

Oakland Moving Forward
Community Task Force Report on
DIVERSITY/HUMAN RELATIONS



Oakland Moving Forward
Community Task Force Reports

CITY GOVERNMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATION & COMMUNITY LEARNING

HEALTH

HOUSING

PUBLIC SAFETY

DIVERSITY/HUMAN RELATIONS

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZING & CIVIC PARTICIPATION

TRANSPORTATION



Oakland Moving Forward Community Task Force Report

Introduction

October of 2005, various sectors of the Oakland community decided to revamp the process of selecting a candidate for Mayor. Historically, candidates were chosen based on the individual candidates announcing their intention to run for office and *then* proceeding to ask voters for their support. A coalition of residents of the City of Oakland decided to identify an individual rather than wait to be asked for their support. A petition drive was started to draft the Honorable Ronald V. Dellums to run for Mayor. After several months of gathering signatures for the petition to “draft” Mr. Dellums for Mayor, approximately 9,000 names were submitted to him for his consideration. It was this amazing act of civic participation, which began the “Ron Dellums for Mayor” campaign. Six months from the date of the primary election, the former Congressman who had served Oakland for more than twenty-seven years, began a campaign to once again answer the call to public service.

It was a phenomenal expression of the power of organized political action by residents to dare to fight for “city hall.” On Election Day, Mr. Dellums candidacy rallied the support and votes of fifty plus one percent of the vote. It was a victory for citizen participation as well as a victory for the democratic process and the system by which citizens are represented in government. This unique coalition encompassed residents who were long-time activists and newcomers to the process. It bridged the generational, racial and gender divide to such an extent that it was often commented by observers as well as participants that the campaign had reenergized the passion within the community, and that despite differences of opinion on some issues, the overall consensus was that this candidate could and would be a champion for all of the residents of Oakland and that together, anything was possible.

The task force process which was proposed during the campaign as a means of bringing forward specific recommendations to address the myriad of challenges faced by Oakland as well as other urban centers around the nation, systematically reached out to a wide variety of citizens with a broad range of expertise on the issue addressed by each committee. The participants included residents in the medical profession, developers, academicians, social service providers, city and county employees, business owners, both large and small, union activists, public safety employees, artists, musicians, formerly incarcerated as well as other citizen and community activists. More than 800 citizens participated in the initial phase of the establishment of this process. Nine major committees were formed which ranged from education to city hall. Subcommittees were formed within each committee to address a specific aspect of each issue. For example, the Education Committee had several subcommittees, one of which was to develop recommendations regarding

wrap-around services for the public schools. The participants were asked to frame their recommendations with three basic principals in mind; multi-jurisdictional collaboration, public/private partnerships and regional collaboration. All recommendations were to include strategies for implementation and further collaboration based on these principals.

The initial phase of the task force process, begun by Mayor-Elect Ronald V. Dellums in September 2006 lasted through December 2006. This structure was designed to revitalize democracy by reinvigorating community participation in the city of Oakland and bring forth the brilliance and wisdom from within this community. Mrs. Cynthia Dellums helped to shape the process with the input of hundreds of people from every neighborhood collaborating on dozens of task forces dealing with every aspect of community life.

Over eight hundred people volunteered for forty-one committees as part of the task force, in conjunction with several "Neighbor to Neighbor" meetings held throughout the city. Each task force had one, sometimes two specific questions to address for deliberation. The task force operated with a set of organizing principles that combined democracy and structure. Agreement on any recommendation required a vote of two-thirds or more of their members. Some committees also developed minority reports as part of the recommendation process. The Mayor, city staff, task force members and others (e.g., business, labor, faith community, etc.) are currently engaged in an ongoing dialogue regarding the follow up on the recommendations.

A steering committee of the task force members provided the day-to-day leadership and logistical support for this largely volunteer process. The National Community Development Institute, an Oakland-based nonprofit, provided strategic advice and consultation during this process. Special recognition and gratitude go to Kitty Kelly Epstein for her contribution to the coordination and outreach, which contributed to the success of this effort.

The "Oakland Moving Forward" Community Task Force developed the recommendations included in this document for review and consideration by Mayor Dellums.

The task force process and the structure, which continues to evolve, will be an integral component of this administration and the development and implementation of strategies for public policy moving forward.

Mayor Dellums would like to take this opportunity to once again thank all of the individuals who have participated in this process to date and to encourage those who would like to participate to join him and their neighbors in creating a "Model City" for the twenty-first century.

Together, we **can** do great things!

Oakland Moving Forward
Community Task Force Report on

Diversity/Human Relations

- ▶ Immigration Task Force
- ▶ Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Task Force
- ▶ Seniors and Aging Task Force



Oakland Moving Forward
 Community Task Force Report on
Diversity/Human Relations

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RELATIONS TASK FORCE: IMMIGRATION

The Immigration Task Force, with more than two-thirds approval by Task Force members, is recommending key proposals for implementation during the first 100 days of the new administration, as well as proposals to be addressed beyond the first 100 days and/or with community-based initiative. These proposals were reviewed and prioritized, as presented here, by the Task Force members.

Our initial proposal is for our new mayor to include within his inaugural speeches and presentations strong and positive statements on the importance of defending and protecting the rights of immigrants, building an inclusive society, and challenging the negative and anti-immigrant actions and initiatives that have proliferated around the country. We know of our Mayor Elect's unwavering commitment to equality and justice and believe his reassertion of these perspectives and principles from the onset of his administration will mean so much to the diverse immigrant populations of Oakland. We believe in the vision of Oakland as the "model city" for building strong multi-racial, multicultural relations, especially among the diverse immigrant populations and the African-American community in the city.

Almost 30% of Oakland residents, according to 2005 estimates, are foreign born – a percentage that has been growing steadily for several year and which is evidenced by the growing presence of distinct neighborhood communities, businesses, and children in our schools. They and their families comprise a diverse population that share many of the same interests and concerns as other groups: access to education, housing, health care, decent wages and jobs, etc. However, due to many factors – newness to the U.S., language barriers, uncertain immigration status or lack of citizenship – their needs and concerns may take on different or nuanced qualities than the rest of the population. The proposals from the Immigration Task Force consider these distinct needs, while understanding that the needs and concerns of immigrant residents need to be considered in broader policy and issue contexts and mechanisms.

[Note: The Task Force reviewed a number of sources for demographic information, and the information found is included in the Task Force binder. However, the Task Force agreed that the city needs to have a strong research arm that can pay close attention to demographic trends and ensure that such information is integrated into all relevant programs and policies.]

Our priority proposals would entail little or no additional funding for the city budget.

TOPIC 1 **Immigration**

Question **How can the city enhance the quality of life for immigrants?**

PROPOSAL 1 **Resolution/Ordinance against local agency cooperation or involvement with federal immigration enforcement.**
Short-Term

Following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, stepped up national security laws and regulations have focused scrutiny of foreign-born residents and other immigrants, including a “special registration” program of non-U.S. citizens from certain countries. In some cities, anti-immigrant groups and conservative politicians have advocated for local police involvement in the enforcement of federal immigration laws to help identify, arrest and deport undocumented immigrants. Some of these forces believe the federal government is “not doing enough” to “stop illegal immigration” and want local and state-level participation in enforcement.

Background

A broad range of sectors and constituencies, including local police agencies and national associations of law enforcement officers, have argued against such cooperation. Opponents of local cooperation believe local agency involvement would jeopardize access to local services and institutions, including public safety programs, as some undocumented residents would be reluctant to come into contact with any government agency, even to report acts of domestic violence or seek emergency health care. There are also fears of increased “racial profiling” of residents by local police suspicious of residents who “appear foreign.”

As a city with a diverse population, including a growing proportion of foreign-born residents, the city of Oakland should be on record against local involvement in federal immigration enforcement. In previous years, Oakland had passed a “sanctuary city” resolution, reflecting earlier concerns for people with uncertain immigrant and refugee status; the resolution was tempered after 9/11, and the Immigration Task Force believes a new resolution or a binding city ordinance is needed to reflect the current status of federal policies, laws and the debate on immigration.

We realize such an action must go to the City Council for consideration but believe the Mayor’s Office would be instrumental in “setting a tone” for discussion and debate and for uniting various constituencies towards the passage of an effective resolution/ ordinance. A number of community organizations, advocacy and legal groups and agencies are prepared to help organize public support for such an initiative and would be able to provide assistance in drafting and preparing appropriate draft language. Similar initiatives have already passed in other cities and provide some model language. Nationally there are several resources available to provide political and legal background.

The passage of such a resolution or ordinance would also provide another important opportunity for the Mayor to speak to this issue and to reiterate the need for equality and bridge-building among diverse communities.

Approved by more than 2/3 of Task Force Members.

No minority report for this recommendation.



Ensuring Language Accessibility to City Services and Programs

We urge the new mayor to affirm support for strong regulations and guidance to implement language access guidelines that have already been passed in Oakland, and to call upon city staff to follow-through on the implementation of current guidelines. Language access is extremely important for immigrant communities, particularly where we have large numbers of more recent immigrants. Oakland has language access guidelines, and even a commission concerning language access, but the process appears to be under-funded and there is a lack of strong will to monitor and implement the remedies. The commission has been in effect for 2 years but has yet to produce a report.

At this point, we do not believe the implementation of the proposal would require additional funds, although the slow pace of implementation and progress by the commission may reflect the need for additional staff resources to ensure implementation, including an evaluation of progress.

As evidence of the need to address greater language access, the Immigration Task Force compiled information on the available demographic breakdown of Oakland's residents. *(Included in the Task Force binder).*

Local immigrant community organizations and advocacy groups support language access and could be mobilized to participate in any process to ensure and strengthen Oakland's commitment to provide language access to its programs and services.

Approved by more than 2/3 of Task Force Members.

No minority report for this recommendation.

Creation of an Immigrant Rights Commission (Within a Human Rights Commission)

We propose that an "Immigrant Rights Commission," to advise and monitor issues and programs pertaining to immigrant communities, be established in Oakland within the context of a more encompassing "Human Rights" commission (similar to San Francisco).

Such a commission could have the responsibility of helping to monitor implementation of key programs (such as language access); assessing the impact of federal laws and programs on local immigrant populations; and being a visible expression of the city's commitment to addressing the needs of all its residents. Given the controversy over immigration at both a federal and state level, and the rise in hostility and anti-immigrant activity, such a body could help to ensure that the human rights of Oakland's immigrant population are upheld, along with the rights of all residents. [Note: San Francisco's Human Rights Commission has monitoring and implementation of compliance responsibilities, while the Immigrant Rights Commission is an Advisory body.]

However, the Immigration Task Force proposes that such a commission be created as a component of a broader Human Rights Commission; this is not a proposal to assert the rights of immigrants as above or apart from the need to protect the human rights of the rest of Oakland's residents. Especially given the pattern of violations and restrictions on human rights and civil liberties in the post 9/11 world, the Task Force believes that a Human Rights Commission would well serve the need to protect and ensure the rights of all of Oakland's communities.

PROPOSAL 1
Long-Term
continued

In order for such bodies to be effective, we believe there would need to be adequate paid staff. However, we believe the development of staff and responsibilities could be an incremental process, developing greater capacity and strengthening infrastructure over a period of time. Staff from **San Francisco's Immigrant Rights Commission** have offered their assistance in further developing such a proposal, and there are other city "models" to examine.

Approved by more than 2/3 of Task Force Members.

No minority report for this recommendation.

PROPOSAL 2
Long-Term

Addressing the Needs and Conditions of Day Laborers

The Immigration Task Force proposes that the city provide support for a "day labor" program. With the growing number of immigrants in Oakland with limited options for employment, "day labor" has become a more visible phenomenon, particularly in parts of the Fruitvale and East Oakland. These day laborers have recently been subjected to more harassment and abuse in Oakland, and a few day laborers have been murdered, and community groups have been frustrated by what they feel has been a lack of adequate response by city police.

In several cities across the country, day labor organizations have programs that have been established, sometimes with local government support. Such programs usually act as a "hiring hall" for workers who otherwise must compete for employment by offering their services at the lowest cost to an employer. Unpaid wages, wage exploitation and dangerous and harsh work conditions are typical complaints from day laborers who provide a variety of sometimes very skilled services on a casual basis – employment that has a steady market among employers in construction and other industries. Day labor is not the exclusive domain of immigrant workers – but they are typically the majority of such workers who have no access to Social Security, health benefits or unemployment.

Many day labor programs now provide a battery of services and programs for workers: English language courses, know-your-rights training and information, orientation programs for families for local programs and services, opportunities to further develop or learn new skills.

In Oakland, Centro Legal de la Raza is hosting a day laborers organization that is establishing a "workers' center" and the county AFL-CIO has shown interest in developing an association with such centers under its new partnership with the National Day Laborers Network (NDLON).

Given the vital role that day laborers play in Oakland's economy, and the particularly difficult circumstances in which they must work, the city of Oakland should provide some level of support to ensure that day laborers have the best opportunity to work under safe and fair conditions. Providing support for staff, programs and location (which must be near to where day laborers live and find employment), would not only materially assist such programs, but would send a signal that Oakland does not condone the exploitation and abuse of vulnerable residents.



More immediately, the local day labor organization is seeking assistance in the investigation of recent murders, which seem to specifically target day laborers.

Approved by more than 2/3 of Task Force Members.

No minority report for this recommendation.

Build Multi-Cultural Awareness

To strengthen multiculturalism in Oakland, the Task Force proposes 2 specific initiatives:

- 1) A simple but important and meaningful step would be to create and post "Welcome" banners/flags around the city in different languages. Such banners line streets in San Leandro (International Blvd/E. 14th St.) and other cities and are considered positive and inspiring reinforcement of both city policies and commitment to inclusive and multicultural environments.
- 2) The development of a "*History of Oakland*" project that would be developed over a number of years, designed to be popular and participatory. The Task Force vision of this project would involve the development of high school level curricula as well as multi-media components that would capture the vibrant history of Oakland and how its various communities came here historically and present-day. This is an initiative that could bring together various community groups, youth, academics, cultural workers, the media and business communities to popularize Oakland's rich diversity through various means: brief "snippets" on television and community radio programs, city art exhibits, and so forth. Developing "popular education" programs at the high school level would be especially important in raising awareness among diverse youth and contributing to building better and more stable relations.

There would be a cost to Oakland for the banners, but could be prioritized within the existing city budget for such projects, or could be a subject of special fundraising efforts, particularly within the business and local philanthropic community.

The History project would eventually require more substantial financial support for staffing, program development, products and maintenance, but built upon a base of involvement and commitment from various sectors in Oakland, could be an attractive project for collaborative funding from regional or national foundations that are now more keen to the need for such participatory programs that can strengthen immigrant and non-immigrant relationships.

A commitment from the Mayor to such a project would be a substantial advantage in seeking foundation support.

A planning body for the project, perhaps with a contracted consultant for facilitation and project drafting, could further develop the project's concept and features.

Approved by more than 2/3 of Task Force Members.

No minority report for this recommendation.

PROPOSAL 3 Long-Term



PROPOSAL 4 Long-Term

Promoting “Know-Your-Rights” and Civic Engagement Programs

Our 4th proposal concerns the role of the city to actively provide information, education and training to enhance the participation and integration of immigrant residents.

The city should support the development and distribution of “know-your-rights” information in various languages, and support messaging that can reach communities through the media and outreach to community organizations, agencies, places of worship, etc.

Immigrants in the process of naturalization may need greater access to civics and English classes – programs that have already been cut, are not adequately available, or which are under constant threat of being de-funded in adult education programs. Even a program known as “the Academy” and which provided citizenship education, has already been de-funded.

Beyond these programs, the Task Force proposes support for broader “civic engagement” programs, supporting the development of community awareness and leadership, and which encourages community participation in civic affairs.

The costs for these programs could range considerably. Many community-based organizations are engaged in providing information and training to their constituents; however, many of these programs are woefully under-funded and understaffed. Distinct city support or coordinated and collaborative efforts, including funding initiatives between city and community-based programs could greatly enhance all the efforts.

Approved by more than 2/3 of Task Force Members.

No minority report for this recommendation.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT)

How can important issues for Oakland's LGBT residents be addressed?

Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Commission

The LGBT Task Force recommends that the Mayor form an LGBT Commission. The purpose of the commission is to:

- Oversee city fundraising efforts to raise private, corporate, foundation, state and federal funds to serve the social, economic , and human service needs of the LGBT community.
- Assist in identifying, securing and administering state, federal, foundation and corporate funding for issues relating to the LGBT community.
- Act as the official advisory body to the Mayor and City Council on LGBT issues.
- Respond in an effective and timely manner to LGBT issues that may arise in the City.
- Examine local policies and practices in the areas of employment, business education, housing, social services, health and mental health and recreation as they affect or relate to LGBT people in the City and to recommend changes as appropriate.
- Review and make recommendations on proposed local, state and federal legislation affecting LGBT people.
- Promote educational activities and events related to LGBT issues.
- Oversee Pride Day and other cultural/social activities.
- Collaborate with the proposed Human Rights and other City Commissions.
- Coordinate and Oversee Annual AIDS Fundraising event.
- Enhance the social, economic and political quality of life by assisting LGBT residents in attainment of equality and full opportunity.

TOPIC 2

Question

PROPOSAL 1



PROPOSAL 2

Fund Raising and Public Awareness Campaign

- It is proposed that the Mayor organize Oakland based AIDS Service Organizations (ASO) and use his celebrity to spearhead a combination HIV/AIDS public awareness campaign and annual fundraising event on the scale of the Los Angeles/San Francisco Macy's Passport. The event would benefit the consortium of Oakland based ASO's.
- It is recommended that the Mayor use the bully pulpit, his celebrity, existing governmental structures, Oakland's corporate community, and community based institutions to raise funds for ASO's and to dismantle the conspiracy of silence around the disproportionately high prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the city of Oakland.

PROPOSAL 3

LGBT Participation on Boards and Commissions

PROPOSAL 4

Sensitivity Training for City of Oakland Employees

- This policy proposal would require that all city employees and city contractors receive sensitivity training for Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgendered issues. Sensitivity Training shall mean any program provided from a list of providers whose programs have been reviewed and approved by the Mayor's Office and shall include, but not be limited to, training regarding issues faced by disabled, HIV positive, immigrant, persons of color, sexually abused runaways from non-accepting households, and homeless lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning persons. Additionally, this training shall include a section on "bias crimes." Bias crime tracking would ensure that all persons within Oakland would be appropriately accounted for in the event of same-sex crimes and related matters. The training would be completed in no less than two hour segments and should be required at initial hire, initial contract letting, and on an annual basis throughout employment. This training would provide an excellent compliment to the Sexual Harassment, Disability and Ethnic training sessions already in existence.



Seniors and Aging Population

TOPIC 3

How can the quality of life and the availability of services be enhanced as Oakland residents age?

Question

The Senior & Aging Issues Task Force members reviewed, prioritized and approved of the following recommendations for implementation during the first 100 days and projected long-range initiatives beyond the first 100 days.

Demographic
Overview

According to the Department of Human Services recent budget report, about 13 percent of Oakland residents over 65 live at or below the federal poverty level of \$739 a month for singles and \$989 a month for a couple. The state average is 8 percent. Seniors in Oakland tend to be poorer than other age groups, and the City of Oakland has a higher percentage of seniors living in poverty than any other similarly sized California city. Oakland has 42,000 residents age 65 or over, a proportion that is equal to 10.5 percent of Alameda County's senior population. More than 30 percent of these Oakland seniors live alone, and Oakland has 48 senior housing sites with 4,550 units of low-income housing. All low-income facilities for low-income seniors have waiting lists.

Additionally, Oakland residents over the age of 55, according to the 2000 census were 38.2% African American; 18.8% Asian or Pacific Islander; 32.5% Caucasian; 8.4% Hispanic, and 6.7% Other. 75% of Hispanic seniors aged 66+ live at or below the federal poverty level. Over 19% of Oakland residents 65+ have "limited English proficiency."

The Senior & Aging Issues /Including People with Disabilities Task Force discussed a wide range of issues and challenges facing the "old-old" and that of the aging baby boomers. Oakland's aging community is reflective of a recent study reported in *Aging Today: Communities Unprepared for Aging*. The report was developed by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (of which the Alameda County Area Agency on Aging is represented). While the report had a national focus, the key findings were reflective of issues and challenges facing Oakland's elderly population including:

1. **Healthcare:** There is a need for preventive healthcare and education.
2. **Nutrition:** There is a need for nutrition education.
3. **Exercise:** There a need for fitness programs for older adults.
4. **Transportation:** There is a need for road signage that meets the needs of older adults; and a need for Para-Transit services to provide assistance to load/unload taxi/van rides.
5. **Public Safety or Emergency Services:** There is need for a system to locate older adults and that of identifying older residents with special needs (dementia/Alzheimer's and to increase prevention programs on elder abuse and neglect.
6. **Housing:** There is a need to increase home modification programs and to provide additional housing for low to moderate income older residents.

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Demographic Overview continued

7. **Taxation and Finance:** –There is a need to provide tax relief for older adults living on limited incomes.
8. **Workforce Development:** –There is a need to provide formal job training and retraining programs to help older adults remain in the job force.
9. **Civic engagement or Volunteer Opportunities:** There is a need to utilize the volunteer opportunities or civic engagement of older adults
10. **Aging and Human Services:** There is a need to offer a comprehensive single point of entry for information and access to aging services – baby boomers will demand it!

Proposal

Our Task Force members expanded the dialogue on the above listed challenges to further prioritize the issues by accessibility and affordability/costs. Some of the discussion issues transcended the litany of “needs” to that of understanding the meaning of aging in an ever changing community including:

- Feeling safe, aging in place, having health care and knowing where to locate resources, wanting to be valued in the community.
- Wanting to give to the community, noting that there are seniors who are truly isolated, having resources available ensures the viability of seniors to be productive and independent in the community.

[**Note:** Aging & Senior Issues Task Force collected and stored in a binder additional information, program models, demographic data and recommendations. The City of Oakland needs a coordinated approach to address the needs of the elderly and their families by working closely with its’ Commission on Aging, Alameda County and other public/private community-based programs to develop relevant policies and programs.]

Make Seniors a Priority.

PROPOSAL 1

A. Have the Mayor and Office Staff to SAY IT!

Set the tone systemically and throughout the community.

- **Implementation Period:** Within the first 100 days.
- **Cost:** No Cost
- **Policy:** The Mayor’s Office can help to popularize Seniors and Aging Issues both systemically and through basic acknowledgements (e.g., press speeches, public outreach, etc.) In having the Mayor comment on aging issues helps set the tone of inclusiveness and that of seniors representing a vital part of the “wholeness” within the community.



B. Create a Senior Level Role (person) for Senior Services

- **Implementation Period:** Within the first 100 days.
- **Cost:** Yes (At salary level: To be determined)
- **Policy:** Having a staff person within the Mayor's Office charged with accountability/oversight (e.g. Policy analyst, liaison, etc.) and having a single focus on senior and aging issues. This position would not supplant existing city-wide services to seniors. The position would serve to enhance the direction of policy as related to Oakland's aging population and surrounding issues/challenges.

Increase the Funding Resources for Senior Services (And People with Disabilities)

- **Implementation Period:** 1 year
- **Cost:** Long Term/Continuous
- **Budget:** Set aside 2% to 2.5 % from the General fund or parcel tax to raise new funds.
- **Policy:** The Mayor's Office can request that each department or program clearly identify funds for seniors and how they will be utilized, to ensure accountability. The Mayor's Office can stipulate this policy on all items coming to Council by continuing the priority for seniors and children through Agenda Reports.

Ensure That Neighborhoods Are Safe for Seniors (And People with Disabilities)

- **Implementation Period:** Continuous
- **Cost:** Long Term/Continuous/ No Cost and Cost
- **Budget:** Based on current-existing programs
- **Policy:** The policy calls for the expansion and or enhancement of existing services. The Mayor's Office can set the tone in which all communities can begin to "think" and act neighborly including seniors and disabled residents.
- **Community Initiatives/Actions:**
 1. Expand Emergency Support assistance (e.g. 911/OSCAR).
 2. Collaborate with financial institutions /Senior Banking Days.
 3. Set-up Security protection at banks/check cashing facilities.
 4. Ability to call for help on public transportation.
 5. Accessible transportation including Department of Human Services' SCOPED project providing Vietnamese, Chinese-speaking drivers; a clearing house for transportation via Alameda County Transportation Initiative Act.
 6. Develop "walkable" neighborhoods- address issues of speeding traffic, broken or non-existent sidewalks, vicious dogs and non-resident and displaced persons.

PROPOSAL 2

PROPOSAL 3

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7. Improve street crossings, traffic lights, timing, sound, curb cuts (for seniors and people with disabilities).
8. Develop a program to paint house numbers on curbs that can be seen clearly at all times. Funding: use summer Youth program participants to complete the activity.
9. Provide the community with "Senior Friendly" activities (e.g. Fairs, festivals, artists, etc. – "Set the tone and tenor" that it is great to grow old in Oakland and that we "the community" care about our seniors and disabled.
10. Coordinate with other cities to identify what's working in their areas of senior services and aging issues: e.g. Senior Escort Service- San Francisco Police Department model helps with shopping and errands.

PROPOSAL

Ensure that Health Care Is Provided for Seniors (And People with Disabilities)

A. Local Issues

- **Implementation Period:** Continuous
- **Cost:** Long Term/Continuous/Low to No Cost
- **Target Population:** Low to middle income funding interventions to defray the costs of health care (e.g. direct and supportive health services).
- **Policy:** To ensure that all seniors (and people with disabilities) have access to health care, particularly through community clinics in low/moderate income neighborhoods. The Mayor's Office (and especially the Mayor) can work nationally and in conjunction with local senior advocates to do the below listed actions.
- **Community Initiatives/Actions:**
 1. **Locally:** Create partnerships for multilingual services for seniors (e.g. Oakland Asian mental health and physical health care community services, including help at home).
 2. Establish partnerships with local educational institutions: Master of Science level in geriatric nurse practitioner training programs in which nurses could be trained and placed in neighborhood community health centers/clinics as Interns.
 3. Promote/endorse/attend Senior Wellness Week activities.



B. Regional/National and in coordination with other Task Force (s):

- Develop a plan to establish Universal Health Care.
- Review issues and challenges around use, availability and overload of Emergency Room services.
- Develop a partnership with pharmaceutical companies to lower the costs of medicine and health care (e.g. retroviral medications, diabetic/asthma and other chronic life threatening health challenges).

Accessibility to City Services and Programs: Increase Outreach/ Information and Assistance (and peoples with disabilities)

- **Implementation Period:** 100 Days to One Year
- **Cost:** No Initial costs
- **Budget:** Not applicable in the initial stages of inquiry
- **Policy:** Seniors and people with disabilities need access to services: Including knowing what and how to access and obtain assistance/resources to maintain some semblance of independence within the broader context of “community”. Key: how to outreach to inform seniors and people with disabilities?
- **Community Initiatives/Actions:**
 1. Develop partnerships with PG&E/Waste Management and others to include brief/simple notices of available services for seniors and people with disabilities into customer billing notices and other general service announcements.
 2. Coordinate with existing programs (community-based) to identify senior centered services to determine if additional resources are needed (e.g. increase senior/family grief and loss outreach programs, crisis hot-lines, etc.).
 3. Identify the aging population and issues confronting seniors and people with disabilities today (e.g. depression amongst the aging).
 4. Develop mechanisms through collaborations, partnerships, grants and general fund dollars to provide basic assistance to seniors and people with disabilities. By utilizing a variety of interventions, the Mayor’s Office can meet its moral obligation to provide opportunities in which the issues and challenges of providing medical care, food and safe environments can be addressed and met.
 5. Identify community-based programs including non-profit and public services that are making an impact in assisting frail and isolated elderly residents (e.g. survey seniors to identify services that are perceived by the elderly as “truly” caring for and ensuring their independence in the community).

PROPOSAL 5



**CONVENERS &
PARTICIPANTS
OF DIVERSITY/
HUMAN RELATIONS
TASK FORCES**

IMMIGRATION TASK FORCE

CO-CONVENERS: **Virginia Sung**, *Law Office of Virginia K. Sun*
Catherine Tactaquin, *National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights*

PARTICIPANTS: **Luz Buitrago**, *Law Center for Families*
Larisa Casillas, *Bay Area Immigrant Rights Coalition*
Lillian Galedo, *Filipinos for Affirmative Action*
Gerald Lenoir, *Black Alliance for Just Immigration*
Michael Radding, *Catholic Charities of the East Bay*
Laura Rivas
Phillip Tou, *Academy of Chinese Culture & Health Science*
Jesse Wolovoy

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER (L.G.B.T.) TASK FORCE

CO-CONVENERS: **Kimberly Aceves**, *Youth Together*
Peggy Moore, *Sistahs Steppin in Pride*

PARTICIPANTS: **Susanne Borman**
Lori Dynes
Terry Hill, *Eden Information & Referral, Inc; East Oakland Community Project*
Cory Iavigin
Carmen Iniguez
Janet Jamerson
Al Schendan
Toni Smith

SENIOR AND AGING TASK FORCE (INCLUDING PEOPLES WITH DISABILITIES)

CO-CONVENERS: **Donna Murphy**, *Social Worker, Sojourner Truth Manor, Christian Church Homes Senior Housing*
Andrea Turner, *Program Director, Senior Companion, Foster Grandparent Program, City of Oakland/Department of Human Services*

PARTICIPANTS: **Ola Andrews**
Pauline D. Brooks
Barbara Cheatham, *EMS, Public Health/Alameda County*
Tracy Jensen, *Senior Services Administrator, Senior Centers/Commission on Aging*
Reginal Lyes
Nate Miley, *Alameda County Board of Supervisors*
Charlene Overshown
Jane Robinson
Anne Spanier, *Mayor's Commission on Aging, City of Oakland*
Penny Deleray Taylor
Jeff Weiss, *Program Director, Oakland Paratransit for the Elderly & Disabled*



**For More Information On
The Task Force Reports, The Task Force Process
Or How You Can Get Involved**

Please Contact:

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