this Ordinance shall be used only for the purposes set forth herein.

#### SECTION 6. Use of Proceeds for Maintenance of Sworn Police and Fire Personnel.

- A. Maintenance of Sworn Police Personnel: One intent of the augmented funding provided by this Act is to maintain sufficient resources to allow for the implementation of comprehensive policing within the City's limited resources and to begin the process of restoring the staffing of the Police Department's sworn police personnel to appropriate levels to meet the Police Department's stated mission of providing the people of Oakland with an environment where they can live, work, play and thrive free from crime and from the fear of crime. To ensure the Department's progress toward this mission, the following shall apply:
1. Upon passage of this Ordinance, the City shall maintain a budgeted level of no fewer than seven hundred (700) sworn police personnel (including those sworn police personnel funded by this Ordinance) over the course of each fiscal year, subject to this number being modified as provided herein.
  2. The City shall hire and maintain no fewer than seven hundred (700) sworn police personnel as early as practicable after the passage of this Ordinance and at all times after July 1, 2026.
  3. The City is prohibited from laying off any police officers if such layoffs will result in a reduction of sworn police personnel to a level of less than eight hundred (800), subject to the review by the Commission as provided herein. Furthermore, the City is prohibited from laying off any police officers unless the City Council adopts a resolution containing factual findings that such layoffs are necessary.
- B. The City is prohibited from laying off any sworn firefighters if such layoffs will result in a reduction of sworn firefighters to a level of less than four hundred and eighty (480), subject to the review by the Commission as provided herein. Furthermore, the City is prohibited from laying off any firefighters unless the City Council adopts a resolution containing factual findings that such layoffs are necessary.
- C. If at any time the City fails to budget for the sworn police personnel staffing levels required by this Act for a fiscal year, the City shall suspend the levy and collection of the parcel tax provided for herein for any fiscal year during which it has failed to

budget for a minimum of seven hundred (700) sworn police personnel, unless either of the following is true:

1. If special revenue, grant, or other dedicated restricted funding used to support sworn police personnel in FY 2023-24 outside of the General Purpose Fund declines or becomes unavailable after that fiscal year, the numeric requirements for budgeting and maintaining sworn police personnel shall be reduced by the number of sworn police personnel previously funded by such lost revenue source. Such a circumstance shall be clearly described in the Adopted Budget for each year in which it is applied. Such a description shall include the steps that were taken by the City to try to replace such funding and possible steps the City will take in the future to replace such funding.
  2. If a severe and unanticipated financial or other event occurs which so adversely impacts the General Purpose Fund as to prevent the City from budgeting for the minimum number of sworn police personnel required by this Ordinance, the numeric requirements for budgeting and maintaining sworn police personnel shall be reduced by the numbers the City is unable to fund as a result of such event. The existence of a severe and unanticipated financial or other event must be established by the declaration of a state of extreme fiscal necessity via City Council Resolution for that annual or biennial cycle. Such a resolution shall also note the steps that were taken by the City to avoid the need to reduce the number of sworn police personnel and the steps that will be taken by the City in the future to restore sworn police personnel.
- D. If at any time the City fails to budget for the sworn police personnel staffing levels required by this Act for a fiscal year and there has been no Council action establishing an exception as provided above, the City shall provide appropriate notice to all parking lot operators that collection of the parking tax surcharge provided for in this Ordinance shall be suspended for a period of twelve (12) months.
- E. Minimum Officer Staffing: Upon passage of this Ordinance, the City shall hire and maintain no fewer than an annual average of seven hundred (700) sworn police personnel (including those sworn police personnel funded by this Ordinance) over the course of each fiscal year. The annual average shall be established by a reasonable method, such as the average number of filled sworn positions at the end of each calendar month, or similar methodology as determined by the City Administrator. To effectuate this requirement, in each fiscal year, as a component of its two-year policy budget or its mid-cycle budget adjustments, the City shall adopt a sworn police personnel staffing plan which indicates the estimated starting and ending number of sworn police personnel by month. The staffing plan will make use of assumptions that department attrition rates, recruiting success, academy yield and other relevant factors affecting the growth or shrinkage of the department's

number of sworn personnel. The required annual average of hired and maintained of sworn personnel shall be reduced to the number of budgeted officers if a valid exception has been established per the previous Section for that fiscal year. 700 sworn police personnel or the lower number provided for above shall constitute the Minimum Average Staffing Number for that fiscal year.

- F. If the annual average of sworn police personnel required by this Ordinance is projected to fall below the Minimum Average Staffing Number, the City Administrator shall report to the City Council concerning the reasons for the shortfall, the steps that should be taken to restore the sworn police personnel level, and the time frame for doing so. If appropriate, the City Council shall adopt a resolution modifying the staffing plan to provide for additional steps to be taken to restore the sworn police personnel level. The staffing plan in the subsequent budget following any such report by the City Administrator shall explicitly describe any changes to assumptions or policy taken to ensure a similar shortfall does not reoccur. Reports on the actual and projected sworn staffing shall be provided by informational memorandum no less than 31 days following the end of the City's Fiscal quarters; however, the City Administrator may establish an alternate reporting timeline that is more frequent.
- G. If there has not been a relevant report by the City Administrator or Council action authorizing steps taken to restore the sworn police personnel within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the publication of a report showing the City is projected to fall below the Minimum Average Staffing Number, the City shall provide appropriate notice to all parking lot operators that collection of the parking tax surcharge provided for in this Ordinance shall be suspended for a period of twelve (12) months, and the City shall suspend the levy and collection of the Parcel tax provided for in this Ordinance for the subsequent fiscal year.
- H. The City Administrator may determine, in his or her reasonable discretion, any minimum amounts required to be appropriated for particular uses pursuant to this Section.
- I. The City Council may temporarily suspend the provisions of this Section by resolution to meet urgent and changing needs in the event of extreme fiscal necessity.

#### SECTION 7. Special Fund.

All funds collected by the City from the special tax imposed by this Ordinance shall be deposited into one or more special funds in the City treasury and appropriated and expended only for the purposes and uses authorized by this Ordinance.

#### SECTION 8. Effective Date.

The taxes imposed by this Act shall become effective upon passage.

#### SECTION 9. Term of Tax Imposition.

The taxes enacted by this Act shall be imposed and levied for a period of Nine (9) years. The City shall place delinquencies on subsequent tax bills.

#### SECTION 10. Savings Clause.

If any provision, sentence, clause, section or part of this Act is found to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, including but not limited to the ability of the City Council to increase, suspend, reduce or eliminate this special tax, such unconstitutionality, illegality, or invalidity shall affect only such provision, sentence, clause, section or part of this Act and shall not affect any of the remaining provisions, sentences, clauses, sections or parts of this Ordinance. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City, that the City would have adopted this Act had such unconstitutional, illegal or invalid provision, sentence, clause section or part thereof not been included herein.

If any tax or surcharge imposed by this Act, or any increase, suspension, reduction or elimination of such a tax, is found to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, the amounts, services, programs and personnel required to be funded from such taxes and surcharges shall be reduced proportionately by any revenues lost due to such unconstitutionality, illegality or invalidity.

#### SECTION 11. Amendment.

Except as otherwise expressly provided herein, the tax rates set forth herein may not be increased by action of the City Council without the applicable voter approval – but the City Council may make any other changes to this Ordinance as are consistent with its purpose, except that the City Council may only change the allocations defined in Part 1, Section 4 B as provided in that Section.

#### SECTION 12. Regulations.

The City Administrator may promulgate appropriate regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

#### SECTION 13. Reimbursement.

At the discretion of the City Council, special tax revenues collected by the City pursuant to this Ordinance may be used to reimburse the City for costs incurred in connection with the election seeking voter approval of this Ordinance.

## SECTION 14. Challenge to Tax.

Any action to challenge the taxes imposed by this ordinance shall be brought pursuant to Government Code section 50077.5 and Code of Civil Procedure section 860 et seq.

## SECTION 15. Liberal Construction.

This Act shall be liberally construed to effectuate its purposes.

## PART 2. Parcel Tax

### SECTION 1. Definitions.

For purposes of this Part 2 only, the following terms shall be defined as set forth below:

- A. "Building" shall mean any structure having a roof supported by columns or by walls and designed for the shelter or housing of any person, chattel or property of any kind. The word "Building" includes the word "structure."
- B. "City" shall mean the City of Oakland, California.
- C. "Family" shall mean one (1) or more persons related by blood, marriage, domestic partnership, or adoption, legal guardianship, who are living together in a single residential unit and maintaining a common household. Family shall also mean all unrelated persons who live together in a single Residential Unit and maintain a common household.
- D. "Hotel" shall be as defined by Oakland Municipal Code Section 4.24.020.
- E. "Multiple Residential Unit Parcel" shall mean a parcel zoned for a Building, or those portions thereof, that accommodates or is intended to contain two (2) or more residential units, whether or not developed.
- F. "Non-Residential" shall mean all parcels that are not classified by this Act as Single Family Residential or Multiple Residential Unit Parcels, and shall include, but not be limited to, parcels for industrial, commercial and institutional improvements, whether or not developed.
- G. "Occupancy" shall be as defined by Oakland Municipal Code Section 4.24.020.
- H. "Operator" shall be as defined by Oakland Municipal Code Section 4.24.020.
- I. "Owner" shall mean the Person having title to real estate as shown on the most current official assessment role of the Alameda County Assessor.
- J. "Parcel" shall mean a unit of real estate in the City of Oakland as shown on the most current official assessment role of the Alameda County Assessor.
- K. "Person" shall mean an individual, firm, partnership, joint venture, association, social club, fraternal organization, joint stock company, corporation, estate, trust, business trust, receiver, trustee, syndicate, or any other group or combination acting as a unit.
- L. "Possessory Interest" as it applies to property owned by any agency of the government of the United States, the State of California, or any political subdivision thereof, shall mean possession of, claim to, or right to the possession of, land or Improvements and shall include any exclusive right to the use of such land or Improvements.

- M. "Residential Unit" shall mean a Building or portion of a Building designed for or occupied exclusively by one Family.
- N. "Single Family Residential Parcel" shall mean a parcel zoned for single-family residences, whether or not developed.
- O. "Tax" shall mean the parcel tax created by this Act and further described in Part 2, Section 2 below.
- P. "Transient" shall mean any individual who exercises Occupancy of a Hotel or is entitled to Occupancy by reason of concession, permit, right of access, license or other agreement for a period of thirty (30) consecutive calendar days or less, counting portions of calendar days as full days. Any individual so occupying space in a Hotel shall be deemed to be a Transient until the period of thirty (30) consecutive days has elapsed.

## SECTION 2. Imposition of Parcel Tax.

There is hereby imposed a special tax on all Owners of parcels in the City of Oakland for the privilege of using municipal services and the availability of such services. The special tax imposed by this Section shall be assessed on the Owner unless the Owner is by law exempt from taxation, in which case, the tax imposed shall be assessed to the holder of any Possessory Interest in such parcel, unless such holder is also by law exempt from taxation. The tax is imposed as of July 1 of each year on the person who owned the parcel on that date. The tax shall be collected at the same time, by the same officials, and pursuant to the same procedures as the one percent imposed pursuant to Article XIII A of the California Constitution. The Parcel Tax shall be imposed for a period of Nine (9) years.

The tax hereby imposed shall be set as follows subject to adjustment as provided herein:

- A. For owners of all Single-Family Residential Parcels, the tax shall be at the annual rate of \$198.00 per Parcel.
- B. For owners of all Multiple Residential Unit Parcels, the tax shall be at the annual rate of \$132.00 per Residential Unit.
- C. The tax for Non-Residential Parcels is calculated using both frontage and square footage measurements to determine total single-family residential unit equivalents (SFE). A frontage of eighty (80) feet for a commercial institutional parcel, for example, is equal to one (1) single family residential unit equivalent. (See matrix.) An area of six thousand four hundred (6,400) square feet for the commercial institutional parcel is equal to one (1) single family residential unit equivalent. For tall buildings (more than five (5) stories), the single-family residential unit equivalent computation also includes one (1) single family residential unit equivalent for every five thousand (5,000) square feet of net rentable area. The tax is the annual rate \$198.00 multiplied by the total number of single-family residential unit equivalents (determined by the frontage and square footage).

LAND USE CATEGORY	FRONTAGE	AREA (SF)	BUILDING AREA (SF)
Commercial/Institutional	80	6,400	N/A
Industrial	100	10,000	N/A
Public Utility	1,000	100,000	N/A
Golf Course	500	100,000	N/A
Quarry	1,000	250,000	N/A
Tall Buildings > 5 stories	80	6,400	5,000

Example: assessment calculation for a Commercial Institutional Parcel with a Frontage of 160 feet and an Area of 12,800 square feet:

Frontage 160 feet ÷ 80 = 2 SFE

Area 12,800 square ÷ feet 6,400 = 2 SFE

2 SFE + 2 SFE = 4 SFE

4 SFE x \$198.00 = \$792 tax

- A. The tax imposed by this Act shall be imposed on each Hotel within the City as follows:
  1. Residential Hotels. Rooms in a Hotel occupied by individuals who were not Transients for eighty percent (80%) or more of the previous fiscal year shall be deemed Residential Units and the parcel on which they are located shall be subject to the Parcel tax imposed on Multiple Residential Unit Parcels. The remainder of the Building shall be subject to the applicable tax computed in accordance with the single-family residential unit equivalent formula set forth in Part 2, Section 2(c) of this Act.
  2. Transient Hotels. Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of this subdivision, if eighty percent (80%) or more of the Operator's gross receipts for the previous Fiscal Year were reported as rent received from Transients on a return filed by the Operator in compliance with Section 4.24.010 of the Oakland Municipal Code (commonly known as the Uniform Transient Occupancy Tax of the City of Oakland), such Hotel shall be deemed a Transient Hotel. The entire Building shall be deemed a Non-Residential Parcel, categorized as commercial/institutional, and shall be subject to the applicable tax computed in accordance with the single-family residential unit equivalent formula set forth in Part 2 Section 2(c) of this Act, and the parcel tax imposed on Multiple Residential Units shall not apply.



### SECTION 3. Exemptions.

- A. Very-Low income household exemption. The following is exempt from this tax: an Owner of a Single-Family Residential Unit (1) who resides in such unit and (2) whose combined family income, from all sources for the previous year, is at or below the income level qualifying as sixty percent (60%) of area median income for a Family of such size under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.A. sections 1437 et. seq.), or successor legislation, for such year. The Director of Finance shall set forth procedures for annual applications from Owners for the exemption, which may require information such as federal income tax returns and W-2 forms of owner occupants eligible for the exemption, or procedures for an alternative process.
- B. Senior household exemption. The following is exempt from this tax: an Owner of a single family residential unit (1) who resides in such unit, (2) who is sixty-five (65) years of age or older and (3) whose combined family income, from all sources for the previous year, is at or below the income level qualifying as eighty percent (80%) of area median income for a Family of such size under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.A. Sections 1437 et. seq.), or successor legislation, for such year. The Director of Finance shall set forth procedures for annual applications from Owners for the exemption, which may require information such as federal income tax returns and W-2 forms of owner occupants eligible for the exemption, or procedures for an alternative process.
- C. Fifty percent reduction for affordable housing projects. Rental housing owned by nonprofit corporations and nonprofit-controlled partnerships for senior, disabled and low-income households that are exempt from ad valorem property tax pursuant to California Revenue and Taxation Code 214(f), (g) and (h) shall be liable for only fifty percent (50%) of the parcel tax. The exemption shall apply in the same proportion that is exempted from ad valorem property tax.
- D. Rebate to tenants in foreclosed single-family homes. The City will provide a rebate of one-half (1/2) of the tax and subsequent increases thereto to tenants in single family homes that have been foreclosed upon who have paid a passed through Parcel Tax. To qualify for this rebate, a tenant must: (1) have lived in the unit before foreclosure proceedings commenced; and (2) be at or below the income level qualifying as sixty percent (60%) of area median income for a Family of such size under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.A. Sections 1437 et. seq.), or successor legislation, for such year. The City will provide this rebate for every month that the tax was applied and the tenant occupied the unit. The City will provide this rebate at the end of each year, or when the tenant vacates the unit, whichever is earlier. The City Administrator will promulgate regulations to effectuate this subdivision.

- E. Real property owned by a religious organization or school that is exempt from property taxes under California law is exempt from this tax. To qualify for this exemption, each religious organization or school seeking such exemption shall submit such information required to determine eligibility for such exemption.

#### SECTION 4. Adjustment of Tax Rate.

- A. Subject to paragraph (B) of this section, the tax rates imposed by this Ordinance are maximum rates and may not be increased by the City Council above such maximum rates. The tax imposed by the Ordinance may be suspended, reduced or eliminated by the City Council to the full extent allowed by the California Constitution.
- B. Beginning for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026, and each year thereafter, the City Council may increase the tax imposed herein up to the percentage change in the cost of living in the immediate San Francisco Bay Area, as determined by the twelve-month (12) Annual Percentage Change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all items in the San Francisco Bay Area as published by the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics.

#### SECTION 5. Duties of the Director of Finance; Notice of Decisions.

It shall be the duty of the Director of Finance to collect and receive all taxes imposed by this Act. The Director of Finance is charged with the enforcement of this Act and may adopt rules and regulations relating to such enforcement.

#### SECTION 6. Examination of Books, Records, Witnesses; Penalties.

The Director of Finance or the Director of Finance's designee is hereby authorized to examine assessment rolls, property tax records, records of the Alameda County Recorder and any other records of the County of Alameda deemed necessary in order to determine ownership of Parcels and computation of the tax imposed by this Act.

The Director of Finance or the Director of Finance's designee is hereby authorized to examine the books, papers and records of any person subject to the tax imposed by this Act, including any person who claims an exemption, for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of any petition, claim or return filed and to ascertain the tax due. The Director of Finance, or the Director of Finance's designee is hereby authorized to examine any person, under oath, for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of any petition, claim or return filed or to ascertain the tax due under this Act and for this purpose may compel the production of books, papers and records, whether as parties or witnesses, whenever the Director of Finance believes such persons have knowledge of such matters. The refusal of such examination by any person subject to the tax shall be deemed a violation of this Act and of the Oakland Municipal Code and subject to any and all remedies specified therein.

## SECTION 7. Collection of Tax; Interest and Penalties.

The tax shall be delinquent if the City does not receive it on or before the delinquency date set forth in the notice mailed to the Owner's address as shown on the most current assessment roll of the Alameda County Tax Collector; and the tax shall be collected in such a manner as the City Council may decide. The City may place delinquencies on a subsequent tax bill.

A one-time penalty at a rate set by the City Council, which in no event shall exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the tax due per fiscal year, is hereby imposed by this Act on all taxpayers who fail to timely pay the tax provided by this Act. In addition, the City Council may assess interest at the rate of one percent (1%) per month on the unpaid tax and the penalty thereon.

Every penalty imposed and such interest as accrues under the provisions of this Act shall become a part of the tax herein required to be paid.

The City may authorize the County of Alameda to collect the taxes imposed by this Act in conjunction with and at the same time and in the same manner as the County collects property taxes for the City. If the City elects to authorize the County of Alameda to collect the tax, penalties and interest shall be those applicable to the nonpayment of property taxes.

Nothing in this Ordinance is intended to preclude owners from recovering the tax from the occupant. Whether the occupant is charged depends on the occupancy agreement and the requirements of the Residential Rent Adjustment Program. Moreover, non-payment will not be a lien on the property but a personal obligation of the occupant or owner.

## SECTION 8. Collection of Unpaid Taxes.

The amount of any tax, penalty, and interest imposed under the provisions of this Act shall be deemed a debt to the City. Any person owing money under the provisions of this Act shall be liable to an action brought in the name of the City for the recovery for such amount.

## SECTION 9. Refund of Tax, Penalty, or Interest Paid More than Once, or Erroneously or Illegally Collected.

Whenever the amount of any tax, penalty, or interest imposed by this Act has been paid more than once, or has been erroneously or illegally collected or received by the City, it may be refunded provided a verified written claim for refund, stating the specific ground upon which such claim is founded, is received by the Director of Finance within one (1) year of the date of payment. The claim shall be filed by the person who paid the tax or such person's guardian, conservator, or the executor of her or his estate. No

representative claim may be filed on behalf of a taxpayer or a class of taxpayers. The claim shall be reviewed by the Director of Finance and shall be made on forms provided by the Director of Finance. If the claim is approved by the Director of Finance, the excess amount collected or paid may be refunded or may be credited against any amounts then due and payable from the person from whom it was collected or by whom paid, and the balance may be refunded to such person, or such person's administrators or executors. Filing a claim shall be a condition precedent to legal action against the City for a refund of the tax.

### **PART 3. Parking Tax**

#### **SECTION 1. Extension of Parking Tax Surcharge.**

Section 4.16.031 of the Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

**Imposition of Surcharge.** Subject to the provisions for the collection of taxes and definitions in this chapter, there shall be an additional tax of ten percent (10%) imposed on the rental of every parking space in a parking station in the City for nine (9) years starting on January 1, 2025.

### **Part 4. Miscellaneous Provisions**

#### **SECTION 1. Conflicting Measures.**

- A. This measure is intended to be comprehensive. It is the intent of the people of Oakland that in the event this measure and one or more measures relating to funding for police and fire services or violence prevention and intervention strategies appear on the same ballot, whether placed on the ballot through a citizens initiative or by the City Council, the provisions of the other measure or measures shall be deemed to be in conflict with this measure.
- B. In the event that this measure receives a greater number of affirmative votes, the provisions of this measure shall prevail in their entirety, and all provisions of the other measure or measures shall be null and void.
- C. If this measure is approved by a majority of the voters but does not receive a greater number of affirmative votes than any other measure appearing on the same ballot regarding business taxes, provisions of this measure shall take effect to the extent that they are not in conflict with other said measure or measures.
- D. If this measure is approved by the voters but superseded by law by any other conflicting measure approved by voters at the same election, and the conflicting ballot measure is later held invalid, this measure shall be self-executing and given full force and effect.

SECTION 2. Construction.

This measure shall be liberally construed to effectuate its purposes.

SECTION 3. Municipal Affairs.

The People of Oakland hereby declare that providing funding for police and fire services and violence prevention and intervention through a parcel tax and parking tax constitutes a municipal affair. The People hereby further declare their desire for this measure to coexist with any similar tax measures adopted at the City, county or state levels.

SECTION 4. Severability and Savings Clause.

- A. If any provision, sentence, word, clause, section, or part of this measure is found to be unconstitutional, illegal, or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, including but not limited to the ability of the City Council to increase, suspend, reduce or eliminate the tax, such unconstitutionality, illegality, or invalidity shall affect only such provision, sentence, word, clause, section, or part of this measure and shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions, sentences, words, clauses, sections, or parts. It is hereby declared that it is the intent of the voters and the City that this measure would have been adopted had such unconstitutional, illegal, or invalid provision, sentence, word, clause, section, or part not been included.
- B. If any tax imposed by this measure, or any increase, suspension, reduction or elimination of such tax, is found to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, the amounts, services, programs and personnel required to be funded from such taxes and surcharges or such increases shall be reduced proportionately by any revenues lost due to such unconstitutionality, illegality or invalidity.
- C. No provision, sentence, word, clause, section, or part of this measure shall be construed as requiring the payment of any tax which would be in violation of City, state or federal law.

SECTION 5. Statement of Facts.

This true and impartial Statement of Facts explicitly and affirmatively identifies each tax in this measure and the specific limitation on how the revenue therefrom can be spent. This measure establishes a parcel tax and a parking tax for police and fire services and violence protection and intervention strategies at the rates outlined herein. The funds derived from the taxes imposed by this measure shall be used only for the purposes set forth in Part 1, Sections 3, 5, and 6.

## SECTION 6. Legal Defense.

The People of Oakland desire that this measure, if approved by the voters and thereafter challenged in court, be defended by the City. The People, by approving this measure, hereby declare that the proponent(s) of this measure have a direct and personal stake in defending this measure from constitutional or statutory challenges to the measure's validity or implementation. In the event the City fails to defend this measure, or the City fails to appeal an adverse judgment against the constitutionality, statutory permissibility or implementation of this measure, in whole or in part, in any court of law, the measure's proponents shall be entitled to assert their direct personal stake by defending the measure's validity and implementation in any court of law and shall be empowered by the People through this measure to act as agents of the People. The City shall indemnify the proponents for reasonable expenses and any losses incurred by the proponents, as agents, in defending the validity and/or implementation of the challenged measure. The rate of indemnification shall be no more than the amount it would cost the City to perform the defense itself.

## SECTION 7. Home Rule.

The authority to pass this measure is derived from Oakland's home rule powers outlined in the City Charter and Article XI, section 5 of the California Constitution. The People of Oakland declare their intent that this citizen initiative be enacted, and the business tax be collected, if this measure is approved by a simple majority of the voters pursuant to California Cannabis Coalition v. City of Upland (2017) 3 Cal.5th 924 and subsequent court cases affirming its holding. To the extent that the California Constitution or state law is amended on or after the date that this measure is passed by the voters to change or create additional voting requirements in order to implement or to continue to implement this measure, the People of Oakland declare their intent that such amendments should be applied prospectively only and not apply to, or in any way affect, this tax or this measure.

## SECTION 8. Findings.

This measure is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq. ("CEQA"), since in accordance with CEQA Guidelines section 15061, subdivision (b)(3), it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity authorized herein may have significant effect on the environment.

## SECTION 9. Appropriations Limit.

To the extent that the revenue from the tax is in excess of the spending limit for the City, as provided for in applicable provisions of the California Constitution and state law, the approval of this measure by the voters shall constitute approval to increase the City's spending limit in an amount equal to the revenue derived from the tax for the maximum period of time as allowed by law.



Date: February 29, 2024  
To: Members of the City Council and Members of the Public  
From: Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan  
**Re: Adopting Verified Response**

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Excessive false alarms unduly burden law enforcement, impacting resources. A conventional alarm system can only sense motion and cannot detect criminal intent. It can only report human error, system malfunctions, and unusual conditions, most unrelated to any criminal activity. Verified Response is a proven method of ensuring public safety that has progressed beyond its early stages. Municipalities nationwide have implemented Verified Response to reduce false alarms that trigger a police dispatch.

Cities such as Las Vegas, Nevada, have implemented and reported a significant reduction in false alarms. In the widely lauded report [\*Verified Response Really Does Work\*](#),<sup>1</sup> nine police departments across the United States endorse Verified Response as an effective tool. The report found, "As more and more cities and police departments face limited resources and budget cuts, a logical area of reduction is unproductive calls for service; that being alarm responses, which are consistently 98 – 99% false." Since adopting Verified Response, the report cited over a decade of success in Las Vegas's reduction of false alarms.

The report's finding echoes various other investigations into false alarms, including the Oakland Police Department, which reported over 8,000 false alarms in 2021 and 2022. Furthermore, the Public Safety and Oversight Committee's (SSOC) DC Bolton, former liaison to the Oakland Police Department, reported that 98% of Oakland's alarm responses were false alarms. Like Las Vegas, Oakland will reduce wasted law enforcement resources by adopting Verified Response.

<sup>1</sup> [https://slcpd.com/wp-content/uploads/multiple\\_cities\\_endorse\\_VR.pdf](https://slcpd.com/wp-content/uploads/multiple_cities_endorse_VR.pdf)

[In a study conducted by Temple University](#),<sup>2</sup> researchers examined the effectiveness of Verified Response by studying years of false alarm data from the Salt Lake City Police Department. Like the Oakland Police Department, Temple University researchers found between 94% and 98% of police responses to alarm activations are false alarms. Furthermore, researchers believe solving the crisis of wasted police resources on false alarms could free up the equivalent of \$1.8 billion or 35,000 police officers. Verified Response was adopted in 2000 by Salt Lake City. In the year before adopting Verified Response, the Salt Lake City Police Department responded to over 9,000 false alarms. The year following the adoption of Verified Response, the police department responded to just under 1,000 false alarms. In the second year of adoption, the police responded to just over 800 false alarms. This amounted to a 92% drop in false alarm response. Researchers implemented synthetic models of cities similar in size and need to Salt Lake City and found an 87% reduction in false alarm response if those cities were to adopt Verified Responses.

The City of Oakland should adopt a Verified Response system without delay. Numerous studies have demonstrated the effectiveness and practicality of Verified Response. Police time and resources should be utilized responsibly to ensure public safety. The SSOC has expressed its support for Verified Responses and collaborated with the At-Large office to develop a fair approach to introducing and adopting Verified Responses. To better serve the public, it is crucial to allocate law enforcement resources to efforts that enhance the safety and well-being of Oakland residents and their property. The At-Large office strongly recommends adopting a Verified Response system as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Kaplan  
Oakland City Councilmember At-Large

<sup>2</sup> <https://liberalarts.temple.edu/sites/liberalarts/files/False-alarm-paper-international-Rev-of-law-economics.pdf>





# Verified Response

At-Large Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan

## Verified Response

False alarms burden police resources. A Verified Response System requires private alarm companies to verify an intrusion before contacting the police.

## Verified Response

A Verified Response system confirms that an alarm activation is not accidental. This can be done through various methods like sound, video, panic buttons, or an eyewitness account.

## Verified Response

Verification can be done by an agent, property owner, or witness confirming that police are needed because an intrusion has occurred.

## False Alarms Drain Law Enforcement Resources

The Oakland Police Department (OPD) reported in 2021 and 2022, there were over 8,000 false alarm calls.

# False Alarms Drain Law Enforcement Resources

98% of the  
burglary alarms  
OPD responds to  
are false alarms.

## The Benefits of Verified Response

Verified Response is a valuable tool to relieve law enforcement from false alarms. It has been successfully adopted in cities of the same size and needs as Oakland, improving law enforcement.

## The Benefits of Verified Response

Multiple police departments, including Las Vegas Metro, Salt Lake City, Salem, and Eugene, have supported Verified Response.



## The Benefits of Verified Response

The Public Safety and Services Oversight Commission (SSOC) of Oakland has cited verified responses as an effective tool.

## Adopting Verified Response

A Verified Response System intends to foster and promote the public's health, safety, and welfare. Compliance and liability fall solely on those responsible for security alarm systems.

## Adopting Verified Response

The City of Oakland regulates security alarm companies to prevent false alarms from affecting police services. There is no fiscal impact on the City budget by adopting these amendments.

## Adopting Verified Response

Verified Response  
saves resources by  
minimizing law  
enforcement  
responses to false  
alarms.

**Oakland Tribune**

1901 Harrison St., Ste. 1100  
Oakland, CA 94612  
510-723-2850

**3/13/2024**

OAKLAND, CITY OF  
KRYSTAL SAMS, CITY CLERK'S OFC.  
1 FRANK H. OGAWA PLZ., 2ND FL.  
OAKLAND, CA 94612-1923

Account Number: 2050974

Ad Order Number: 0006816085

Customer's Reference Oakland Tribune-Teresa Anlavan  
/ PO Number: / Teresa Anlavan Verified Response

Publication: Oakland Tribune

Publication Dates: 03/15/2024

Amount: \$317.84

Payment Amount: \$0.00

Invoice Text: NOTICE AND DIGEST

**AN ORDINANCE:**

**AMENDING OAKLAND MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 8.02 (BURGLAR ALARM SYSTEMS) TO (1) REQUIRE ALL NEW ALARM INSTALLATIONS TO BE VERIFIED RESPONSE ALARM SYSTEMS; (2) PROHIBIT ALARM BUSINESSES FROM MAKING DISPATCH REQUESTS BASED ON NON-VERIFIED ALARMS; AND (3) IMPOSE CIVIL PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS; AND ADOPTING CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT EXEMPTIONS**  
**Notice of Publication**

This Ordinance would require all monitored alarm systems newly installed after July 1, 2024, to have capacity to provide secondary indication that a burglary is in progress such as audio, video, or motion detection. With limited exceptions for systems installed prior to July 1, 2024, this ordinance would impose civil penalties for calling in an alarm dispatch request based on the breach of a single major point of entry without a secondary indication that a burglary is in progress.

This Ordinance was introduced at the Special City Council meeting, Wednesday evening **March 6, 2024**, and passed to print **5 Ayes, 3 Excused, Fife, Ramachandran, Reid**. Final adoption has been scheduled for the City Council meeting **Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 3:30 P.M.**, at One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Council Chamber, 3rd floor, Oakland, California and via Teleconference.

Three full copies are available for use and examination by the public in the Office of the City Clerk at One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 1st floor, Oakland, California.  
ASHA REED, City Clerk  
**OT 6816085; Mar. 15, 2024**

**Date:** 3/6/24

**To:** Councilmember Reid, Councilmember Ramachandran  
**From:** Omar Farmer, Safety & Services Oversight Commission (SSOC)  
**Cc:** Council President Bas, Councilmember Kaplan, Joe DeVries - City Administrator's Office

**Subject: Public Safety Committee - Verified Response Q&A**

1. **Question:** What is the call priority for a burglar alarm?

**Answer:** Per OPD, non-verified alarms are Priority 2, and verified alarms are Priority 1.

2. **Question:** How many businesses and households will this ordinance amendment impact?

**Answer:** Those new to having an alarm after the July 2024 due date and those with more than 2 false alarms. The total percentage of alarm owners it will impact is in the minority. The total number will vary from year to year. Existing alarm owners who don't have a false alarm issue do not have to change to a verified response system.

3. **Question:** Is there data on the effectiveness of verified response?

**Answer:** Absolutely, here's a [link to a report](#) that outlines how it's assisted 9 cities that adopted it. This article about [Fontana](#) outlines how it helped them. [Milwaukee's Police Department](#) went from responding to approximately 30,000 burglar alarms per year to 800 burglar alarms. They went from 97% of burglar alarms being false to 70%. [Salt Lake City](#) reduced its police response to burglar alarms by 95% after implementing their policy, going from 10,500 per year to 500. [Here](#) are more positive statistics for them. Moreover, Cities that have adopting VR have achieved reduction rates ranging from 69 – 90%, holding year after year, and equally as important, without the administrative burden of managing the false alarm problem. All the paperwork time, and energy spent on issuing permits, managing false alarm bills, etc puts a burden on our resources. Reducing false alarms will also assist with this and make our work force more productive.

4. **Question:** What's our outreach plan, and who will conduct it?

**Answer:** There is no official outreach plan however, the SSOC has been conducting outreach to NCPC's and CBOs for a year, and we've always mentioned

verified response as a recommendation. Now, we'll be discussing it with residents as something being implemented. We're also in the process of creating a flyer. We may create a verified response specific one to be placed on the SSOC webpage. The city may also want to update the appropriate part of its website with information about verified response. [This article](#) about how Fontana conducted outreach in case the city wants to adopt any of their strategies.

5. **Question:** What are the pass-through costs of implementing a verified response system to the end user?

**Answer:** It depends on their alarm company and the costs associated with that company. Folks will not have to get an entirely new system, but they will have to add additional verification to confirm a suspect is moving from point A to point B. Adding an interior motion detector, for example, would accomplish that.

Per one of the comments at the Public Safety Committee meeting, the average increase in costs per month to alarm users to upgrade to verified response was a \$5-7 increase per customer in other cities nationwide.

6. **Question:** What happens after two false alarms?

**Answer:** The alarm owner is required to upgrade their system to a verified response system within 30 days and will be on it indefinitely. There has to be a standard for installing alarms city-wide to assist with decreasing/eliminating false alarms so OPD can address actual crimes instead.

7. **Question:** Does positive data nationwide exist showing that police are responding to violent crime faster due to implementing verified response requirements?

**Answer:** At a minimum, this gives OPD the opportunity to respond to violent crime faster by minimizing the FTE hrs wasted on responding to false alarms. More answers are provided in question 3 above. I also reached out to 6 cities that have implemented it and am waiting to hear back.

8. **Question:** System of penalties: (1) does a violation apply to someone who doesn't install a verified alarm after the July 2024 date, or (2) does a violation occur after more than 2 false alarms, or (3) just if a false alarm occurs

**Answer:** A violation occurs after 2 false alarms and if you don't install a

verified system after the due date. If you have 1 false alarm, there's a fine.

9. **Question:** Does this ordinance amendment apply to both residential and Commercial properties?

**Answer:** Yes

10. **Question:** Does the ordinance amendment do anything to affect pre-existing alarm owners given the volume of false alarm calls the 911 call center receives?

**Answer:** No, we started out considering putting all pre-existing alarm owners on verified response, but we agreed with the California Alarm Association (CAA) that we'd focus on chronic abusers instead since they're the bulk of the problem. In the future, we may want to lower the standard to no more than 1 false alarm per year before being put on verified response to see if that's ultimately more effective.

Further, the SSOC has a 2 part strategy for tackling false alarms. There's no silver bullet to solving this issue. The 1st is the verified response policy recommendation. The 2nd is the implementation of [ASAP to PSAP](#) technology, which we hope to present to the Public Safety Committee in 2024. ASAP to PSAP accomplishes 3 things: (1) it reduces overall call volume, (2) reduces human error between 2 people speaking over the phone, and (3) it reduces 911 processing times. The proprietary AI technology and predictive algorithms it uses are designed to detect whether a burglary occurs. It would be great to have it installed along with the current CAD upgrade because that's how it would be implemented. It's effective for use on all older and newer alarm systems but has a cost associated with it. Currently, it's just available for police departments, but it may also be approved for fire department fire alarms in the future.

11. **Question:** Does OPD have an internal policy for categorizing alarms as false after a prior false alarm and a no future report?

**Answer:** Yes, OPD does put certain addresses on a no-response list due to excessive false alarms, to the best of my knowledge.

**If you have any further questions, contact Omar at [ofarmer@hotmail.com](mailto:ofarmer@hotmail.com)**

Very respectfully,  
Omar Farmer  
SSOC Chairperson



