



## **HOW I propose to deal with public safety and crime:**

### **With broad based public support**

We need to do the hard work of bridging the divisions, disdain and distrust in our community.

Since we agree that there should be enforcement, prevention and community policing, then we should focus on that and spend our time on outreach to all sectors of the community. Volunteer community groups across the city and across our society are working hard on social outreach, violence and crime prevention and neighborhood law enforcement. City government can reach out to all of them and bring disparate groups together, but it is going to be a long, difficult campaign and each and every one of us will need to be willing to LISTEN to the other views.

Some actions, such as the recent gang injunction, provoke more disagreement and distrust dividing the community.

Using law enforcement as a way to collect more taxes cheapens the reputation of the city and the police in the eyes of the residents. The same can be said for the recent blame game of political posturing, photo opportunities, endorsements, budget deadline pressure tactics, robo-calls and fear mongering. Vote against it.

### **With credibility**

The public has a right to know that our crime prevention and enforcement policies are based on solid research and proven methods based on real, full information including a study of unreported crime.

We have to face the fact that the California justice system is a failure from trial to parole and we in Oakland will have to deal with the consequences. To say otherwise is to ignore the global problem.

No resident should ever feel that they are on their own without police protection, yet many do. We need to make plans that include extending the circle of protection to everyone, not just those who complain most or have the most money.

### **With accountability**

The police force, like all of city government, needs to be held accountable to civilian oversight.

Measure Y funding and all other programs need transparency, managerial review and inspection.

Every public official should be accountable and not present any conflicts of interest.

### **With stability**

The current hand to mouth budget process is a large part of our general security problem. To get a good program up and running can take years of work and canceling it for a few months at a time is a major setback. A more modest, but reliable funding plan would be more effective than constantly coming up short and changing the plan. We need to get away from complicated, inflexible plans like measure Y and have fair, progressive taxes that the public can support. City government must gain the public trust in how the money is spent and stop reorganizing every couple of years.

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## What I suggest we do about crime:

### Prevent

One of 4 factors is part of most of our city's crime: Substance abuse, homelessness, truancy, and recidivism. When we work on crime prevention programs we need to know that we are always staying focused on at least one or more of these four social problems. These four are the priority.

The best crime prevention plan we could come up with is a better economy. Less poverty, better housing, better health care, more jobs, and more educational opportunities can only help and should be part of every decision a mayor makes.

### Restore

Our goal should always be to repair the damage. It is fair to ask those who have done damage to make amends and restitution to those who have been hurt. It is also fair, to lend support to the families of offenders and potential offenders. If a youth is acting out, they should be expected to stop, but if the reason they act out is that their parents are in crisis, we all should be expected to help.

The District Attorney's Office, local judges and local civil society groups have started to break the vicious circle of punishment, incarceration and separation from the community that needs the city's whole hearted support. Community sentencing involving the perpetrators, victims, families and the general community provide an alternative. This is called Restorative Justice and it has been proven to work as well as or better than incarceration.

### Enforce

The Mayor's job is also to lead a high moral, ethical, honorable and successful police force. I support giving the police the flexibility to concentrate their resources, to take the initiative and bring the enforcement to the crime. The element of surprise should always be in law enforcement's favor. Crimes of intimidation and retaliation against residents who have asked for police protection need priority status. Our police need to be protected and supported when they takes risks. Work conditions should be healthy for the officers and their families and supportive of long term service. They need to be supported in better relations with the community including foreign language training.

And we should ALWAYS fulfill our commitment to community policing keeping those positions staffed first.

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