

December 8, 2017

Mayor Libby Schaaf
City of Oakland
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mayor Schaaf,

As community leaders, we call on you to use your leadership to support and uplift our beloved City workers and to resolve this strike in a way that honors their commitment to Oakland.

City workers are a vital part of our community. They are the backbone of our city – cleaning our streets, opening our libraries, caring for our children, maintaining our parks and recreation centers, creating affordable housing and answering 911 calls. These workers bring so much pride and dignity to Oakland and we are so thankful for them.

Resolving this strike in a manner that supports these workers is not just about the 3700 individuals that work for the City, it is about the 420,000 Oakland residents who depend on these services.

For the past several years, city services have been short-staffed, placing workers in dangerous situations, limiting services available to the community and causing these workers to sacrifice their economic security in order to support the residents of Oakland. This is not in alignment with our values as Oaklanders. We are a City that is proud of its progressive roots. We must take care of the people who take care of our town.

At a time like this we have to look at ourselves and decide what kind of community we are. With the housing and displacement crisis bearing down on Oakland, with a political landscape of emboldened white supremacy and racism, we must live our values every day: expanding economic opportunity, supporting vital services, and ensuring economic security for our city workers. Our actions today will set the course for the future.

We call on you to be the leader that reflects Oakland values of supporting our workers, advancing racial justice and ensuring robust City Services. We need solutions that support Our Oakland.

Sincerely,

Asian Pacific Environmental Network
Kathryn Lybarger and Liz Perlman, AFSCME Local 3299
Bay Area Black Worker Center

Causa Justa::Just Cause
Chinese Progressive Association
Design Action
East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
Faith Alliance for a Moral Economy
Housing Rights Committee
James Tracy, Oakland homeowner
Julina Bonilla, Trustee, Peralta Community College District
Kathryn Gilje, faith leader
Leah Simon-Weisberg, Attorney
Mujeres Unidas y Activas
Oakland ACCE
Oakland Rising
Our Revolution, California
Pastor G. Annette Howard, Pastor, First Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist
Rabbi David J. Cooper, Kehilla Community Synagogue
Rev. Damita Davis-Howard, Assistant Pastor, First Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist
Rev. Deborah Lee, Program Director of Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity
Rev. Lynice Pinkard
Rev. Sandhya Jha
Rev. Yu-Shuan Tarango-Sho, Director of Jesus, Justice, and Poverty Collective
Michael Theriault, President of San Francisco Building Trades Council
Conny Ford, Vice President of Community Services of San Francisco Labor Council
Gordon Mar, San Francisco Jobs with Justice
Sarah Jarmon, Senior & Disability Action
Laura Woodford, Regional Center Chapter President, SEIU 1021
Patricia Contreras Flores, Street Level Health Project
Urban Peace Movement
UNITE HERE Local 2850

CC: Oakland City Council Members