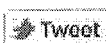
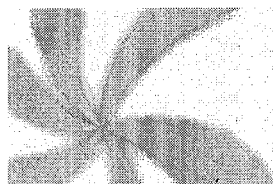


Kaplan, Rebecca

From: The Pacific Center <The_Pacific_Center@mail.vresp.com>
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 1:48 PM
To: Kaplan, Rebecca
Subject: Get Covered Now, Learn how!



Can't see this email? [View as web page](#)



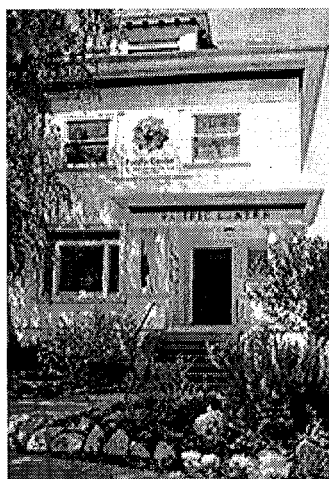
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FOR HUMAN GROWTH

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In This Issue

Get Connected to an
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Our Mission

Pacific Center for Human Growth fosters and enhances the well-being and self respect of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer youth, seniors, and adults through the delivery of LGBTQ competent

Time is Running Out, Get Covered!

March 07th , 2014

Open enrollment for Covered California health care plans is ending this March 31st.



Left to Right: Katie Tims and Leo Brown

If you have not signed up for a plan by March 31 and do not meet the exemption requirements, you will face a penalty fee of \$95 or 1% of your income.

The following entities have employed Enrollment Counselors trained by Covered California. These individuals are well equipped to help you apply for health insurance that suits your needs and budget. Make an appointment as soon as possible, many slots may already be full! Medi-Cal applications can also be completed with these counselors.

mental health and wellness services,
and through the cultivation of a
strong community of LGBTQ-
proficient mental health care
professionals.

Please note that while Medi-Cal applications have no deadline,
applicants are not exempt from the penalty fees, so do not delay!

In BERKELEY, there are 4 entities with this service.

Berkeley Free Clinic
2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley, CA, 94704
510-548-2570
funding@berkeleyfreeclinic.org
10 Counselors Available
Languages: English, Korean, Cantonese, Thai

Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency
1931 Center Street, Berkeley, CA, 94704
510-843-3700
711casemanager@gmail.com

LifeLong Medical Care
3260 Sacramento St., Berkeley, CA, 94704
510-981-4100
lcollins@lifelongmedical.org
Languages: English, Cantonese

Inter-City Services, Inc.
3269 Adeline Street, Berkeley, CA, 94703
510-655-3552
crystalgraves@icsworks.com

In OAKLAND, there are more than 15 entities where enrollment
help is available. Here are just some of them.

Asian Health Services
818 Webster Street, Oakland, CA, 94607
510-986-6880
vquach@ahschc.org
25 Enrollment Counselors Available
Languages: English, Korean, Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese,
Cambodian, Japanese, Tagalog, Mongolian

La Clinica de La Raza, Inc.
747 52nd St, Oakland, CA, 94609
510-428-3316
khernandez@laclinica.org

East Bay Innovations
746 Grand Ave., #1, Oakland, CA, 94610
510-882-8758
lratner@comcast.net

Family Bridges
168-11th Street, Oakland, CA, 94607
510-839-2022
theresac@fambridges.org
3 Enrollment Counselors Available
Languages: English, Cantonese, Mandarin

Lincoln Child Center
1266 14th St., Oakland, CA, 94607
510-273-4700
nancyoakley@lincolnchildcenter.org
Languages: English, Spanish

Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, Inc.
1682 7th Street, Oakland, CA, 94607
877-855-7526
renee_ricci@ppmarmonte.org

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency
1900 Embarcadero, 101, Oakland, CA, 94606
510-777-2195
RSeldon@acbhcs.org
8 Enrollment Counselors Available
Languages: English, Spanish

BAART Behavioral Health Services, Inc.
1124 International Blvd, Oakland, CA, 94606
510-533-0800
vwoolsey@baartprograms.com
2 Enrollment Counselors Available

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency
568 West Grand Ave, Oakland, CA, 94612
510-268-7837
LMichel@acbhcs.org
Languages: English, Spanish

East Bay Korean-American Senior Services Center
1723 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, CA, 94612
510-763-1879
jkimselfby@gmail.com
Languages: English, Korean

East Bay Community Recovery Project
2579 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland, CA, 94612
510-446-7160
lducharme@ebcrp.org
2 Enrollment Counselors Available

Korean Community Center of the East Bay

1700 Broadway, 400, Oakland, 94612
510-547-2662
yerishon@kcceb.org
3 Enrollment Counselors Available
Languages: English, Korean

Law Offices of Steven A. Wolvek
1300 Clay Street, 600, Oakland, CA, 94612
510-652-3379
shari@wolveklaw.com

Safe Passages
250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 6306, Oakland, CA, 94612
510-238-3660
aperez@oaklandnet.com
2 Enrollment Counselors Available
Languages: English, Spanish

Transgender Law Center
1629 Telegraph Ave, Suite 400, Oakland, CA, 94612
415-865-0176
anand@transgenderlawcenter.org

Urojas Community Services Assistance Inc.
2551 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland, CA, 94612
510-776-5404
jasper-lowery@sbcglobal.net
Languages: English, Korean, Spanish

In RICHMOND, there are 4 entities with Enrollment Counselors.

Familias Unidas
205 39th Street, Richmond, CA, 94805
510-412-5930
lhuerta@familias-unidas.org
2 Enrollment Counselors Available
Languages: English, Spanish

BAART Behavioral Health Services, Inc.
1313 Cutting Blvd, Richmond, CA, 94804
510-232-0874
vwoolsey@baartprograms.com

Brighter Beginnings
2727 Macdonald Ave., Richmond, CA, 94804
510-236-6990
alfredo.galo@brighter-beginnings.org

LifeLong Medical Care

2600 MacDonald Ave, Richmond, CA, 94804
510-236-0866
lcollins@lifelongmedical.org
2 Enrollment Counselors Available

HAYWARD has 6 entities offering Enrollment help.

MedAssist
24301 Southland Drive, 400, Hayward, CA, 94545
510-780-2310
Kenneth.Jocewicz@medassistsolutions.com
33 Enrollment Counselors Available
Languages: English, Spanish, Tongan

Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, Inc.
22331 Mission Blvd, Hayward, CA, 94541
510-471-5880
msalgado@tvhc.org
7 Enrollment Counselors Available

Eden I&R
570 B Street, Hayward, 94541
510-537-2710
adejung@edenir.org
3 Enrollment Counselors Available
Languages: English, Spanish, Farsi, Hindi

East Bay Community Recovery Project
22971 Sutro Street, Hayward, CA, 94541
510-728-8600
jjohnson@ebcrp.org
2 Enrollment Counselors Available

Kulbir Heer Inc.
219 Jackson Street, Hayward, CA, 94544
510-378-1040
bawaheer@yahoo.com
2 Enrollment Counselors Available
Languages: English, Spanish

Alameda Health System
24100 Amador St, 250, Hayward, CA, 94544
510-437-8349
kpermillion@alamedahealthsystem.org
Languages: English, Spanish, Tagalog

If you are interested in setting up an informational session at Pacific Center or another location, free of charge, please contact us.

Katie can be reached at:

ktims@pacificcenter.org or at (510) 548-8283 ext. 128.

Leo can be reached at:

lbrown@pacificcenter.org or at (510) 548-8283 ext. 225.

Get Connected with an Enrollment Counselor

Loading...

Pacific Center for Human Growth, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, CA 94705. (510) 548-8283

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Davenport, Kevin

From: Holtan, Laura E.
Sent: Monday, April 03, 2017 3:27 PM
To: Thao, Sheng
Subject: Press Release: Councilmember Kaplan Encourages Donations To Help San Pablo Fire Victims

Councilmember Kaplan Encourages Donations To Help San Pablo Fire Victims

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3, 2017

Contact: Sheng Thao, Chief of Staff for Councilmember At-Large Kaplan

office: (510) 238-7082 : cell: (510) 701-8201 : email: SThao@oaklandnet.com

OAKLAND, CA – Oakland Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan urges the public to donate to help San Pablo fire victims and releases the following statement:

I am deeply saddened by the West Oakland fire that took the lives of 4 Oakland residents, and displaced more than 80 people from their homes. In this difficult time, it is important for us to support those adversely affected by the fire. I am thankful to the Oakland Warehouse Coalition for starting an online fundraiser for survivors of the fire, which has to date raised over \$24,000. Please consider donating to this fundraiser here:

<https://www.youcaring.com/survivorsoffireat2551sanpablo-785311>. "All funds gathered will be delivered directly to survivors, with the assistance of Urojas and Healthy Communities, to assist folks needing immediate housing, clothing, food, and support."

###

Councilmember At-Large Rebecca Kaplan was elected in 2008 to serve as Oakland's citywide councilmember, she was re-elected in 2016.

Thao, Sheng

From: Karchmer, Joanne
Sent: Friday, April 07, 2017 11:45 AM
To: Thao, Sheng; Cook, Brigitte; Marqusee, Alexander G.
Subject: FW: follow-up from 4.6.17 meeting questions

FYI – this is what I just sent to the Pastors.

joanne

From: Karchmer, Joanne
Sent: Friday, April 07, 2017 11:37 AM
To: 'Debra Avery'
Subject: follow-up from 4.6.17 meeting questions

Dear Pastors Avery and Simmons,

I apologize for the delay in my response to the group. In addition to the update that went out yesterday, which is below, your group requested several pieces of information:

- 1) Local Assistance Center – the center will remain open today, Friday, April 7th at 5:00p. After today, assistance will continue to be provided at the Housing Assistance Center in 250 Frank Ogawa Plaza . For individuals and families who have been placed in temporary or transitional housing, the City's Housing staff will be in direct contact with them as housing opportunities are identified for them. See below.
- 2) The City point of contact for tenants, who have provided the forms and verification required for monetary Relocation Assistance payment, is Michele Byrd, Director of Housing and Community Development. The city is doing everything it can to expedite payments to eligible recipients.
- 3) The property owner of 2551 San Pablo Avenue is responsible for relocation assistance payment under the City's ordinance. The City will take all necessary legal steps to recoup costs.
- 4) CA EDD has been on-site at the LAC since Tuesday and is there today. People who self-selected to receive job assistance or apply for unemployment benefits met with CA EDD directly for application assistance and counseling. CA EDD will be providing ongoing job assistance through its locally designated Job Assistance Centers. Thank you to Ms. Cobb for offering to assist with ongoing assistance for job seekers. In a future update, we can certainly provide survivors with information about the OPIC and the offer of additional job assistance either at 1212 Broadway or, if the FPCO San Pablo Fire Victims Advocacy Team determines there will be a community-based location for ongoing assistance, we can update survivors with more information as it becomes available from your group.
- 5) The duration of hotel vouchers varies. Families and individuals in hotels will be contacted directly when a transitional or permanent housing opportunity is identified for them.

Thank you for your efforts and for that of the entire group.

Kind regards,
Joanne

Joanne Karchmer
Deputy Chief of Staff
and Director of Governmental Affairs
Office of the Mayor | City of Oakland
One Frank Ogawa Plaza – 3rd Floor

Update from the City of Oakland on the Local Assistance Center - April 6

City of Oakland sent this bulletin at 04/06/2017 03:01 PM PDT

<image002.jpg>

We know this is a difficult time for you and your family. The City of Oakland wants to make sure that you have correct, timely information about the efforts to assist you and your family members who have been displaced by the fire at 2551 San Pablo Avenue. We will be updating you by email, text message and in-person.

If you have not already visited the Local Assistance Center (LAC), please be sure to do so before 5 p.m. on Friday, April 7.

The City, in conjunction with the American Red Cross, the State Office of Emergency Services and other service providers, opened a temporary comprehensive one-stop local assistance center for those fire victims who need additional support and services as the West Oakland Shelter closes.

Finding and matching clients with available short- and mid-term housing is the most important initial step in assistance. Workers will review eligibility criteria and other requirements.

Staff at the LAC will help you connect with the following:

- Housing Services
- Social Services, including food bank assistance
- County Health Services
- State Employment Development
- State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)
- Red Cross and more

Location: 270 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza (bordering Clay Street and across from the Elihu Harris State Office Building) in downtown Oakland.

Public Transportation: The center is accessible by BART via the 12th Street City Center stop. Also, the center is accessible by AC Transit Bus Lines 72, 72R, 18 and 88 from the West Oakland Shelter. For more information, please visit www.511.org.

Parking: Parking will be validated at one of the following City-owned garages. Please bring the parking token you receive upon entry to the garage with you for validation at the front desk of the local assistance center:

- Dalziel Garage – 250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza (underneath the Local Assistance Center) – enter garage on 16th Street
- City Center West Garage – 1250 Martin Luther King (MLK) Way – enter garage on MLK or Jefferson

The Local Assistance Center will close at 5 p.m. on Friday, April 7.

Residents needing assistance with housing after the Local Assistance Center closes on Friday, April 7, should visit the Housing Assistance Center at 250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 6th Floor. The Housing Assistance Center is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Relocation Assistance

The City has rules that require a property owner to provide relocation assistance to tenants in the event of displacement, where tenants must be relocated. This assistance is offered on a unit-by-unit basis – not on an individual basis. A more detailed explanation of this assistance and a worksheet for verifying tenancy was distributed at the Shelter meetings. These same worksheets will also be available at the Local Assistance Center. The City will do everything they can to expedite these payments to eligible tenants.

Red Cross Victim Verification Letter

Based on their intake and assistance review, the Red Cross will issue a letter to clients that will verify that they were a victim of the fire. These letters can be obtained at the Local Assistance Center. Some letters have been issued.

Please be sure to share this update with your neighbors who may not have received this text/email.

Thao, Sheng

From: Rebecca Kaplan <kaplanforoakland@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 06, 2017 10:58 AM
To: Thao, Sheng; Holtan, Laura E.
Subject: DRAFT statement: Helping fire victims NOW

Councilmember at-large Rebecca Kaplan calls upon Oakland City Administration to immediately fund relocation assistance for those displaced by the San Pablo fire.

It is unjust and unrealistic to expect the displaced low-income residents to each individually find a lawyer and sue the landlord for relocation assistance funds -- and to remain homeless during that process?

The City of Oakland has the legal ability to put forward funds to help the displaced tenants, and then recover those funds from the landlord. I urge that this be done immediately, and that strengthened systems for providing such assistance be setup, and included in upcoming Budget actions.

Thao, Sheng

From: Mayor Libby Schaaf, City of Oakland <officeofthemayor@oaklandnet.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 05, 2017 7:46 PM
To: Thao, Sheng
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Our Neighbors Need Us Now More Than Ever. Here's How You Can Help.



Dear Oaklanders,

As you know, some of our most vulnerable neighbors suffered a great loss as a result of the fire at 2551 San Pablo Avenue last Monday, March 27, 2017. Our hearts go out to the families of those who lost their lives in this tragedy and to the tens of residents who have been displaced.

Over this past week, our city staff has been focused on helping them recover and taking the steps to ensure the safety of this community.

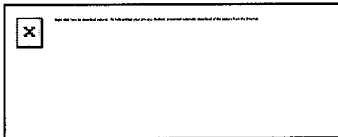
The residents impacted by this fire were facing a number of challenges and barriers before this tragic event occurred and need our help now more than ever. I hope you will join the effort to help the families and individuals who lost so much in this fire.

A coalition of faith-based organizations has designated the First Presbyterian Church of Oakland as the fiscal agent for the San Pablo Fire Victims Advocacy fund. Checks can be made out to: "FPCO San Pablo Fire Victims Advocacy" and

mailed to the church at 2619 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612, or you can make a donation online [here](#).

I want to express my sincere gratitude to our hardworking City staff, the Red Cross, the County of Alameda, and the Salvation Army, which have been invaluable partners along with several local and regional non-profits, faith-based organizations, housing service providers, transit organizations, businesses and restaurants including: AC Transit, Clorox, the Alameda County Food Bank, the Oakland Raiders, Whole Foods, The Open Door Mission, BART Police, Revolution Foods, Rotisserie Deli, Cafe 475, Big Apple, Farmer Joes, Starbucks, Los Cocos, Golden Hours Liquors, La Familia Counseling, Brilliant Minds@Work, Target, Lucky Three Seven, Visit Oakland, Saf Keep Storage, the Jack London Business Improvement District, and Otaez among countless residents who stepped up with donations of food, in-kind gifts and services to support and nourish these residents and families as they try to rebuild their lives.

With Oakland-Love,



Libby

Office of Mayor Libby Schaaf, City of Oakland,
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 3rd Floor, Oakland, CA 94612

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Thao, Sheng

From: Rebecca Kaplan <kaplanforoakland@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 04, 2017 2:15 PM
To: Thao, Sheng; Holtan, Laura E.
Subject: Re: DRAFT Press Release: Councilmember Kaplan Encourages Donations To Help San Pablo Fire Victims

Revised, enclosed

On Tue, Apr 4, 2017 at 2:06 PM, Thao, Sheng <SThao@oaklandnet.com> wrote:

Councilmember Kaplan Shares Information for Tax Deductible Donations To Help San Pablo Fire Victims

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 4, 2017

Contact: Sheng Thao, Chief of Staff for Councilmember At-Large Kaplan

office: (510) 238-7082 : cell: (510) 701-8201 : email: SThao@oaklandnet.com

OAKLAND, CA – Councilmember Kaplan wishes to share with the public and encourage the use of information about how to make Tax-Deductible donations to help the victims of the San Pablo fire.

Councilmember Kaplan thanks the First Presbyterian Church of Oakland for setting up a fund and online system for taking monetary donations to support the victims of the San Pablo Avenue Fire in West Oakland. There are still unmet needs that will not be covered by the City and County emergency funds, 100% of the donations collected will be used for these necessities. The First Presbyterian Church, the fiscal sponsor, is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, therefore, all donations will be tax-deductible.

Please click here for the link to donate.

Oakland Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan urges the public to donate to help San Pablo fire victims and releases the following statement:

“I want to thank all those who have come out to help fundraise and support the victims of the West Oakland Fire, including The First Presbyterian Church of Oakland, the Oakland Warehouse Coalition, our hard working first responders and housing staff, and many more who are helping out. I am deeply saddened that this tragedy took the lives of 4 Oakland residents, and displaced more than 80 people from their homes. In this difficult time, it is important for us to support those adversely affected by the fire. Now we have a method to make tax-deductible charitable contributions to serve the unmet needs of fire victims. I encourage people to use it and share it.”

The First Presbyterian Church of Oakland fund to support San Pablo fire victims. (501c3 – all donations are tax-deductible): <https://secure.squarespace.com/commerce/donate?donatePageId=58e07015414fb5cob2b199e7>

###

Councilmember At-Large Rebecca Kaplan was elected in 2008 to serve as Oakland's citywide councilmember, she was re-elected in 2016.

Thao, Sheng

From: Holtan, Laura E.
Sent: Tuesday, April 04, 2017 12:38 PM
To: KaplanforOakland@gmail.com
Cc: Thao, Sheng
Subject: First Presbyterian Church of Oakland: San Pablo Fire Relief

<https://secure.squarespace.com/commerce/donate?donatePagelId=58e07015414fb5c0b2b199e7>

Laura Holtan
Office of Councilmember At-Large Rebecca Kaplan
Policy and Legislative Director
City of Oakland
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza · Oakland, CA 94612
(o) 510-238-7008 · (d) 510-238-7081 · (e) lholtan@oaklandnet.com

Thao, Sheng

From: R Kaplan <kaplanforoakland@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 04, 2017 10:47 AM
To: Thao, Sheng
Cc: Holtan, Laura E.
Subject: Re: Press Release: Councilmember Kaplan Encourages Donations To Help San Pablo Fire Victims

Thanks for forwarding

Please find out if it's true and what if any arrangements the administration is making for these people

Michelle Byrd should know or Claudia or Sabrina's office

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 4, 2017, at 10:16 AM, "Thao, Sheng" <SThao@oaklandnet.com> wrote:

Begin forwarded message:

From: Daniel Radovich <Daniel.Radovich@FOXTV.COM>
Date: April 4, 2017 at 8:03:49 AM PDT
To: "Holtan, Laura E." <LHoltan@oaklandnet.com>, "Thao, Sheng" <SThao@oaklandnet.com>
Subject: RE: Press Release: Councilmember Kaplan Encourages Donations To Help San Pablo Fire Victims

Laura & Sheng,

This is Dan Radovich at the KTVU desk.

We're hearing from the Red Cross that the remaining fire victims staying at the West Oakland Youth Center will have to leave by 7 a.m. tomorrow – without any alternatives on the table.

I wanted to see you'd be available to speak with the reporter covering this story today.

Let me know what may work.

Thanks,

Daniel Radovich
Assignment Editor
KTVU FOX 2
510-874-0242
Daniel.Radovich@FOXTV.COM
<image001.gif>

From: Holtan, Laura E. [mailto:LHoltan@oaklandnet.com]
Sent: Monday, April 03, 2017 3:27 PM
To: Thao, Sheng
Subject: Press Release: Councilmember Kaplan Encourages Donations To Help San Pablo Fire Victims

Councilmember Kaplan Encourages Donations To Help San Pablo Fire Victims

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3, 2017

Contact: Sheng Thao, Chief of Staff for Councilmember At-Large Kaplan
office: (510) 238-7082 : cell: (510) 701-8201 : email: SThao@oaklandnet.com

OAKLAND, CA – Oakland Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan urges the public to donate to help San Pablo fire victims and releases the following statement:

I am deeply saddened by the West Oakland fire that took the lives of 4 Oakland residents, and displaced more than 80 people from their homes. In this difficult time, it is important for us to support those adversely affected by the fire. I am thankful to the Oakland Warehouse Coalition for starting an online fundraiser for survivors of the fire, which has to date raised over \$24,000. Please consider donating to this fundraiser here: <https://www.youcaring.com/survivorsoffireat2551sanpablo-785311>. "All funds gathered will be delivered directly to survivors, with the assistance of Urojas and Healthy Communities, to assist folks needing immediate housing, clothing, food, and support."

###

***Councilmember At-Large Rebecca Kaplan** was elected in 2008 to serve as Oakland's citywide councilmember, she was re-elected in 2016.*

Thao, Sheng

From: Holtan, Laura E.
Sent: Monday, April 03, 2017 3:06 PM
To: R Kaplan
Cc: Thao, Sheng
Subject: DRAFT Press Statement - San Pablo Fire

I am deeply saddened by the West Oakland fire that took the lives of 4 Oakland residents, and displaced more than 80 people from their homes. In this difficult time, it is important for us to support those adversely affected by the fire. I am thankful to the Oakland Warehouse Coalition for starting an online fundraiser for survivors of the fire, which has to date raised over \$24,000. Please consider donating to this fundraiser here: <https://www.youcaring.com/survivorsoffireat2551sanpablo-785311>. "All funds gathered will be delivered directly to survivors, with the assistance of Urojas and Healthy Communities, to assist folks needing immediate housing, clothing, food, and support."

Thao, Sheng

From: Holtan, Laura E.
Sent: Monday, April 03, 2017 1:38 PM
To: Cook, Brigitte
Cc: R Kaplan; Thao, Sheng
Subject: 2551 San Pablo Fire Fundraiser

Hi Bridgette,

Good talking with you. Our office is interested in collaborating on a fundraiser for the 2551 San Pablo Fire. Please keep us in the loop and let us know how we can help!

Thank you,

Laura Holtan
Office of Councilmember At-Large Rebecca Kaplan
Policy and Legislative Director
City of Oakland
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza · Oakland, CA 94612
(o) 510-238-7008 · (d) 510-238-7081 · (e) lholtan@oaklandnet.com

Thao, Sheng

From: Holtan, Laura E.
Sent: Monday, April 03, 2017 11:36 AM
To: Jonah Strauss
Cc: Thao, Sheng; Kaplan, Rebecca; Davenport, Kevin
Subject: RE: West Oakland Fire Relief

Thank you so much, Jonah! You rock ☺

Laura Holtan
Office of Councilmember At-Large Rebecca Kaplan
Policy and Legislative Director
City of Oakland
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza · Oakland, CA 94612
(o) 510-238-7008 · (d) 510-238-7081 · (e) lholtan@oaklandnet.com

From: Jonah Strauss [<mailto:jonah@oaklandwarehousecoalition.org>]
Sent: Monday, April 03, 2017 11:35 AM
To: Holtan, Laura E.
Subject: Re: West Oakland Fire Relief

Laura -

This is great.

Also I spoke with Michelle Byrd onsite at the WOYC this weekend and have been posting this:

If you have a room available in your home for any amount of time for a survivor or survivors of the San Pablo fire, please email Michelle Byrd, Director of Housing and Community Development.

mbyrd@oaklandnet.com

Please provide your:

- Name
- Phone number
- Email
- Address
- Length of stay available
- Preferred gender if applicable
- Preferred number of folks, if you can accommodate a family, etc.

Here is the City Attorney's PDF on residential rights in commercial units: [http://www.oaklandcityattorney.org/PDFS/Guides%20and%20FAQs/FAQs%20Regarding%20Non-Conforming%20Residential%20Units%20in%20Light%20of%20the%20December%202%202016%20Warehouse%20Fire%20\(1315%20%2031st%20Avenue\).pdf](http://www.oaklandcityattorney.org/PDFS/Guides%20and%20FAQs/FAQs%20Regarding%20Non-Conforming%20Residential%20Units%20in%20Light%20of%20the%20December%202%202016%20Warehouse%20Fire%20(1315%20%2031st%20Avenue).pdf)

Here is the Anti-Eviction Mapping Project's page on Neill Sullivan's REO Homes: <http://www.antievictionmap.com/neill-sullivan/>

– Jonah

Jonah Strauss

Oakland Warehouse Coalition

jonah@oaklandwarehousecoalition.org

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– Jonah

Jonah Strauss

Oakland Warehouse Coalition

jonah@oaklandwarehousecoalition.org

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On Apr 3, 2017, at 11:05 AM, Holtan, Laura E. <LHoltan@oaklandnet.com> wrote:

From: Sheng Thao [<mailto:sshengthao@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, April 03, 2017 11:05 AM

To: Holtan, Laura E.

Subject: Fwd: West Oakland Fire Relief

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Councilmember At-Large Rebecca Kaplan" <atlarge@oaklandnet.com>

Date: March 31, 2017 at 3:30:23 PM PDT

To: "Sheng Thao" <sshengthao@gmail.com>

Subject: West Oakland Fire Relief

Reply-To: atlarge@oaklandnet.com

Dear Sheng,

On Monday morning, a West Oakland residential fire took the lives of 4 Oakland residents, and displaced more than 80 people from their homes.

This tragic event has negatively impacted a vulnerable community here in Oakland, including over 10 children, who are temporarily staying at an emergency shelter set up by the Red Cross at the West Oakland Youth Center, 3233 Market Street.

The toiletries, food, and clothing people have donated are much appreciated. Currently, there is a need for

temporary and long-term housing and monetary donations.

If you have space to house one or more persons displaced by the fire, please contact my staff person Laura Holtan at lholtan@oaklandnet.com or 510-238-7081.

If you would like to donate to the relief effort, the Oakland Warehouse Coalition has set up an online fundraiser at: <https://www.youcaring.com/survivorsoffireat2551sanpablo-785311>. "All funds gathered will be delivered directly to survivors to assist folks needing immediate housing, clothing, food, and support."

For more information about the fire, you can visit:

<http://www2.oaklandnet.com/government/o/CityAdministration/2551-san-pablo-fire/index.htm>.

Together, we can provide support and help heal our community in need.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Kaplan
Oakland Councilmember At-Large

*If you believe you received this message in error
or wish to no longer receive email from us, please [unsubscribe](#).*

Paid for by Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan Officeholder Committee, FPPC ID #1374343.

Oakland Post

"Where there is no vision, the people perish..." Proverbs 29:18

VERIFIED

postnewsgroup.com

Weekly Edition, Mar. 29-Apr. 4, 2017

53rd Year, No. 41



West Oakland pastors and community leaders gathered to develop a coordinated approach to fire relief efforts.

Faith-based Leaders Coordinate Fire Relief Efforts

Oakland Faith-based leaders and community-based organizations have come together to plan a coordinated approach for relief efforts for those impacted by the West

Oakland San Pablo Avenue fire that took place early Monday morning, March 27. Clothing can be donated at Word Assembly Church located at 767 Pine St. in West

Oakland. Financial contributions can be directed to First Presbyterian Church of Oakland, 2619 Broadway, Oakland CA 94612. Memo: San Pablo Fire Vic-

tims. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/2551SanPablofirerelief or call (510) 488-3812.

Oakland Mourns Victims, Seeks Answers in Apartment Fire That Killed 4

By Post Staff

Oaklanders are in mourning and seeking answers in the wake of a fire that destroyed a three-story transitional housing building at 2551 San Pablo Ave. in West Oakland, where four people died Monday, leaving 80 homeless, including many children.

As of mid-week, authorities had identified two victims, Edward Anderson, 64, and Cassandra Robertson, 50. Aid workers seeking help for the displaced residents. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Anderson, known as the deacon, was considered by many of the residents to be a very helpful man who went out of his way to aid people in the building, unplugging backed-up toilets, painting the walls or dealing with other problems.

According to reports, Robertson moved to the Bay Area



Massive blaze Monday morning in apartment building at 2551 San Pablo Ave. in Oakland. Photo courtesy of NBC Bay Area.

from New Orleans at age 19. She returned to Louisiana about four years ago, but recently came back to the Bay Area.

Many of those displaced by the fire lost all their possessions and are staying in a shelter. In an outpouring of support, local resi-

dents are donating clothes and other items to aid survivors of the fire. *Continued on Page 10*

76-Year-Old Woman and Supporters Fight to Save Home from City's Largest Landlord

Dorothy DeBose, a 76-year-old, life-long East Oakland resident, and her nephew Omar Taylor were joined by dozens of neighbors, friends and supporters this week as they sought to "reclaim" their family home in East Oakland.

The family has been attempting to hold onto the home that has belonged to their family for four generations after Community Fund LLC, Alameda County's largest landlord, attempted to evict Ms. DeBose less than two weeks ago.

"No senior citizen should have to consider homelessness at this point in their life for one landlord's profits" said Omar Taylor, Ms. DeBose's nephew.

The protest, held Wednesday afternoon at the family's home, brought together family members and neighbors organizing with other Community Fund Tenants through the Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE Action).

DeBose and her family have lived in their home at 6521 Bancroft Ave for the last 50 years and are among the oldest Black homeowners in



Dorothy DeBose, a 76-year-old, life-long East Oakland resident, and her nephew Omar Taylor.

a neighborhood that once was one of few areas in the city that allowed African American homeownership.

The family's misfortunes began over 10 years ago with a loan from World Savings Bank, now known for extreme predatory lending practices. World Savings' often pushed subprime loans on homeowners who didn't need them, practices that were at the center of the mortgage meltdown that led to the great recession.

The loan was taken over by Wells Fargo. DeBose's sister, the original owner of the property, passed away. Following a process that was mired in confusion and questionable practices, Wells Fargo foreclosed on the family, according to ACCE Action.

The home was soon purchased by Community Fund LLC. In spite of the family's challenges to the foreclosure, the mega investor attempted to evict DeBose and her family.

The family and supporters called on Wells Fargo and Community Fund LLC, whose head, Michael Marr, was indicted on federal bid-rigging charges, to immediately rescind the sale of the house and allow the family to remain in their home.

Ms. DeBose and her family are taking a stand. "This isn't just about us, it's about all families fighting to remain in this city. We are still here and we will continue to fight," said Omar Taylor.



Oaklanders Say C5's Raps Are Live

C5 (@officialc5) is a rising hip-hop artist and college graduate from Oakland. His feature story by Paul Cobb will appear next week! Find his music and inspiring lyrics on all digital platforms now. Photo by Tommy Gonzalez, tongphotoz@gmail.com

All Star "Best of the Best" Basketball Tourney in Oakland Event will raise funds to help young women go to college



From left to right: Xinavane Foreman, Blanca Shaw and Victoria Avery. Photo by Dejah Fortune.



By Tanya Dennis

Three local young women are participating in the Nor-Cal All Star "Best of the Best" Basketball Tourney, a fundraiser to help teen

girls go to college.

The event takes place at Merritt College, 12500 Campus Drive in Oakland at 4 p.m. on April 8 and April 9.

Xinavane Foreman, a senior at Berkeley High School, *Continued on Page 10*

Rev. Rowden: Let's Dress Our Children for Success



Easter finery for Connor Jackson at the Oxford Way Men's Clothing Store, 6038 Telegraph Ave. in Oakland, being fitted by store owner Rev. Randy Rowden. See story and picture on page 6.

McClymonds High "Culture Keepers" Leave for South Africa

By Post Staff

McClymonds High School "Culture Keepers" left Tuesday for a two-week trip to South Africa.

On Tuesday afternoon, the group met up in the "Plaza of Peace" (the school's quad area) for a community "Send Off" circle.

The Culture Keepers included 23 high school students, one middle school student, three college students and nine mentors. In preparation for the trip, they focused on identity development, research, digital storytelling and cultural exchange.



McClymonds High School students and mentors left Tuesday for a two-week trip to South Africa. Photo by Brandon Aninipol.

For the past few busy years, they have raised money for their trip. Even though they have their tickets, they

are still fundraising to cover all costs.

"I felt really supported at last year's 'Send Off' circle," said McClymonds High senior Axia Fuller. "It was good to see the people from our community come out to support our journey to Johannesburg."

The community has been a huge support in helping to make this trip become a reality, said coordinator Kharyshi Wiginton, who is thankful people came out to join the

sendoff circle.

"It is important for our youth to stand in front of family and community, to know that people are watching and bearing witness to this experience. They are going on this trip, representing many who could only dream of having an experience like this," said Wiginton.

For more information, go to the video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDtGBH5_H64

New Poll: Homelessness and Lack of Affordable Housing Are Oaklanders Top Concerns

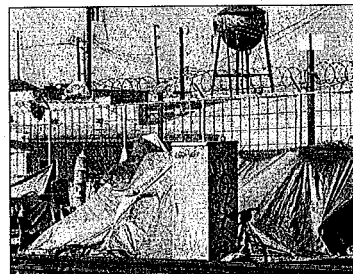
Expressing broad unanimity, 92 percent of Oakland residents rank homelessness as an "extremely" or "very serious problem" in the city, followed closely by a lack of affordable housing at 87 percent, according to a new poll released today by the East Bay Residents for Responsible Development (EBRRD).

Most Oaklanders, 73 percent, believe that the pace of development in the city is "about right" or "too slow," but they don't want indiscriminate building and would strongly prefer developments be built with community benefits.

Eighty-one percent of residents ranked the cost of rent as an extremely or very serious problem, while 78 percent believe that long-term residents of Oakland being priced out of the housing market is an extremely or very serious problem.

The poll was conducted Fairbank, Mastin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (FMA), a public policy-oriented opinion research firm that has offices in Oakland and Los Angeles, between Feb. 23 and Feb. 26. Four hundred Oakland voters who cast ballots in the November 2016 election were interviewed.

East Bay Residents for Responsible Development (EBRRD) paid for the poll. EBRRD is a coalition of the IBEW Local 595, Sheet Metal Workers Local 104, UA Sprinkler Fitters Local 483



Homeless encampment in Oakland. Ninety-two percent of Oakland residents rank homelessness as an "extremely" or "very serious problem" in the city.

and UA Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 342, representing 500 families in Oakland and 18,000 members in Northern California.

In other results, the condition of streets and roads was ranked by 66 percent of respondents as extremely or very serious, while 64 percent rank deteriorating infrastructure the same way.

Crime — usually a top concern among Oakland residents — was rated as an extremely or very serious issue by 64 percent of the city's population.

Oaklanders are also deeply concerned about the lack of opportunities for local residents. Sixty-two percent say that the lack of opportunity for young people is an extremely or very serious issue in the city, while 72 percent express

the same concern for people coming out of the criminal justice system.

Focusing on employment opportunities, 61 percent felt that a lack of good-paying jobs for local residents is also an extremely or very serious issue, while 78 percent say the same thing about a lack of housing that middle-income families can afford.

Though the majority of residents feel that development is moving at just about the right pace or too slow, they want developers to provide community benefits.

While favoring development, most Oaklanders believe developers should agree to community benefits.

A majority of resident, 52 percent, say that they would like all new housing in Oak-

land to provide community benefits, like affordable housing for the middle class and fair pay for workers, even if that means less housing is built overall.

Eighty-five percent say they would approve of requiring developers to hire local workers first.

Oakland residents say government bears the biggest responsibility for helping to solve the city's housing problem.

Eighty-three percent of respondents say that city government has a "major responsibility" to address the Oakland's housing problems, followed by elected officials (68 percent) and the state government (59 percent).

Fifty-five percent say that real estate developers bear either a major or "somewhat major" responsibility for addressing housing issues in Oakland.

Though critical of local government, residents give the City of Oakland a 46 percent favorable rating versus a 39 percent unfavorable rating.

Sixteen percent had no opinion.

Mayor Libby Schaaf received a 54 percent favorability rating, while 41 percent of residents rated their individual City Council members favorably.

Fifty-one percent have an unfavorable view of real estate developers.

All Star "Best of the Best" Basketball Tourney in Oakland

Continued from page 1
has played basketball for more than 10 years. A guard/forward with a 3.5 GPA, she has a "free ride" scholarship to Cal State Fullerton where she intends to major in Criminal Justice.

Forward Victoria Avery, a senior at Bishop O'Dowd High School in Oakland, loves playing with her NorCal All-Star team. With a 4.2 GPA, she will be attending either New York University, Carnegie Mellon or Emory University where she intends to major in sociology and become a non-profit entrepreneur or policy maker.

Bianca Shaw, a senior with a 3.5 GPA at Bishop O'Dowd, is a point/shooting guard. She will attend Arizona State University majoring in Sports Medicine. Her father is Lakers coach Brian Shaw.

The Nor-Cal All Star "Best of the Best" Basketball Tourney is fundraiser to support three months of college-prep, empowerment and life skills workshops to teen girls who need the financial aid.

Empowerment participants will meet for 12 weeks in workshops conducted at Castlemont High School Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Orientation is Saturday,

April 1 from noon to 1 p.m. at the Castlemont High School Auditorium, 8601 MacArthur Blvd. in Oakland.

Participants will be given preference when applying to any Peralta College and will receive a two-year scholarship.

Coaches John (Pops) Phillips and Johnny Burks will host the two-day event and have coordinated "Best of the Best" female high school basketball players from Sacramento, San Jose, San Francisco and the East Bay to participate in this tournament.

"I'm blessed and feel a responsibility to help those not as fortunate as I am," says Shaw, a Bishop O'Dowd senior. "Playing in this tournament hopefully will give some of these girls the same opportunities I have for success."

"Playing in these games is a wonderful opportunity for me," says Avery, O'Dowd senior. "My major in college will be sociology and I'm interested in housing justice issues, but there are so many other factors that stand in the way of girls succeeding. I'm just happy I can do something that will make other lives better."

"Other girls who don't have the support system I've had

to excel scholastically and in sports," says Foreman, "who knows, there might be a girl out there who can play as good or better than me, who just hasn't had the support or opportunity or even the encouragement to show off her skills."

"I hope by playing this tournament, we'll raise awareness that these girls matter, and people will support us by

attending our games," she said. Enrollment is currently open for the Empowerment Program.

Tournament Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door.

For more information or to make donations, go to: www.oaklandtep.org or call (510) 326-8668.

Apartment Fire That Killed 4

Continued from page 1
the fire.

According to Pastor Debra Avery of the First Presbyterian Church of Oakland, as of Wednesday evening, donations are requested for new and barely used adult clothes. "The need at the shelter now is especially for children's school clothing (all sizes) and school supplies," she said.

Oakland is a generous and supportive community that I know will rally around these residents — many of whom are among the most vulnerable in our community. Now more than ever they need our assistance," said Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf.

Donations should be delivered to two locations: from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Brothers Barbershop at

1498-7th St.; and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., at Word Assembly Church, 767 Pine St.

Questions continue to be raised about what the city could have done to prevent the fire.

In an interview with the Associated Press this week, Mayor Schaaf said the city has improved its enforcement efforts involving dangerous buildings following the Ghostship warehouse fire in which 36 people died in December 2016.

In the wake of the warehouse fire, she had pledged to improve internal communications between city departments after learning that city officials and agencies were told of a safety problem at the warehouse but it was not inspected.

Schaaf said firefighters an-

swering a call in February at the San Pablo residence had reported possible problems, prompting an inspection last Friday that found deficient sprinklers, alarms and smoke detectors.

She said city officials lacked the authority to immediately shut the apartments because they are required to give the owner time to fix the problems, according to AP.

On Feb. 23, the city sent a notice of violation to the owner of the building after someone complained about the building, saying there was a "large amount of trash and debris, building materials, (and) furniture in back of property."

But the building was not inspected until last Friday, March 24.

According to the East Bay Times, the inspector found 11 severe fire hazards, including extension cords being used instead of wall outlets. His report said that fire extinguishers, emergency lighting and marked exits must be maintained and provided throughout the building, and smoke detectors installed in each unit.

The inspector also demanded immediate service and certification of the fire alarm system and fire sprinkler system, but he didn't order the residential building, evacuated and closed.

He did not "order the building owner to place a person on 'fire watch' to patrol the structure until repairs were made, as state law allows," the East Bay Times said. The fire took place three days later.

Pamela Price Named Woman of the Year



From left to right: Assemblymember Rob Bonta, Kathleen Sullivan, Richmond Contro Costa president of Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA), and attorney Pamela Price.

Assemblyman Rob Bonta has named attorney Pamela Price the 18th Assembly District's Woman of the Year for her "social justice advocacy, her continued service to Alameda County and the City of Oakland and her lifetime of protecting the civil rights of all Californians."

Every year since 2004, Price has been named one of the top 5 percent of Northern California's "Super Lawyers" by San Francisco Magazine.

A graduate of Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall), she worked as a Criminal Defender in San Francisco and founded her own firm in Oakland in 1991. She is one of a handful of African American women who has argued a case before the United States Supreme Court.

The California Assembly's Woman of the Year event is held each year during Women's History Month to celebrate the contributions to society made by remarkable women throughout California, sponsored by the California Legislative Women's Caucus.

Oakland Public Schools Substitute Job Fair

The Oakland Unified School District Employee Service Center/Substitute Office Community Job Fair, in partnership with Word Assembly A Family of Churches, will be held Thursday, April 13, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at 767 Pine St. in Oakland.

The school district is interviewing for substitute teachers and non-teaching, classified positions.

Substitute teachers must have a bachelor's degree and pass the CBEST exam or one qualifying examination.

The district also needs substitute staff in a number of classified positions daily: school security officers, custodians, food service assistants, instructional support staff (including special education classroom support), and clerical substitutes to fill roles such as secretary, attendance clerk and administrative assistant.

Thao, Sheng

From: Hunt, Michael
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 8:15 PM
Subject: Update on the 2551 San Pablo Avenue Fire
Attachments: 3-30-17 San Pablo Fire Update - Final with records .pdf

All,

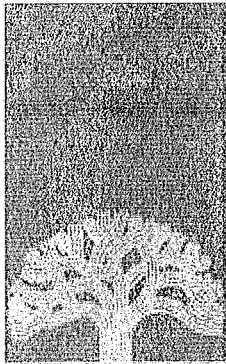
See below for the update released today regarding the 2551 San Pablo Avenue Fire.

Please contact our office if you have questions or need additional information.

Thank you,

Michael Hunt | Special Assistant | Office of Mayor Libby Schaaf | City of Oakland
Office: 510-238-7167 | Cell: 510-967-7524 | Email: mhunt@oaklandnet.com

From: Hamilton, Harry
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 6:11 PM
Subject: Update on the 2551 San Pablo Avenue Fire



City of
OAKLAND
California

Media Contact:

Angela Robinson Piñon
510-238-4055
arobinsonpinon
@oaklandnet.com

News from: **Oakland Fire Department**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 30, 2017

Update on the 2551 San Pablo Avenue Fire

Oakland, CA — On March 29, 2017, the Oakland Fire Department concluded its operations at 2551 San Pablo Avenue, and the building was turned over to the property owner's representatives to be secured.

As noted in earlier reports, there were four fatalities. Of the four victims, two names have been released by the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, Coroner's Bureau:

Edwarn Anderson, 64
Cassandra Robertson, 50

The fire has been deemed to have been accidentally caused. The fire investigation report should be completed in the next few weeks.

Numerous requests have been made for Fire Department records related to this property. We are compiling and making publicly available information as quickly as possible. Attached are the fire inspection records we have for the property at 2551 San Pablo Avenue for the past decade from 2007 to 2017, including the most recent inspection report which was previously released.

#

Thao, Sheng

From: Davenport, Kevin
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2017 10:54 AM
To: 'kaplanforoakland@gmail.com'; Thao, Sheng
Cc: Holtan, Laura E.
Subject: RK News 4/17/2017

Categories: News

April 18, 2017

Warriors Playoff Ticket Auction Raises Money For Oakland Fire Survivors

By CBS Staff

CBS Bay Area

OAKLAND (CBS SF) – Oakland City Councilwoman **Rebecca Kaplan** has donated two tickets to the Golden State Warriors' playoff game against Portland on Wednesday night to be auctioned off to raise funds for people who were displaced by a deadly fire at an apartment building last month.

Kaplan said all of the funds raised from the auction will go to the survivors who were displaced from the blaze at the three-story, 43-unit building at 2551 San Pablo Ave. on March 27 that took the lives of four Oakland residents.

Oakland officials said the fire has been deemed accidental and was caused by a candle.

Kaplan said in a statement, "I want to thank all those who have come out to help fundraise and support the victims of the West Oakland Fire, including the First Presbyterian Church of Oakland, the Oakland Warehouse Coalition, our hard-working first responders and housing staff and many more who are helping out."

"I am deeply saddened that this tragedy took the lives of four Oakland residents and displaced more than 80 people from their homes. In this difficult time, it is important for us to support those adversely affected by the fire," she said.

The link for the auction, which ends at 11:45 p.m. Tuesday, can be found at <https://www.32auctions.com/organizations/32001/auctions/38603?reset-filter=1>.

<http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2017/04/18/warriors-playoff-ticket-auction-oakland-fire-survivors-rebecca-kaplan/>

April 17, 2017

City of Oakland Donates 2 Warriors Playoff Tickets to Help San Pablo Fire Victims

By ABC Staff

ABC 7 News

OAKLAND, Calif. (KGO) -- The City of Oakland has donated two Golden State Warriors playoff tickets to be auctioned off to benefit survivors of the March 27 fire on San Pablo Avenue.

I-TEAM: Records show building complaints where at least 4 died in Oakland fire

City Councilmember **Rebecca Kaplan** was behind the effort to donate a pair of tickets to the city's private suite at Oracle Arena.

The tickets will be for Wednesday's game against the Portland Trail Blazers.

Kaplan says the city has received numerous complaints from those impacted by the deadly fire, claiming officials are not doing enough to help.

"The amount of response from the administration has been much less than after Ghost Ship," **Kaplan** said. "And serious concerns from the people of the San Pablo fire that people still haven't been able to get their lives back together."

Kaplan encourages people to continue donating.

Click here to bid on the Golden State Warriors tickets to help those affected by the San Pablo fire.

<http://abc7news.com/news/oakland-donates-2-warriors-tickets-to-help-san-pablo-fire-victims/1885485/>

April 18, 2017

VIDEO: Warriors playoffs tickets auctioned off to benefit victims of San Pablo Avenue Fire in Oakland

By Vince Cestone, KRON and Brad Belstock
KRON 4

[Video in Link]

OAKLAND (KRON) — You can go to the next Golden State Warriors playoff game and help a good cause at the same time.

Oakland city councilmember **Rebecca Kaplan** has donated two tickets for Wednesday's game.

They are being auctioned off online. 100 percent of the proceeds from the auction are going to help out the survivors of the deadly San Pablo Avenue Fire.

The fire broke out late last month, tearing through an apartment building, killing four people and displacing dozens of others.

The ticket donation by **Kaplan** is also of note for another reason.

She has been pushing to eliminate the city practice of giving officials free tickets to events at Oracle Arena and the Coliseum.

Click here for the link to the auction:

https://www.32auctions.com/organizations/32001/auctions/38603?reset_filter=1

Thao, Sheng

From: Thao, Sheng
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2017 4:19 PM
To: Thao, Sheng
Subject: Press Release: Kaplan Calls for City to Help Struggling Displaced Tenants, Then Seek Reimbursement from Landlords

Categories: News

KAPLAN CALLS FOR CITY TO HELP STRUGGLING DISPLACED TENANTS, THEN SEEK REIMBURSEMENT FROM LANDLORDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 17, 2016

Contact: Sheng Thao, Council Staff for Councilmember At-Large Kaplan
(510) 238-7082 : SThao@oaklandnet.com

OAKLAND, CA – Oakland Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan is calling for the City to provide relocation payments for those being evicted due to code compliance, including for the victims of the March 27th West Oakland fire on San Pablo Avenue. Under the Code Enforcement Relocation Program, if the property owner does not provide relocation payments to an eligible tenant, the City can provide the tenant relocation payment, making the property owner responsible to reimburse the City, including placing a lien against the property. [Click here for Oakland's Code Enforcement Relocation Program - O.M.C Chapter 15.60 Section 15.60.080.](#)

"It's not fair to expect struggling tenants, who have lost their homes, to go through the process of suing the property owner for relocation assistance. Having them do this would cause the very thing that we're trying to protect, displacing Oakland residents." says Kaplan.

On March 15th, Kaplan sent the City Administration and staff a letter spelling out one of her priorities is for "Relocation assistance (to have) up-front funds for future reimbursement. In many cases, a landlord has an obligation to provide relocation assistance, but fails to do so. Oakland can put the money up front for the tenant to be able to relocate, and then seek reimbursement from the landlord, but to do this requires setting aside some up-front funds, to be reimbursed in the future." [Please click here for Kaplan's letter.](#)

This past January, the City Council passed Councilmember Kaplan's Ordinance amending the code enforcement relocation program to increase relocation payments for tenants displaced due to code compliance; bringing the relocation amount closer to the actual costs it would take in order for displaced tenants to find new housing. Prior to this amendment by Kaplan, the amount allocated to displaced tenants was not substantial in the current housing market.

[Please click here for Kaplan's complete Resolution.](#)

Oakland's Relocation Program, along with Kaplan's amendments are more important now than ever. For example, the West Oakland San Pablo Avenue fire not only took the lives of 4 Oakland residents, it destroyed people's homes and has left over 80 people displaced. In this situation, the displaced tenants qualify for relocation assistance, and though the City has begun the process for disbursement of relocation funds, many are saying that the City Administration knowingly allowed those displaced to be homeless for weeks before starting the process, which can take a minimum of 10 days before a check is cut once it's started.

Tomorrow, the Oakland City Council will vote to allocate \$615,000 of Community Development Block Grant funds to its Relocation Program. [Click here for Agenda, Item #S12.](#)

###

***Councilmember At-Large Rebecca Kaplan** was elected in 2008 to serve as Oakland's citywide councilmember, she was re-elected in 2016.*

<http://kron4.com/2017/04/17/warriors-playoffs-tickets-auctioned-off-to-benefit-victims-of-san-pablo-avenue-fire-in-oakland/>

April 17, 2017

Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf to seek second term

By David DeBolt

East Bay Times

OAKLAND — Mayor Libby Schaaf will run for reelection in 2018, her office announced Monday morning. If re-elected, Schaaf would be the first two-term mayor since Jerry Brown, who held the office from 1999 to 2007.

“With Donald Trump in the White House, it is more important than ever that we double down on the things we believe in,” Schaaf said in a statement. “As your mayor, that means making sure that government serves the needs of all people equitably, and that we continue to protect our residents and lift up diversity in all its forms.

“While we continue to fight for our values it must be our business to make our city work. That means filling potholes, reducing crime, educating our youth and improving the delivery of basic services.”

Schaaf said her priorities include improving safety for residents, upgrading transportation and infrastructure and fighting displacement for tenants pushed out of Oakland.

Schaaf, a former councilwoman, swept into office after winning big in the 2014 election, besting incumbent Jean Quan and Councilmember **Rebecca Kaplan**, the front runner in early polls.

Check back for updates.

<http://www.eastbaytimes.com/2017/04/17/mayor-libby-schaaf-to-seek-second-term/>

April 14, 2017

Oakland ethics panel slams lax oversight of free Warriors, Raiders and A's tickets

By Mark Hedin

East Bay Times

OAKLAND — The Public Ethics Commission is still investigating possible lawbreaking in city officials' use of luxury box tickets to Warriors, Raiders and A's games.

But its report, issued this month, makes it clear there are plenty of problems inherent in how the city handles the thousands of game tickets its tenants at the Coliseum and Coliseum Arena provide every month.

The report calls for appointing a “ticket administrator” to supervise the distribution and accounting of thousands of top-tier tickets that too many officials seem to view not as city property but rather a perk of their jobs as public servants, according to the report.

Whether they ask for them or not, city council members, the mayor and other city officials get monthly distributions from a pool of 20 luxury box tickets to every Warriors game, 18 luxury box tickets to every Raiders and A's game and 18 more field level tickets to A's games.

Other city officials who are involved in negotiating leases at the two big sports facilities, such as the city administrator and city attorney, also receive tickets for "government purposes" such as overseeing and reviewing operations there. This situation "presents significant, inherent ethics concerns in the areas of conflicts of interest and self-dealing," the report points out.

All told, the city has more than 10,000 tickets per year provided to it at no cost.

With the tickets comes a requirement that they be accounted for, using the city's Form 802, to describe who got the tickets and why. From the mayor on down, the commission's report said, there have been lapses in this reporting.

The commission found that at least a third of those tickets go completely unaccounted for, despite the city council 10 years ago adopting rules requiring that elected officials report the tickets as gifts.

State Fair Political Practices Commission laws mandate the reporting of any gifts worth \$250 or more and forbid accepting those worth more than \$470 from any single source.

Local teams' recent successes have pushed the value of some individual tickets far beyond that threshold. Luxury box tickets to Warriors playoff games, for instance, can cost thousands of dollars.

The report said Mayor Libby Schaaf failed to report eight of 476 tickets her office received in 2015 and 2016.

"We take our reporting responsibility seriously. In the handful of instances where tickets appear to have been issued, but a use was not reported it is most likely that we either were not actually issued tickets for those events, or a scheduled event did not occur, as in the case of a unneeded playoff game or canceled concert for example," Erica Derryck of the mayor's office wrote in an email.

"As for the policy as a whole, the mayor does not sit on the Joint Powers Authority which manages the sports facilities and is responsible for negotiating contract terms that the Oakland City Council and the Alameda County Board of Supervisors approve, and therefore has no official role in setting the policy or in implementing it," she wrote.

At the other end of the spectrum, city council members Larry Reid and Noel Gallo each provided no documentation on 1,156 tickets received in the same time period. Council member Desley Brooks failed to report 990 tickets, according to the report.

City council member at large **Rebecca Kaplan**, who was one of the city officials negotiating terms of the teams' tenancy at city facilities, has recently called for the city to "monetize" those free tickets by not getting them at all, in exchange for higher rent payments.

Other cities have imposed limits on the number of events officials can attend using free tickets, the Ethics Commission report noted. It suggested similar limits on the number of times an official could claim to be doing an inspection.

"I think the most important thing to come from this is the set of recommendations," council member Dan Kalb said in an interview. "I support putting those into place and even more: Campaign donors should be prohibited from receiving tickets, and if you get tickets, then you can't give money.

“Those of us who followed the rules and tried to follow the rules as required, we give them to nonprofits, don’t use many of them, but if someone wants to know, it’s in the report,” he said.

Some of the nonprofits his office had given tickets to, he said, were able to auction them off for fundraising.

“I’m thrilled that we can do that,” Kalb said.

In a statement, Ethics Commission Executive Director Whitney Barazoto said the commission will be drafting a proposed redesign of the process to ensure that ticket distribution and use is for “legitimate public purposes and complies with state and local ethics laws.

“Our commission is committed to helping the city resolve these problems in order to ensure effective and ethical distribution and use of city tickets going forward. The commission also will address past use of tickets by officials once the ongoing investigation of activities from prior years has been completed,” she wrote in an email to this newspaper.

<http://www.eastbaytimes.com/2017/04/14/oak-ethics-0414/>

April 17, 2017

A Bank Even a Socialist Could Love

By David Dayen

In These Times

“Money is a utility that belongs to all of us,” says Walt McRee. McRee is a velvety-voiced former broadcaster now plotting an audacious challenge to the financial system. He’s leading a monthly conference call as chair of the Public Banking Institute (PBI), an educational and advocacy force formed seven years ago to break Wall Street’s stranglehold on state and municipal finance.

“This is one of the biggest eye-openers of my life,” says Rebecca Burke, a New Jersey activist on the call. “Once you see it, you can’t look back.”

This ragtag group—former teachers, small business owners, social workers—wants to charter state and local banks across the country. These banks would leverage tax revenue to make low-interest loans for local public works projects, small businesses, affordable housing and student loans, spurring economic growth while saving people—and the government—money.

At the heart of the public banking concept is a theory about the best way to put America’s abundance of wealth to use. Cities and states typically keep their cash reserves either in Wall Street banks or in low-risk investments. This money tends not to go very far. In California, for example, the Pooled Money Investment Account, an agglomeration of \$69.5 billion in state and local revenues, has a modest monthly yield of around three-quarters of a percent.

When state or local governments fund large-scale projects not covered by taxes, they generally either borrow from the bond market at high interest rates or enter into a public-private partnership with investors, who often don’t have community needs at heart.

Wall Street banks have used shady financial instruments to extract billions from unsuspecting localities, helping devastate places like Jefferson County, Ala. Making the wrong bet with debt, like the Kentucky county that built a jail but couldn't fill it with prisoners, can cripple communities.

Even under the best conditions, municipal bonds—an enormous, \$3.8 trillion market—can cost taxpayers. According to Ellen Brown, the intellectual godmother of the public banking movement, debt-based financing often accounts for around half the total cost of an infrastructure project. For example, the eastern span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge cost \$6.3 billion to build, but paying off the bonds will bring the price tag closer to \$13 billion, according to a 2014 report from the California legislature.

Public banks reduce costs in two ways. First, they can offer lower interest rates and fees because they're not for-profit businesses trying to maximize returns. Second, because the banks are publicly owned, any profit flows back to the city or state, virtually eliminating financing costs and providing governments with extra revenue at no cost to taxpayers.

"It enables local resources to be applied locally, instead of exporting them to Wall Street," says Mike Krauss, a PBI member in Philadelphia. "It democratizes our money."

Legislators, Brown says, commonly object that governments "don't have the money to lend." But this misunderstands how banks operate. "We're not lending the revenues, just putting them in a bank." That is, the deposits themselves—in this case tax revenues—are not what banks loan out. Instead, banks create new money by extending credit. Deposits simply balance a bank's books. Public banks, then, expand the local money supply available for economic development. And while PBI has yet to successfully charter a bank, there's an existing model in the unlikeliest of places: North Dakota.

During the Progressive Era, a political organization of prairie populists known as the Nonpartisan League took control of the state government. In 1919, they established the Bank of North Dakota. It has no branches, no ATMs, and one main depositor: the state, its sole owner. From that deposit base, BND makes loans for economic development, including a student loan program.

BND also partners with local private banks across the state on loans that would normally be too big for them to handle. These loans support infrastructure, agriculture and small businesses. Community banks have thrived in North Dakota as a result; there are more per capita than in any other state, and with higher lending totals. During the financial crisis, not a single North Dakota bank failed.

BND loans are far more affordable than those from private investors. BND's Infrastructure Loan Fund, for example, finances projects at just two percent interest; municipal bonds can have rates roughly four times as high. And according to its 2015 annual report, the most recent available, BND had earned record profits for 12 straight years (reaching \$130 million in 2015), during both the Great Recession and the state's more recent downturn from the collapse in oil prices. A 2014 Wall Street Journal story described BND as more profitable than Goldman Sachs. Over the last decade, hundreds of millions of dollars in BND earnings have been transferred to the state (although the overall social impact is somewhat complicated by the bank's role in sustaining the Bakken oil boom).

The long march through the legislatures
Brown founded the Public Banking Institute in 2010, after years of evangelizing in articles and books such as *The Web of Debt: The Shocking Truth About Our Monetary System and How We Can Break Free*. Since then, by Walt McRee's estimate, around 50 affiliated groups have sprouted up in states, counties and cities from Arizona to New Jersey.

"I've been working against the system all my life," says Susan Harman of Friends of the Public Bank of Oakland. "I think public banking is the most radical thing I've ever heard." Harman, a former teacher and a onetime aide to New York City Mayor John Lindsay, helped get the Oakland City Council to pass a resolution last November directing the city to determine the scope and cost of a feasibility study for a public bank—a tiny yet promising first step.

A feasibility study completed by Santa Fe, N.M., in January 2016 found that a public bank could have a \$24 million economic impact on the city in its first seven years. A resolution introduced last October would create a task force to help the city prepare to petition the state for a charter. "It's the smallest municipality investigating public banking," says Elaine Sullivan of Banking on New Mexico, who hopes the task force could complete its business plan by the end of the year. "We're interrupting the status quo."

In February 2016, the Philadelphia City Council unanimously voted to hold hearings discussing a public bank. Advocates are now working with the city treasurer to find funds to capitalize the bank.

PBI has faced a rougher path in state legislatures. In Washington, state Sen. Bob Hasegawa (D) has introduced a public banking bill for eight straight years. Despite numerous co-sponsors, the bill can't get out of committee. Efforts in Arizona and Illinois have also gone nowhere. California Gov. Jerry Brown (D) vetoed a feasibility study bill in 2011, arguing the state banking committees could conduct the study; they never did.

One overwhelming force opposes public banking: Wall Street, which warns that public banks put taxpayer dollars at risk. "The bankers have the public so frightened that [public banking] will destroy the economy," says David Spring of the Washington Public Bank Coalition. "When I talk to legislators, some are opposed to it because 'it's for communists and socialists.' Like there are a lot of socialists in North Dakota!"

In Vermont the financial industry fought a proposed study of public banking, says Gwen Hallsmith, an activist and former city employee of Montpelier. "We don't have branches of Bank of America or Wells Fargo in Vermont, but they have lobbyists here." So Hallsmith got the study done herself, through the Gund Institute at the University of Vermont. It found that a state bank would boost gross domestic product 0.64 percent and create 2,500 jobs.

The state eventually passed a "10 percent" program, using 10 percent of its cash reserves to fund local loans, mostly for energy investments like weatherizing homes. Meanwhile, Hallsmith helped push individual towns to pass resolutions in favor of a state bank—around 20 have now done so. Hallsmith says her advocacy came at the expense of her job; the mayor of Montpelier, in whose office she worked, is a bank lobbyist. Hallsmith now coordinates a citizen's commission for a Bank of Vermont.

Because of state resistance, PBI has encouraged its supporters to go local. And several issues have emerged to assist. For instance, environmental and indigenous activists have demanded that cities move money from the 17 banks that finance the Dakota Access Pipeline. But therein lies another dilemma: Who else can take the money? Community banks and credit unions lack the capacity to manage a city's entire funds, and larger banks are better equipped to deal with the legal hurdles involved in handling public money. So divesting from one Wall Street bank could just lead to investing in another.

A public bank could solve this problem, either by accepting cities' deposits or by extending letters of credit to community banks to bolster their ability to take funds. Lawmakers in Seattle have floated a city- or state-owned bank as the best alternative for reinvestment, and Oakland council member **Rebecca Kaplan** has connected divestment and public banking as well.

Another opportunity arises with marijuana legalization initiatives. Because cannabis remains illegal at the federal level, most private banks are wary of working with licensed pot shops, fearing legal repercussions. This means many of these shops subsist as all-cash businesses. "It's seriously dangerous; people arrive in armored cars to City Hall to pay taxes with huge bags of money," says Susan Harman. In Oakland and Santa Rosa, Calif., public banking advocates are partnering with cannabis sellers to offer public banks as an alternative, which would make the businesses safer while giving the banks another source of capital.

While Donald Trump hasn't formally introduced a long-discussed infrastructure bill, his emphasis on fixing the nation's crippling public works has also bolstered the case for public banking. Ellen Brown maintains the country could save a trillion dollars on infrastructure costs through public-bank financing. That's preferable to Trump's idea of giving tax breaks to public-private partnerships that want big returns.

From the Great Plains to Trenton

"All it'll take is the first domino to fall," says Shelley Browning, an activist from Santa Rosa. "Towns and cities will turn in this direction because there's no other way to turn." And PBI members think they've found an avatar in Phil Murphy, a Democrat and former Goldman Sachs executive leading the polls in New Jersey's gubernatorial primary this year.

Murphy has made public banking a key part of his platform. "This money belongs to the people of New Jersey," he said in an economic address last September. "It's time to bring that money home, so it can build our future, not somebody else's."

Derek Roseman, a spokesman for Murphy, tells *In These Times* that Bank of America holds more than \$1 billion in New Jersey deposits, but only made three small business loans in the entire state in 2015. Troubled state pensions could help capitalize a state-owned bank, and would earn more while paying lower fees.

Murphy's primary opponent, John Wisniewski, chaired the Bernie Sanders campaign in the state, while Murphy raised money for Hillary Clinton. Some believe Murphy is simply using public banking to cover his Wall Street background—and on many issues, Wisniewski's policy slate is more progressive. But Brown thinks Murphy's past primed him to recognize public banking's power: "It's always the bankers who get it."

The first new state-owned bank in a century, chartered in the shadow of Wall Street, could shift the landscape. What's more, blue-state New Jersey and red-state North Dakota agreeing on the same solution would highlight public banking's biggest asset: transpartisan populist support. "We have Tea Partiers and Occupiers in the same room liking public banking. What does that tell you?" asks PBI's Mike Krauss.

"Regardless of declared conservative or progressive affiliations," says state Sen. Hasegawa, "regular folk ... almost unanimously grasp the concept." He is working with Washington's Tea Party-backed treasurer, Duane Davidson, to advance public banking. "I go to eastern Washington, ... they get the whole issue about independence from Wall Street and corporate control."

In fact, Krauss is himself a Republican. "The biggest thing going on in America, people decided we don't have any control anymore," he says. "Whether it's Bernie's people or Trump's people, they're articulating the same thing but differently. ... They want control of their money—and it is their money."

April 10, 2017

Town Business: Strengthening Code Enforcement

By Darwin BondGraham

East Bay Express

Strengthening Code Enforcement: Many Oakland tenants are afraid to report unsafe housing conditions because they fear their landlord or the city might evict them. And because the city's current code inspection program is complaint-driven, this means that a lot of serious violations are hidden. In lots of cases, problems fester, and landlords aren't ordered to fix their buildings. This leads to kids getting lead poisoning and asthma, or people getting sick from mold and rodents. And it causes fire hazards to go unabated.

A possible solution to this problem is a proactive rental housing inspection program that would subject most the city's rental housing stock to inspection on a rotating basis, regardless of whether anyone files a complaint. That way, virtually all housing in the city would get inspected every few years. Combined with strong anti-displacement protections, such a program could result in improved housing and health.

At least that's what various official reports have stated over the years. But Oakland officials have been slow to implement this kind of more aggressive inspection program.

A little history:

The Building Services Improvement Advisory Task Force, a citizen's panel set up in the wake of the scathing 2011 Grand Jury investigation of Oakland's Building Services Division, recommended starting a proactive rental inspection program. But no action was taken.

It then ended up as one of the recommendations published in the "Housing Equity Roadmap" of 2015. But nothing happened.

It was recommended again last year in Mayor Schaaf's "Oakland at Home" report. Still, not much traction.

Then, last July, Councilmember Lynette Gibson McElhaney proposed that the city administrator draft a detailed plan for how a proactive rental inspection program would work. McElhaney wanted the full city council to then vote on the program by January, with implementation by July 2017.

But Councilmembers Larry Reid, Anne Campbell Washington, and **Rebecca Kaplan** had the item continued in committee, where it virtually died. They didn't think McElhaney's version was ready for prime time, and they didn't bring back any proposal of their own.

Now, an informational report about possibly creating a proactive rental housing inspection program is coming back before the council at Tuesday's community and economic development committee meeting.

Maybe they'll pass something this time?

Department of Violence Prevention: Councilmembers Reid and McElhaney want to create a department to guide all of Oakland's violence prevention efforts. The two claim that the city's existing violence prevention efforts are spread between the department of human services and OPD and that there's no single person who's in charge who reports directly to the mayor.

<http://www.eastbayexpress.com/SevenDays/archives/2017/04/10/town-business-strengthening-code-enforcement>

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Thao, Sheng

From: Holtan, Laura E.
Sent: Monday, April 03, 2017 3:27 PM
To: Thao, Sheng
Subject: Press Release: Councilmember Kaplan Encourages Donations To Help San Pablo Fire Victims

Categories: News

Councilmember Kaplan Encourages Donations To Help San Pablo Fire Victims

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3, 2017

Contact: Sheng Thao, Chief of Staff for Councilmember At-Large Kaplan

office: (510) 238-7082 : cell: (510) 701-8201 : email: SThao@oaklandnet.com

OAKLAND, CA – Oakland Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan urges the public to donate to help San Pablo fire victims and releases the following statement:

I am deeply saddened by the West Oakland fire that took the lives of 4 Oakland residents, and displaced more than 80 people from their homes. In this difficult time, it is important for us to support those adversely affected by the fire. I am thankful to the Oakland Warehouse Coalition for starting an online fundraiser for survivors of the fire, which has to date raised over \$24,000. Please consider donating to this fundraiser here:

<https://www.youcaring.com/survivorsoffireat2551sanpablo-785311>. "All funds gathered will be delivered directly to survivors, with the assistance of Urojas and Healthy Communities, to assist folks needing immediate housing, clothing, food, and support."

###

Councilmember At-Large Rebecca Kaplan was elected in 2008 to serve as Oakland's citywide councilmember, she was re-elected in 2016.

Thao, Sheng

From: Thao, Sheng
Sent: Tuesday, April 04, 2017 2:19 PM
To: Thao, Sheng
Subject: Press Release: Councilmember Kaplan Shares Information for Tax Deductible Donations To Help San Pablo Fire Victims

Categories: News

Councilmember Kaplan Shares Information for Tax Deductible Donations To Help San Pablo Fire Victims

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 4, 2017

Contact: Sheng Thao, Chief of Staff for Councilmember At-Large Kaplan

office: (510) 238-7082 : cell: (510) 701-8201 : email: SThao@oaklandnet.com

OAKLAND, CA – Councilmember Kaplan wishes to share with the public and encourage the use of information about how to make Tax-Deductible donations to help the victims of the San Pablo fire.

Councilmember Kaplan thanks the First Presbyterian Church of Oakland for setting up a fund and online system for taking monetary donations to support the victims of the San Pablo Avenue Fire in West Oakland. There are still unmet needs that will not be covered by the City and County emergency funds, 100% of the donations collected will be used for these necessities. The First Presbyterian Church, the fiscal sponsor, is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, therefore, all donations will be tax-deductible.

[Please click here for the link to donate.](#)

Oakland Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan urges the public to donate to help San Pablo fire victims and releases the following statement:

“I want to thank all those who have come out to help fundraise and support the victims of the West Oakland Fire, including The First Presbyterian Church of Oakland, the Oakland Warehouse Coalition, our hard working first responders and housing staff, and many more who are helping out. I am deeply saddened that this tragedy took the lives of 4 Oakland residents, and displaced more than 80 people from their homes. In this difficult time, it is important for us to support those adversely affected by the fire. Now we have a method to make tax-deductible charitable contributions to serve the unmet needs of fire victims. I encourage people to use it and share it.”

The First Presbyterian Church of Oakland fund to support San Pablo fire victims. (501c3 – all donations are tax-deductible): <https://secure.squarespace.com/commerce/donate?donatePageId=58e07015414fb5c0b2b199e7>

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Councilmember At-Large Rebecca Kaplan was elected in 2008 to serve as Oakland's citywide councilmember, she was re-elected in 2016.

Oakland Post

"Where there is no vision, the people perish..." Proverbs 29:18

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Weekly Edition, Apr. 5-11, 2017

53rd Year, No. 42

April 12 Forum to Expunge Marijuana Convictions



Nate Miley

In order to help create opportunities for those directly impacted by the War on Drugs, Oakland Councilmember-at-Large Rebecca Kaplan is hosting a community forum to inform local residents how to expunge marijuana convictions under Prop. 64.

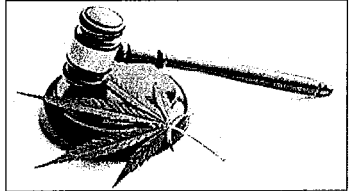
This forum is co-sponsored by Council President Larry Reid and Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley. Speakers will include attorneys and other experts in this area.

The Prop. 64 Community Forum will take place Wednesday, April 12 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the East Oakland Senior Center at 9255 Edes Ave. in Oakland.

In November 2016, voters in California passed Proposition 64 (cannabis legalization), which includes an option for people who had past criminal



Rebecca Kaplan and congresswoman Barbara Lee discuss bringing more equity to the cannabis industry, and funding for free bus passes for our school kids.



records for marijuana offenses to have a method to clear their records.

As many reports have documented, including from the ACLU, enforcement of marijuana laws have disproportionately targeted African Americans.

This racially disparate unequal enforcement has left many people, primarily African Americans, with records that can follow them for the rest of their lives, causing denial of access to jobs, housing and student loans.

Marijuana expungement can



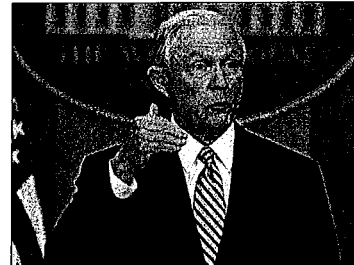
Larry Reid

be a significant step in removing barriers to those who have fallen victim to the War on Drugs, particularly important during a time of Oakland's gentrification and severe displacement.

Though the state has acknowledged that it no longer considers adult marijuana use to be a crime, it is still necessary to make sure that people do not continue to be punished for that activity.

Expungement can help individuals receive employment, further education and access profit and ownership within the cannabis industry as well as other businesses.

This forum aims to provide answers and understanding for the step-by-step procedure to successfully expunge marijuana offenses.



Attorney General Jeff Sessions speaks March 27 in the Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House in Washington. Photo courtesy of Pablo Martinez Monsivais/AP.

Oakland Reacts As Sessions Orders Justice Department to Review All Police Reform Agreements

Attorney General Jeff Sessions ordered Justice Department officials this week to review reform agreements with troubled police forces nationwide, saying it was necessary to ensure that these pacts do not work against the Trump administration's goals of promoting officer safety and morale while fighting violent crime.

In a two-page memo released Monday, Sessions said agreements reached previously between the department's

civil rights division and local police departments — a key legacy of the Obama administration — will be subject to review by his two top deputies, throwing into question whether all of the agreements will stay in place.

Reacting with anger, East Bay Congresswoman Barbara Lee issued a statement:

"Attorney General Jeff Sessions has no regard for civil and human rights. The

Continued on Page 8

Senators Hope to Keep Jeff Sessions from Cracking Down on Legal Cannabis



Elizabeth Warren

With the Trump administration suddenly sending what appear to be mixed signals on marijuana, a group of senators — mostly Democrats — are urging the new White House not to crack down on legal weed.

In a letter delivered to Attorney General Jeff Sessions on Thursday, Sens. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., and Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, asked the Department of Justice to

uphold the Obama administration's policy allowing individual states to determine their own pot laws.

"We respectfully request that you uphold DOJ's existing policy regarding states that have implemented strong and effective regulations for recreational marijuana use," the senators wrote in the letter. "It is critical that states continue

Continued on Page 8

Community Unites to Support San Pablo Fire Survivors

By Ken Epstein

The West Oakland San Pablo Fire Relief and Advocacy Team, composed of local pastors and leaders of community-based organizations, is seeking to unite the community to raise \$100,000 to meet the needs of the families that have lost everything in the March 27 fire at 2551 San Pablo Ave. in Oakland.

"We have a mission: to bring strong advocacy and support on behalf of the survivors to provide for their unmet needs," said Pastor Debra Avery of the First Presbyterian Church of Oakland, who co-chairs the advocacy team



Members of the West Oakland San Pablo Fire Relief and Advocacy Team met Thursday afternoon.

along with Bishop Joseph E. Simmons, Greater Saint Paul Missionary Baptist Church. The team has raised \$2,700

in the past two days, utilizing social media and email, Avery said. "We're depending on people to share the message

with their friends and neighbors."

Continued on Page 8

After San Pablo Ave. Fire, City Modified Real Estate Deal to Financially Benefit Building's Landlord

The city went out of its way to acquire state-owned land to exclusively benefit the landlord's company

By Darwin Bond Graham, East Bay Express

The day after March 26's deadly apartment fire in West Oakland, the City Council voted to modify a potentially lucrative real-estate deal involving Keith Kim, the owner of the fire-ravaged building.

The blaze took four lives and displaced more than 80 people. Records show that Oakland officials knew for years that Kim's building, at 2551 San Pablo Avenue, was a fire danger. It has been the subject of 20 building code complaints since 2007. And fire inspectors flagged the structure as a hazard on March 23.

But while Kim allowed the building to fall into a dangerous state of disrepair, he was also investing in a company that negotiated an unusual multimillion-dollar, real-estate deal with the City of Oakland.

What's more, the city even went out of its way to acquire state-owned land for the exclusive benefit of the company

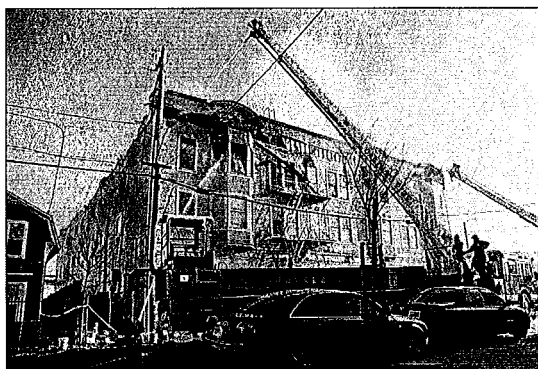


Photo courtesy of East Bay Express. April Martin.

Kim had a major stake in.

The complicated real-estate transaction involving the city, Kim, plus other investors and companies dates back to 2013. Businessman Jabari Herbert approached Oakland officials with a proposal: give

a company that he and Kim operated, the West Oakland Development Group, the exclusive right to purchase 2.8 acres of state-owned land on Kirkham Street, near Interstate 880. Herbert planned to develop hundreds of apartments and

retail shops at the location, potentially worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

Herbert told the Express this morning that he was motivated to reclaim the land

Continued on Page 8

Saturday School to Start in West Oakland

The New McClmonds' Committee will host its first Saturday Reading and Math School at the West Oakland Public Library at 1801 Adeline Ave. on April 15.

The Saturday School will run from 10 a.m. to noon. The second session will be held May 20.

All Oakland Public Schools elementary and middle school students are welcome to attend.

A Tuesday evening school will be added later at the request of parents.

The goal is to help parents so they can help their child improve their reading, according to Ben "Coach" Tapscott, an organizer of the Saturday school.

Parents need to encourage their child to spend a certain amount of time working on his/

her reading, and children need to see their parents reading, he said.

This school is free, and parents are required to stay with their child at the school. The school's organizers are encouraging parents to bring homework and/or school assignments.

"We are asking for teachers and volunteers to assist with the students' needs at the school," said Tapscott. We are encouraging parents to spend one to two hours having fun with their child while learning takes place."

The library has a children's section where books can be checked out.

For information contact Coach Tapscott at CoachTap@aol.com

City Modified Real Estate Deal to Financially Benefit Building Landlord

Continued from page 1
for West Oakland's Black community, which had been pushed off the site when the freeways and BART were built. "The public land was taken from private Black business owners and home owners who weren't paid market rate for those properties," Herbert said.

The land is currently owned by the California Department of Transportation. Normally, Caltrans auctions off excess property to the highest bidder. But the agency's policy is to solicit bids from government agencies first, in case they might want to acquire it for a public-benefit purpose.

The city stepped in, on behalf of the West Oakland Development Group, and offered to buy the land from Caltrans for \$4.2 million. Oakland officials then planned to immediately sell the land for the same price to Herbert's West

Oakland Development Group. But the city never issued any public notice seeking input or proposals from other developers. Instead, Oakland negotiated privately with West Oakland Development Group. Officials justified the exclusive deal on the grounds that it would give the city more control over what would be developed on the site.

Emails from last year, obtained via a public-records request, show that Herbert was the everyday face of the West Oakland Development Group. But state documents show that the company was actually incorporated by Hahn Kim, brother of Keith Kim, who is the personal residence between 2005 and 2009.

Keith Kim is an investor in the West Oakland Development Group through another company, called DCSI, accord-

ing to city records, court documents, and interviews. The percent or dollar amount Kim owns in West Oakland Development Group is unclear, however, as DCSI is incorporated in Delaware and its records are private. But in public hearings, city staff called Kim a "partner" in the West Oakland Development Group, and records describe DCSI as a key source of funding.

County records show that both Keith and Hahn Kim have represented themselves as the president of DCSI in real estate deals in the past.

In 2014, when Caltrans granted Oakland an option to purchase the Kirkham Street property, the West Oakland Development Group made the options payments, totaling \$795,922 to date.

Since 2015, the West Oakland Development Group has brought other developers, including Tim Lewis Partners

and, later, Panoramic Interests, to negotiate a final deal with the city. According to records, West Oakland Development Group lacked the experience to actually develop the site, and all along had been working as a middleman.

Nevertheless, West Oakland Development Group still to this day has significant money tied up in the land acquisition, according to city records.

Herbert wouldn't disclose to the Express how much he and Kim have at stake in the Kirkham Street land deal. "Where I have a non-disclosure agreement, I cannot comment," he said.

For the rest of this East Bay Express article, go to www.eastbayexpress.com/oakland/day-after-deadly-fire-city-modified-real-estate-deal-to-financially-benefit-negligent-landlord/Content?oid=6066524



North Oakland resident Semereab Gebrekidion. Photo courtesy of the Oakland Running Festival web site.

Local Resident Wins Oakland Running Festival

North Oakland resident Semereab Gebrekidion won the marathon in the 8th annual Oakland Running Festival on Sunday, completing the circuit in 2:35:54. A recent immigrant from Eritrea, Gebrekidion has previously won races in Milano, Italy, and China. The 32-year-old was part of the East Bay Athletic Club running team that formed earlier this year under the leadership of Brian Rutherford. The club's women's relay team would come in second in the 26.2-mile route that began on 19th Street near Lake Merritt and would hit West Oakland, wind by Lake Temescal, the Mormon Temple on Lincoln Avenue and the Fruitvale District. The festival attracted about 9,000 participants, from 33 states and eight foreign countries. Run by Baltimore-based Corigan Sports Enterprises, it was sponsored by the City of Oakland, Kaiser Permanente and Bank of the West, among others.

New Money Systems Allows Direct Transfer to Kenya



Founders of PesaLink, a tech company based in Kenya. Integrated Payment Services Limited (IPSL), a Black-owned tech company in Kenya, has recently launched a new money transfer service called PesaLink and in less than two months, 2 million customers have already signed up for their service.

Changing the way money is transferred to African countries, PesaLink allows registered bank customers to make real-time money transfers 24/7 of up to 999,999 Kenyan Shillings, which is roughly just under \$9,600 USD. The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) approved 22 banks to offer the new interbank money transfer service. According to IPSL, each bank has reported great success with customers using the new technology platform for money transfers at the end of the first month of use. For more details about the service, visit www.pesalink.com.

Hair Mercy! Maxine Waters: Send O'Reilly to Prison



From left to right: Barbara Lee and Maxine Waters. Inset: Donald Trump and Bill O'Reilly. Photo courtesy of Aaron P. Bernstein/Getty; Inset: Michael Stewart/Getty.

California congresswoman Maxine Waters said Fox News anchor Bill O'Reilly should be arrested over the allegations against him for sexual harassment and slammed President Donald Trump for defending the host as "a good person."

During an interview on MSNBC's All In with Chris Hayes, the Democrat criticized O'Reilly's network as a "sexual harassment enterprise."

"Bill O'Reilly needs to go to jail," she said. As for Trump, Waters condemned his previous sexist statements.

It's coming out of the mouth of someone who has said some terrible things about women," Waters said. "Don't forget he talked about grabbing women in the private parts and because he was important he could get away with it."

"They are two of a kind," she added. "I'm not surprised."

Trump, 70, defended the anchor to The New York



Lyrics from 'Say It Loud I'm Black and Proud'

"Look a'here, some people say we got a lot of malice. Some say it's a lotta nerve. I say we won't quit moving. We've got what we deserve. We've been bused and we've been scorned. We've been treated bad, talked about. As just as sure as you're born. But just as sure as it take Two eyes to make a pair, huh Brother, we can't quit until we get our share." —James Brown

Oakland Reacts As Sessions Orders Justice Department to Review All Police Reform Agreements

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decision to target police reforms that have been negotiated with police departments with a documented history of civil rights violations is reprehensible," she said.

"Let me be clear, this review marks the first step in the Trump Administration's misguided 'law and order' agenda that will blunt the progress we made on police reform under President Obama's leadership," said Congresswoman Lee.

"We simply cannot afford to turn back the clock on reforms that prevent innocent Black women and men from being gunned down in the streets. The time to resist is now."

"As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I will fight to block funding for any effort to thwart the urgent need for police reform."

Sessions' memo was released not long before the department's civil rights lawyers asked a federal judge to postpone until at least the end of June a hearing on a sweeping police reform agreement, known as a consent decree, with the Baltimore Police Department that was announced

just days before President Trump took office.

"The Attorney General and the new leadership in the Department are actively developing strategies to support the thousands of law enforcement agencies across the country that seek to prevent crime and protect the public," Justice officials said in their filing. "The Department is working to ensure that those initiatives effectively dovetail with robust enforcement of federal laws designed to preserve and protect civil rights."

Sessions has often criticized the effectiveness of consent decrees and has vowed in recent speeches to more strongly support law enforcement.

Since 2009, the Justice Department opened 25 investigations into law enforcement agencies and has been enforcing 14 consent decrees, along with some other agreements. Civil rights advocates fear that Sessions' memo could particularly imperil the status of agreements that have yet to be finalized, such as a pending agreement with the Chicago Police Department.

In Oakland, the Justice Department's new policy could

be less directly harmful to the community's police reform efforts than in other cities across the country, said Rashidah Grinage of the Oakland Coalition for Police Accountability.

"I think it's going to have more dire ramifications in cities that are more susceptible to federal pressure. In Oakland, just because the feds say something doesn't mean we jump," she said.

In addition, Oakland is in a different legal situation than many other cities. Oakland has a negotiated settlement agreement, an agreement that was reached through the federal courts 14 years ago between the city and attorneys representing victims of police brutality.

Unlike many other cities, it is not a consent decree, and the Justice Department "had no hand in it," she said. "In Oakland, there is a voluntary agreement between plaintiffs' attorneys and the city."

Councilmember Desley Brooks, who heads the council's Public Safety Committee, agreed. "The Negotiated Settlement Agreement did not go through the Department of Justice. We should not be impacted by Sessions' directive,"

she said. Oakland will be impacted, however, by the national changes in the political atmosphere that Sessions represents, Grinage continued.

"This is more about emboldening the police unions, that is the real problem," she said. "The national guild of police officers supported Trump. I think these unions are going to start challenging (police reforms). We are going to need to fight back with whatever legal weapons we have," she said.

"We are likely to see a test as soon as Oakland's new police commission does something significant," Grinage said. "We're in for a rough ride for a while."

In Baltimore, a judge rebuffed the DOJ's request to delay a scheduled public hearing on proposed reforms that police, local, and federal officials spent months crafting after the death of Freddie Gray. Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh said the city would "strongly oppose any delay in moving forward."

Post staff, the Washington Post and the New York Times contributed to this article.

Community Unites to Support San Pablo Fire Survivors

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The team meets weekly, and there will be weekly updates.

While the city and county are supporting the fire survivors, there are other needs that are still falling through the cracks, she said. For example, a construction worker needs help to purchase the tools he lost in the fire so that he can return to work.

The outpouring of support from Oaklanders, particularly West Oakland residents, has been amazing, she said.

Another pressing need, said

Bishop Simmons, is finding decent affordable housing for the displaced. Too many landlords are seeking to build or upgrade to market rate housing, rather than to serve the families in Oakland that are in desperate need.

The city may not have the funds to create the housing, but it does have the legal clout to require landlords to change their practices, he said.

Councilmember-at-Large Rebecca Kaplan has lent her voice to garner support for those who were displaced by the fire.

"In this difficult time, it is important for us to support those adversely affected by the fire," she wrote in an email to her constituents.

"Make tax-deductible charitable contributions to serve the unmet needs of fire survivors" at <https://secure.square-space.com/commerce/donate?donatePagId=58e07015414f55c0b2b199e7>

Mayor Libby Schaaf has also issued a statement backing the fire survivors advocacy team.

"Over this past week, our city staff has been focused

on helping them recover and taking the steps to ensure the safety of this community. I hope you will join the effort to help the families and individuals who lost so much in this fire," Mayor Schaaf wrote.

The organization has designated the First Presbyterian Church of Oakland as the fiscal agent for the San West Oakland Pablo Fire Relief and Advocacy Team. Checks can be made out to: FPCCO and mailed to the church at 2619 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612, or you can make a donation online.

Senators Hope to Keep Jeff Sessions from Cracking Down on Legal Cannabis

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to implement these laws."

The letter was co-signed by Sens. Cory Booker, D-N.J.; Patty Murray, D-Wash.; Maria Cantwell, D-Wash.; Ron Wyden, D-Ore.; Jeff Merkley, D-Ore.; Ed Markey, D-Mass.; Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii; Catherine Cortez Masto, D-Nev.; and Michael Bennet, D-Colo. — all Democrats and most from states where marijuana is legal.

According to a recent Quinnipiac poll, 71 percent of Americans said they would oppose a federal crackdown on legal marijuana.



Cory Booker

Before he was confirmed as attorney general, Sessions had told some members of the Senate that he would respect state laws and not change fed-

eral policy. But earlier this week, Sessions told reporters that the Obama-era pot policy is under review.

"I'm definitely not a fan of expanded use of marijuana," Sessions said, according to Politico. "States, they can pass the laws they choose. I would just say it does remain a violation of federal law to distribute marijuana throughout any place in the United States, whether a state legalizes it or not."

In California, a bill introduced in the state Assembly would prevent state and local law enforcement agencies from using their resources to help federal authorities crack down on marijuana.

Trump, 70, defended the anchor to The New York