



Greetings Community,

Happy New Year, and thank you! I am so honored to have been elected by Oaklanders to serve as the At-Large Councilmember for the next four years. As promised, I am focused on creating transformative change in the City alongside my council colleagues.

On Monday, January 6th, [myself and Councilmembers Unger \(D1\), Fife \(D3\), and Houston \(D7\) were sworn into office.](#) In addition, as an elected body, we were tasked with selecting an Interim Mayor and Council President. I approached this decision with care and focused on serving the community's needs at a pivotal time in our city's history. I was proud to vote for Kevin Jenkins to serve as interim mayor of the City of Oakland until the special election is held on April 15th, 2025. Jenkins has a proven track record of championing public safety and economic development demonstrating that he will effectively lead our City through these challenging times until the special election. I was also honored to vote for Councilmember Noel Gallo as Oakland City Council President as he brings years of experience as an elected official.



In our first week as Councilmembers, we attended informational briefings from 16 of the 21 City of Oakland Departments, with the remaining departments presenting on Monday. This has allowed for robust conversation and information exchange about each department's current challenges and priorities. These informational meetings can be viewed [here](#).

Lastly, in this email you will find the following:

- Meet your Oakland City Council At-Large Office
- Department Spotlight: Oakland Fire Department

- Community Resources & Opportunities
- Contact Information

OFFICE OF THE OAKLAND AT LARGE CITY COUNCIL

Georgia lives in District 3 and will be serving as Councilmember Brown's Chief of Staff. Growing up in Alameda County, Georgia has been a witness to the tech boom and widening socioeconomic gap in our community. She looks forward to working with all of you to ensure that our City is one where all are able to grow and thrive.

Chiamaka lives in District 5 and will be serving as Councilmember Brown's Policy Director. He's lived in Oakland for the last six years, and in that time it's become a second home. He's committed to ensuring that our office is responsive, caring, and collaborative as we work to deliver the services that Oakland deserves.



DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT: OAKLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Los Angeles wildfires, some of the most destructive wildfires in L.A. history, have killed at least five people, displaced almost 200,000 residents, and left many folks in the area without power.

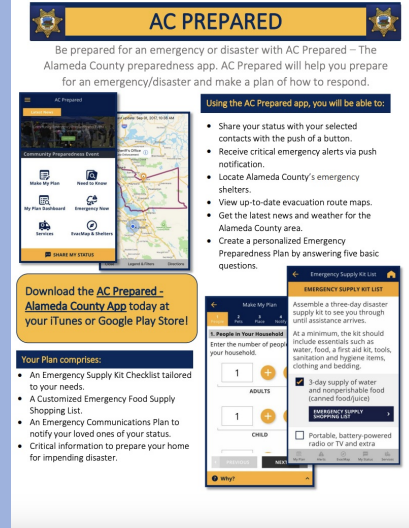
I would like to honor the firefighters in the area who are handling unfathomable conditions of limited water and strong winds to keep the community safe.

I especially want to express my gratitude to the Alameda County firefighters actively en route to assist communities impacted by the Palisades and Eaton fires. Firefighters from the Alameda County Fire Department, Oakland Fire Department, Hayward Fire Department, and Fremont Fire Department are also responding as part of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), and I send my deep appreciation to them.

For our Oakland community members who have loved ones impacted by this disaster, I also want to uplift some resources available:



- Housing—Shelter information is available on the Cal OES and Red Cross website. Airbnb is also offering free emergency shelter and housing assistance via credits to those impacted.
- Healthcare—Teladoc offers free virtual healthcare for SoCal residents impacted by the Palisades Fire. Its website and app provide 24/7 access to doctors, mental health support, and prescription refills.
- Information – To access updated information on these fires and sign up for SMS alerts, please access the Cal Fire website.
- Donate - For those able to donate, those on the ground supporting residents and in need of your financial support are the American Red Cross, California Fire Foundation, United Way of Greater Los Angeles, California Community Foundation, Emergency Network Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank.



AC Alert: Register to receive emergency messages in Alameda County at www.acalert.org.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- **Waitlist Open for Section 8 Housing Vouchers for the First time in 14 Years**

The [Oakland Housing Authority](#) is opening its waitlist for Section 8 housing vouchers, which can be used by low-income households to pay part of their rent.

[Applications](#) are open and will close on January 26th for 5,000 new spots on the list.

- **Budget Advisory Commission (BAC) Survey (Deadline: 1/31):**

The Budget Advisory Commission requests input from Oakland residents on the City's budget. This survey should take approximately 15 minutes to complete and will inform city council members of your priorities as we craft the next City budget.

[Survey linked here \(Spanish version\)](#)

- **Oakland Small Business Resiliency Fund:**

The East Bay Community Foundation (EBCF) is launching the Oakland Small Business Resiliency Fund, a grant fund supporting diverse small businesses with a physical presence in Oakland. The Fund will provide a one-time infusion of grant capital to Oakland small businesses to boost their resiliency and ability to withstand and recover from the economic and community safety challenges they face or to build their capacity and readiness to take on other forms of capital and investments.

Businesses may apply for grants ranging from \$5,000-\$25,000. The application is linked [here](#).

- **MACRO (Mobile Assistance Community Responders of Oakland)**

MACRO teams in the Fire Department respond to calls about homelessness, some behavioral or mental health calls, noise complaints, and people appearing drunk (and nonviolent) in public. MACRO units do not respond inside anyone's home, a domestic

violence call, or anything that appears dangerous or violent.

**Call (510) 44 MACRO | (510) 446-2276 | EMAIL MACRO@oaklandca.gov/
REQUEST FOR SERVICE.**

**CONTACT
US**

Please do not hesitate to email us at atlarge@oaklandca.gov or call us at **(510) 238-7008** with any questions or scheduling needs.

Oaklanders, it is a pleasure and a privilege to serve, and I look forward to creating transformative change alongside YOU.

In Service,

Rowena Brown
At Large Oakland City Councilmember
[Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [#Row4Oak](#)

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