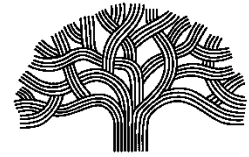


CITY OF OAKLAND



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Libby Schaaf

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December 13, 2021

Dear Governor Newsom,

Thank you for your leadership and support for public safety for all Californians. Tragically, Oakland continues to suffer from increased violence.

This year, Oakland has experienced more combined shootings and homicides than we've seen in over a decade. As of today, 131 beloved residents have been lost to homicides this year. The surge in violence has included reckless driving and gunfire brought on by Sideshow activity and caravans of armed individuals engaged in mass robberies and coordinated thefts. Further, individuals have engaged in an increasing number of armed robberies (46% increase) and carjacking robberies (77% increase). The primary mode of transportation for those committing the violent crimes are vehicles that are often stolen or have switched license plates, many of whom travel into and throughout the Oakland on the highways and main thoroughfares.

The need for a system that can capture vehicle descriptions and alert law enforcement to vehicles associated with violent crime, in real time, has never been more apparent. Such technology can multiply law enforcement efforts in a focused, intelligence-based manner, while still balancing the important privacy interests of the community.

Currently, there are companies that offer license plate and vehicle recognition cameras. The cameras offer the capability to alert law enforcement to vehicles suspected to be involved in crime and to assist in obtaining leads on criminal cases. Some municipalities around the Bay Area have deployed these cameras to fixed locations.

Given the level of violent crime, its regional nature, and use of vehicles and our state highway systems to commit violence in Oakland and our region, I request that the State consider using license plate reader and vehicle recognition cameras along the highway on/off ramps and state routes in and around Oakland and enhance the coordination of our existing intelligence and investigative efforts. Creating a network of vehicle recognition cameras will assist with providing investigative leads, in real-time, that will both help prevent violence and solve violent crime.

I also reiterate our standing request for as much CHP presence and traffic enforcement as possible in Oakland, particularly on the state highways that double as arterial roadways. Our recent grant-funded coordination was extremely helpful, and we'd be grateful to execute such an operation again. And finally, we are pleased to participate in the CHP's Retail Theft Task Force and would like to receive its attention on the recent caravan robberies of pharmacies, stores and cannabis businesses in Oakland. Better coordination of our intelligence-gathering and investigations could help prevent future crimes and harm.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership. We are deeply grateful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Libby Schaaf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Libby" being more prominent than the last name "Schaaf".

Libby Schaaf
Mayor, Oakland, California

Cc: Oakland Police Chief LeRonne Armstrong
California Highway Patrol Commissioner Ray
CalSTA Secretary David Kim