From:	Sharon Alkire
To:	Schaaf, Libby
Subject:	Local Heroes event
Date:	Saturday, February 08, 2014 12:46:46 PM

Dear Councilwoman Schaaf,

I attended the wonderful Local Heroes event today at the Allendale Recreation Center and was inspired by the variety of work the award recipients are doing. Thank you very much for continuing to recognize these outstanding community members.

I was, however, dismayed to find myself compelled to listen to the Shiloh Church Chorus as they sang praises to Jesus Christ at a City-sponsored event held in a City-operated facility. I appreciate that Christianity is a major part of many Oakland communities and families, but it does not represent a significant portion of Oakland residents, myself included. In fact, one of today's honorees told me that she was glad she couldn't quite make out the words in the second song, because the voices were beautiful but she didn't want to hear about Jesus.

I ask that next year the songs are non-secular, no matter which organization sings them. Please leave religion out of City of Oakland events.

Sincerely,

Sharon Alkire