

## DISTRICT 1 TOWN HALL MEETING BREAKOUT SESSION NOTES

Saturday, April 2, 2011  
North Oakland Senior Center



On Saturday, April 2, 2011, 400 people representing North Oakland and representatives from the City of Oakland, Oakland's Chief of Police and other OPD command and officers, OUSD's School Board Vice President and District 1 Board Director, Alameda County officials, transit agency officials, and community groups including Block by Block Organizing Network engaged with other citizens in work sessions focusing on 9 issue areas identified by North Oakland residents as being of concern: Environment & Public Works (Streets, Sidewalks, Sewer), Port of Oakland and Former Army Base, Education, Youth, Housing and Homelessness, Blight and Beautification, Public Safety, Jobs and Economic Development. In the small group discussions we developed a short list of potential strategies for addressing each of these concerns and ways to measure our progress. The following information was obtained from these robust discussions:

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ZONING:**

#### ***Top 3 Concerns:***

##### **1. Create & support full time, living-wage jobs**

- Retain existing businesses
- Oakland Army Base
- Appropriate locations
- Make permits easier, foster small businesses
- Small business incubators
- Incorporate schools, colleges, job training connections to jobs
- Maintain and support collective bargaining rights
- Examine Oakland's competition
- Byzantine regulations
  - Enterprise zone near Lowell
- Business rent control
- Commercial security, & market it
- Business taxes, funding
- Attract arts (Lowell) – possibly subsidized
- City Council leadership must unify its vision & strategy to bring economic development to Oakland

##### **2. Safeway (both development projects: 6310 College Ave. & Broadway/Pleasant Valley)**

- Planning Commission enforce zoning
- Appoint more design professionals to the Planning Commission
- Make the Safeway projects appropriate to community
- Ensure an adequate planning process

##### **3. Lowell Street**

- Sidewalks, parks, infrastructure
- Preserve the history & artists that exist
- Dumping
- Attracting appropriate business – industrial & residential
- Relocation of heavier uses

- Separating incompatible uses

**List of Concerns:**

- Urban farming (5)
- New consumer businesses
- Jobs through Health & Art (1)
- Parking (2)
- Lowell Street Redevelopment (13)
- Rezoning (3)
- Places to shop (8)
- Restrict height limits & density (9)
- Telegraph growth (3)
- Build on regional access
- Making Oakland competitive (4)
- Decent, full-time, well-paying jobs (21)
- Selective code enforcement (2)
- Youth employment (2)
- Jobs for all ages
- Redevelop spa (1)
- Microbusiness
- Historic preservation (5)
- Kings Market bus stop (1)
- Senior low income housing (1)
- Relocation of business (8)
- Arts (4)
- Make better use of resources (1)
- Shop Oakland! (1)
- Walkability (6)
- Standards for low income housing
- Safeway developments (13)
- Safety (1)
- Property permits (cost) (7)
- Retail on Broadway (upper)
- City communications
- Affordable family housing (5)
- Zoning on Shattuck
- Children's Hospital (neighborhood) (2)
- Working together (1)
- Army Base (5)
- Pipeline to jobs

**PUBLIC SAFETY (CRIME PREVENTION, COMMUNITY POLICING, NCPC'S, MEASURE Y, GANG INJUNCTIONS, ETC.)**

**Top 3 Concerns:**

1. **More police presence on the streets**
2. **Concern about the increase in residential burglaries**

### **3. A systematic, proactive approach to offering young men and women alternatives to criminal activities**

#### ***List of Concerns:***

- Juvenile prostitution (esp. on San Pablo Ave.) (4)
- Residential burglary (even in the afternoon) (13)
- Problem properties (blight, domestic abuse, etc.) (5)
- Lack of handling kidnappees
- Drug activity (esp. 30<sup>th</sup>-34<sup>th</sup>/Linden) (4)
- Traffic: noise at night (esp. 55<sup>th</sup> & MLK – no light to cross at)
- Parking on private property (esp. Dover St.; Driver Plaza; MLK in front of Corex)
- More neighborhood watch!
- Auto burglary & theft
- Gang injunction (7)
- Lack of neighborhood organization – both at street level and lack of leveraging online organization (3)
- Civilian oversight of OPD (CPRB) (6)
- People living in encampments (getting them help)
- IA (Internal Affairs) – independent
- Racial profiling (“Driving While Black”) – how to report this kind of abuse (10)
- Abandoned autos (esp. on 65<sup>th</sup> St.)
- Can’t see traffic – 55<sup>th</sup>/Wheeler
- Drug house at 663/665 Apgar
- Possibility of civilianization of OPD administrative work (7)
- Not enough police officers/police presence (budget issue) (26)
- 3 or 4-time selling of black market goods at Market & West on 46<sup>th</sup> by 15-20 men (2)
- Proactive help for youth/young men & women (16)
- Warning of police activity (guns, etc.) to parents
- Lack of safety/tired of being afraid (5)
- Gentrification moving too fast
- Cars doing “donuts” on street on Market at 40th across from Oakland Military Institute
- Dealing drugs & public gambling (4)
- Loitering at 45<sup>th</sup>/Market (2)
- 40<sup>th</sup> & Broadway policy upgrade
- Concern for seniors (4)
- Increased tagging (graffiti) (2)
- Hills problems (speeding, no parking) – no police presence
- Permits for fencing/property improvement (4)
- Truancy officers
- Community support

#### ***“Parking Lot”:***

- Bake sale for Oakland NCPCs
- Gang injunction in general

**PUBLIC WORKS (BLIGHT, BEAUTIFICATION, PARKS, STREET TREES, SIDEWALKS, POTHOLES, ETC.)**

**Top 3 Concerns:**

- 1. Community collaboration for planting more trees and sidewalk plants, especially on MLK**
  - Bulb-outs on Shattuck
  - City purchase plants & trees, community members install (3)
  - Youth involvement in beautification (4)
  - Tree selection to avoid leaves on sidewalk (no deciduous trees)
  - Community collaboration with urban gardeners for composting (7)
  - Cut out cement to create tree wells (4)
  - Communicate with neighbors on tree/plant selection – door to door (2)
  - Non-profit establishment to raise money for trees & plants (3)
- 2. Eliminate blight on Lowell and reduce illegal dumping--construct sidewalks and plant trees and flowers**
  - Construct sidewalks (10)
  - Use cameras/signs to prevent dumping
  - Community involvement – esp. for graffiti removal
  - Roundabout on Lowell (2)
  - Trees/flowers (15)
  - Private property blight enforcement (2)
  - Youth involvement (2)
  - Private property responsibility for blight
  - Lighting (6)
- 3. Elimination of potholes in the city-- consider citizen financing for pot hole repair; follow up with utilities to ensure they replace pavement in as good, if not better, condition; prioritize high traffic streets for pothole and street repair**
  - Citizen financing for pothole repair (7)
  - Follow-up with utilities on pothole repair – original condition (7)
  - Prioritize high traffic (12)
  - Potholes – 27<sup>th</sup>-47<sup>th</sup>/MLK

**List of Concerns:**

- Street planters/Shattuck (3)
- Sidewalks (completion)
- Trees & more sidewalk plants (11)
- Blight (4)
- Illegal dumping (Lowell)
- Trash at MacArthur BART
- Potholes on all streets (12)
- Priorities on ADA ramp spending
- Street & sidewalk litter (5)
- Lack of curb cuts
- Illegal dumping (2)
- Stanford Ave. median – litter & weeds (5)
- MLK median – stop use of Roundup weed killer; plant median; put in art installations (6)
- Telegraph Ave. private property neglect
- MLK – vehicles with graffiti

- Lack of sidewalks (Lowell)
- Lack of storm drain cleaning (2)
- Lack of landscape maintenance
- Use of herbicides
- Tree damaged sidewalks (3)
- Piedmont Ave./Entrada – toxic waste (4)
- Youth/community involvement in Helen MacGregor Park (5)
- Undergrounding of wires (7)
- Enforcement of dog prohibition in parks (3)
- Abandoned homes on MLK/60<sup>th</sup> – blighted property (3)
- Potholes on High St.
- Dover Park play structure surface & improvements (4)
- Park maintenance
- Lowell Street truck parking & dumping/lighting
- MLK median
- Lowell St. – blight/lighting/truck parking/sidewalks (27)
- MLK – lack of gree, use of Roundup, vehicles with graffiti (7)
- Sidewalk curb cuts
- More media outreach from city
- City continue volunteer support – green bags, etc.

#### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (EMERGENCY RESPONSE, EARTHQUAKE, CORE, ETC.)**

##### ***Top 3 Concerns:***

- 1. Basic, block by block citizen response – helping neighborhoods organize and be trained for preparedness**
  - CORE (neighborhood organizing/training)
  - Getting more people participating (disseminating info)
- 2. Disaster preparedness for multi-family units – help train management in emergency preparedness and response**
  - Requirement to disseminate materials/training
  - Transient tenants not informed
  - Required information at leasings
  - Evacuation response
  - Rent adjustment program/notice to tenants from landlords
- 3. Sustainability practices – disseminate information that informs people**
  - Rainwater harvesting, greywater use for disaster prep (resiliency)
  - Dissemination of information to help people plan for disaster

##### ***List of Concerns:***

- Communications re: emergency prep (5)
- Survival
- Grants/Loans – seismic retrofit assistance (2)
- Block-by-block citizen response (9)
- Food & water security (3)
- Disaster preparedness in apartment buildings (training managers/landlords to train tenants) (6)

- Fire safety (4)
- Transportation & hospitals (2)
- Earthquake preparedness checklist (4)
- Communications (2)
- Training (2)
- Storing supplies (2)
- Annual reminders
- Organizing CORE (3)
- Sustainability practices re: resiliency (6)
- Community preparedness
  - More relevant types of communication – youth oriented – like rap music
  - Public service campaign – high schools
  - Disaster preparedness weeks
  - Distribution of checklists to tenants
  - Information in the schools
  - Volunteers to disseminate info

## **WILDFIRE PREVENTION, VEGETATION MANAGEMENT, INGRESS/EGRESS**

### ***Top 3 Concerns:***

- 1. City and Mayor to develop an adopt a parcel program in the hills to solve some of the liability issues of volunteers doing ongoing maintenance on public lands**
- 2. Equal enforcement of proper vegetation management on public lands – and collecting fines for those who don't**
- 3. Perpetuating the funding for the Wildfire Prevention Assessment District – up for renewal in 2014**

### ***List of Concerns:***

- Facilitating volunteer maintenance/specific volunteer legal/liability issues
  - Power tools (legal issues)
  - Project control
- Use Mayor's communication tools
- Uncollected parcel fees
- Fuel reduction
- Proactive community
- Continuous funding (3)
- Parking in the hills
- Quality of inspections (2)
- Education/outreach
- Facilitating volunteer maintenance (5)
- Fees: process for collecting fees (defunct)
- City of Oakland/OUUSD/Merritt College (unpaid fees)
- Fuel: routine hydrogen maintenance
- Proactive feedback from community
- Funding: keep funding going
- Inspections: educating community

## SENIORS

### ***Top 3 Concerns:***

1. Concern about rumors about closing of senior centers due to budget pressures (the Mayor responded that while every program faced cuts she was not recommending closures & would work to find other ways to keep the centers open)
2. Transportation for seniors
3. Resources, meals, referrals and activities for seniors

### ***List of Concerns:***

- Self-sufficiency for all senior centers
- Congregate meal info/referral services
- Collaborate with UC Davis & Alzheimers Resource Center
- Workshops on aphasia
- Bay Area Adult Services
- Co-locate senior centers at other locations
- Mixed-use
- Senior wills – making bequests to senior centers
- Fundraising – West Oakland Senior Center needs funds
- Livelihood promotes socialization

## YOUTH & SCHOOLS

### ***Top 3 Concerns:***

1. **City/School Collaboration**
  - Forum to bring many parties together
  - Use effective models, shine a light on what is working
  - Faith-based community support
  - Volunteer/internship opportunities at city
  - Mentoring
  - City Council & District Attorney work around truancy
  - Collaboration around services & facilities (co-housing)
  - Coordinating services to allow parents to be involved
  - Parenting classes
  - Faster implementation
  - Integrate industries with schools around Science/Math/Technology
2. **Early literacy**
3. **More parent involvement programs**

### ***List of Concerns:***

- Truancy
- Tax support for schools
- Teen violence (youth)
- Industry involvement
- Parent involvement
- Youth volunteerism
- Books in schools

- Save teachers
- Micro-businesses
- Safe routes to school & back
- Facilities
- Science/Technology/Engineering/Math
- Collaboration between schools & religious institutions
- Collaboration between schools & the City (Libraries, Parks & Rec, etc.)
- Family friendly households
- Early literacy
- Rescinding debt
- After school programs
- Schools as community centers
- Mentorship
- Early childhood
- Public works jobs opportunities
- Collaboration with the County
- Education achievement gap
- Neighborhood-school connections
- School gardens
- Restorative justice – OUSD policy
- Community engagement
- Academic counseling

#### **TRAFFIC ENGINEERING (TRANSPORTATION SAFETY, BIKE/PEDESTRIAN, TRAFFIC LIGHTS, ETC.)**

##### ***Top 3 Concerns:***

- 1. Bicycling and pedestrian Safety on streets, particularly pedestrian safety for seniors**
- 2. Design streets to work for everyone – pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles; traffic calming for safety for cyclists and pedestrians (“Complete Streets”)**
- 3. Enforcement for drivers who speed on arterials**

##### ***List of Concerns:***

- Bicyclist/pedestrian/street safety areas of concern:
  - San Pablo/Golden Gate
  - Telegraph Ave.
  - 53<sup>rd</sup>/Stanford/Adeline
  - Moraga exit/Highway 13
  - MLK at Highway 24
  - 40<sup>th</sup> Street, esp. at MacArthur BART
  - 66<sup>th</sup> St. at Highway 24
- “One stop shop” for alerting the city of street safety dangers (this already exists at [www.oaklandnet.com](http://www.oaklandnet.com) – “report a problem” tab; or call 238-3466 for traffic/transportation issues, or call 615-5566 for potholes, etc.)
- Staff monitoring on buses
- Enforcement of motorists, particularly on arteries and particularly for speeding
- Add bike lanes, pedestrian crossing and traffic calming on MLK
- Defined barriers to separate pedestrians & bikes from automobiles

- East Bay Bicycle Coalition (EBBC) tool for reporting patchwork repair issues ([www.ebbc.org/hazards](http://www.ebbc.org/hazards)) – city could support expansion of use/awareness of this reporting tool
- Enforce pedestrian right-of-way
- Bus rapid transit
- “Complete Streets”
- Pedestrian safety & access, especially for seniors (10)
- Vehicles parking on sidewalks (5)
- Councilmember Brunner’s office willing to be liaison between citizens & City departments
- Bicyclists – “stragglers” – slow/erratic bicyclists causing street safety problems (3)
- Passenger loading zones at MacArthur BART leading to \$250 traffic fines (3)
- Pedestrian safety around MLK/Berkeley border
- Bike/pedestrian/motor safety around San Pablo/Golden Gate
- West Nile Virus concerns re: ponds/mosquitos – stormwater ponds on street between 51<sup>st</sup>-53<sup>rd</sup> @ Lowell (4)
- Drivers speeding on Moraga exit/Highway 13 – traffic calming needed
- Train crossings
- Maintenance of MLK median strip @ BART overpass
- Bike paths, esp. on Telegraph
- Sidewalks/curbs
- Trucks/potholes (2)
- Respect for bus riders & the buses they ride on (4)
- Traffic safety around 53<sup>rd</sup>/Stanford/Adeline/Market (kids doing “donuts,” traffic, dumping)
- Traffic from Highway 24 causing local congestion
- Adoption of “Complete Streets” strategy
- Finalize Bike Master Plan (focus 40<sup>th</sup>/MacArthur BART)
- Temporary pothole patches – danger to bicyclists
- Recycling – toxic lightbulbs, etc. (2)
- Bike/pedestrian safety – MLK/freeway

## **HIGHWAY 24/CALDECOTT TUNNEL 4<sup>th</sup> BORE**

### ***Top Concern:***

1. **Need for cleaner air (pollution) and relief of congestion in the commute direction**
  - **Better bus service**
  - **Lower number of single-occupancy vehicles from Contra Costa**
    - **Carpool lanes on Highway 24 (HOV or HOT)**
    - **Xpress Bus services**
  - **Contra Costa & Rockridge BART shuttles (Park & Ride)**
  - **Better bicycle connections & storage to transit**
    - **Bike lockers**
  - **Improve BART service – carry more people**