

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

May 21, 2021



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## **COUNCILMEMBER LOREN TAYLOR’S DEVELOPMENT TOWH HALL SHOWCASES A VIBRANT FUTURE FOR EAST OAKLAND**

OAKLAND, CA – On Wednesday, May 19, Councilmember Loren Taylor hosted a [Development Town Hall](#), where he joined Larry Gallegos and Rupa Parikh from the City of Oakland, Ron Batiste from Eagle [Environmental Construction + Development](#) (EEC+D), and Tracy Craig on behalf of [Bridge](#), in introducing three major development projects to the East Oakland community! Through Councilmember Taylor’s leadership, the following long-vacant properties will now provide affordable housing, local jobs, and other economic development benefits to the surrounding area:

- 73<sup>rd</sup> & Foothill site, 6995 Foothill Blvd.
- Edward Shand’s Complex, 2445 Church St.
- Warehouse & Logistics Facility, 5441 International Blvd.

“Each of these have been blighted and vacated, with little to no use for at least a dozen years” said Councilmember Loren Taylor. “We are now changing that, and these projects are just the beginning, I look forward to facilitating more developments in the future!”

A portion of land, from what used to be the 73<sup>rd</sup> & Foothill Chevrolet assembly plant, was purchased by the City’s Redevelopment Agency in 2008. It was officially declared surplus land in 2020. Upon completion of the Surplus Land Act noticing period, 4 developers have submitted proposals for the 53,166 sq. ft. site, which include an affordable housing and market hall mixed-used development, a senior housing development, and two letters of interests. In July, City staff plans to make a final recommendation to the City Council to enter an exclusive negotiation agreement with the selected developer.

“Equitable development is a priority for me,” explained Councilmember Taylor, “and that includes having local Oaklanders from the community leading and working on the development projects to ensure that the surrounding community benefits from it.” In alignment with Councilmember Taylor’s continuous effort to empower local and diverse businesses, EEC+D is an Oakland-

based black-owned development agency responsible for revitalizing the old Edward Shand's Complex on Church St. This 47, 721 sq ft. property, contains 4 multi-level buildings and space for a small parking lot. The development plans include both residential and commercial use, with anticipated completion in 2024.

Built in the 1920s by General Electric, the former transformer manufacturing and repair facility left the property at 5441 International Blvd as a vacant toxic site for more than 30 years. After extensive site cleanup, the new 535,000 sq. ft warehouse & logistics facility will maintain its historic façade. Bridge is remediating and redeveloping the site in preparation for a large commercial tenant to occupy the site in Spring 2022. At the Town hall East Oakland residents expressed deep appreciation for activating this long-vacant site and removing toxic substances from the local environment.

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Loren Taylor proudly serves as the District 6 representative on Oakland's City Council. As a third generation Oaklander, and nationally recognized business leader, Loren takes a practical and data-driven approach to solving the city's complex issues. As Councilmember, his work to provide community resources and spur economic development in Oakland, includes eliminating race and gender-based contracting disparities through the passage of his Local Business Empowerment Through Contracting legislation; establishing Liberation Park with the Black Cultural Zone – a location dedicated to the celebration of black businesses and community; stewarding local entrepreneurs through the ESO Ventures Program; securing funding for green spaces and beautification projects; and working with diverse property developers to ensure that development does not equate to the displacement of BIPOC residents. His decades of experience providing tailored solutions to cities, corporations enable him to make measurable progress tackling the most difficult social challenges.