

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Councilmember Loren Taylor

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EAST OAKLAND COUNCILMEMEBRS VOTE NO ON COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S INEQUITABLE BUDGET

Oakland, CA – Following hours of public comment and intense debate, yesterday the Oakland City Council passed their long-awaited FY 2021-2023 budget. In a split 6-2 vote, East Oakland Councilmembers Loren Taylor & Treva Reid voted against Council President Bas's budget that funnels millions more into the city's affluent districts, while colloquially being labeled "The People's Budget."

"It is disingenuous to continue to uplift equity, and strip East Oakland's Black and Brown residents of an equitable allocation of resources in our city's budget," **said Councilmember Taylor**. As an example, the Council President's budget amendments directed only 10% of the district-specific park investments toward Districts 5, 6 and 7, who collectively serve 43% of the city's population. Taylor continued, "I implore my council colleagues to stop saying empty words and instead listen to residents who have to deal with the daily challenges of historical disinvestment"

In [his proposed amendments](#), Councilmember Taylor sought to fund additional traffic safety and sideshow enforcement measures, illegal dumping support, workforce development, community park and recreation center enhancements, for East Oakland residents, who are disproportionately impacted by health and safety issues. The Councilmember even collaborated with city officials to ensure his budget amendments would maintain everything proposed in the [Council President's initial proposal](#). And yet, his amendments calling for a deeper investment in East Oakland were rejected by the Council.

Addressing their residents' concerns around public safety, Councilmembers Taylor and Reid also voted to move a budgeted police academy up from year 2 of the Council President's amendmentS into year 1. The goal of the proposal was to allow current levels of police presence to remain, as the city works to build out non-police alternatives like the Mobile Assistance Community Responders of Oakland (MARCO) passed earlier this year. As a co-chair of the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force, Councilmember Taylor wholeheartedly supports the full funding of MACRO, and many other recommendations that advance non-police alternatives. However, as he noted during today's council meeting, until the program is implemented and scaled "We are asking people to jump out of an airplane without a parachute, promising to get to them before they need it to land."

Although the Council received hundreds of emails from Oakland residents across districts in support of this proposal, one of which contained a letter from the Oakland Chinatown Chamber of Commerce with over 1600 signatures, and heard directly from residents during today's meeting, this effort was still overwhelmingly struck down by the rest of the Council who ignored the voices of impacted residents.

Given the lack of additional revenue required, or removal of any of the items included in the Council President's initial request, today's reckless decision by the Council reeks of politics. Sadly, it will come at the expense of the residents in most need of city resources.

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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.