



Dear Oakland City Council Members,

Thank you for your leadership and all that you do for the City of Oakland. We are the Oakland Police Community Youth Leadership Council (OPC-YLC), a youth-led program that works in partnership with several Oakland youth development organizations as well as public safety leaders in Oakland. Currently, we represent east Oakland Districts 5, 6, and 7. The OPC-YLC was envisioned by Oakland youth who came together in 2015 after Michael Brown was killed in Ferguson. The youth recommended a Youth Leadership Council as a way to bring youth voice to public safety decision-making tables. The OPC YLC advocates for internal improvements within the Oakland Police Department as well as community-based alternatives to law enforcement.

We are writing to express our support for the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force recommendations that were prioritized by the City Council on [May 3, 2021](#). The OPC-YLC participated in drafting several of the recommendations. **Specifically, we support the proposed budget amendments to increase the investment in the Department of Violence Prevention to \$17 million dollars.** Violence prevention is a huge priority for us because as youth living in East Oakland we are directly impacted by violence in our communities. We would rather see violence prevented, then to see folks arrested and locked up after the fact. An important part of increasing safety in our city is to grow the DVP's ability to provide violence interrupters, community ambassadors, gender based violence prevention services, and restorative justice.

We also would like to see an increased investment in youth and youth leadership in the City of Oakland. [RPST Recommendation #122](#) calls for an increased investment in our Youth Leadership Council as well as the Oakland Youth Advisory Commission that we partner closely with. Additionally, we support investing in youth by creating a [Department of Children Youth and Families](#) and support the allocation to hire a consultant to begin this work.

We understand that you have heard from many adults with more privilege than we have. We are hoping that you will listen to our generation and represent us as well. Consider the fact that many of us are already voting and even more will be voting in the next election cycle. Youth are the present and the future of Oakland.

Thank you in advance for your support and leadership in reimagining public safety.

Sincerely,

The Oakland Police Community Youth Leadership Council

Members:

Josue Sosa - **District 5**
Alfonso Gonzalez - **District 6**
Madinah Waqia-Alamin - **District 5**
Jennifer Guevara - **District 7**
Justin Boyd - **District 7**
Shamail Waqia - **District 7**
Kaliyah Thomas - **District 6**
Saaraaj Waqia - **District 5**
Julius Boyd - **District 7**
Miylekah Olujimi - **District 5**