

Executive Order – Protect The Town

City of Oakland's Response to Potential National Guard Deployment and/or DHS Surge

This Executive Order directs City Departments to prepare the City of Oakland and protect our local communities and resources if the National Guard, U.S. military personnel, and/or significant federal immigrant enforcement resources are deployed to Oakland.

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland is a municipal corporation organized under the Constitution and laws of the State of California, and is vested with the authority and responsibility to govern local affairs, maintain public safety, and safeguard the civil rights of the people of Oakland;

WHEREAS, the principles of federalism enshrined in the U.S. Constitution require respect for state and local authority, and federal encroachment into local policing or governance undermines constitutional balance and threatens civil liberties;

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland affirms its commitment to public safety policies rooted in investments in violence prevention, education, economic opportunity, health supports, constitutional policing, and respect for civil and human rights for all;

WHEREAS, President Trump has engaged in unprecedented and unwarranted actions deploying, and threatening to deploy, the National Guard, U.S. military troops, and federal personnel focused on immigration enforcement to American cities, including to the City of Oakland;

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland wishes to protect its residents, workers, visitors, and institutions if President Trump orders deployment of U.S. military forces and/or a surge of civil immigration enforcement in the City;

WHEREAS, federal law prohibits the use of the U.S. military for domestic law enforcement except in extraordinary circumstances—which do not exist in Oakland;

WHEREAS, such deployments are contrary to the U.S. Constitution and federal law;

WHEREAS, the deployment of U.S. military forces in Oakland without the consent of local authorities undermines American principles of democracy and the right of states and cities to self-govern, threatens civil liberties, and risks escalating violence rather than securing the peace, and risks escalation of conflict, and undermines public trust in law enforcement and government;

WHEREAS, the deployment of U.S. military forces as well as federal tactical units for civil immigration enforcement in Oakland exacerbates existing harms facing the City's historically underserved residents and vulnerable populations, unsheltered people, veterans, people who are formerly incarcerated, individuals experiencing poverty, and immigrant communities;

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland remains committed to approaches that uphold civil rights, reinforce public safety through neighborhood investment, and respect the authority of local leadership;

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland wishes to establish clear policies, operational safeguards, and legal defense measures;

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland will work closely with the Governor of California, the California State Attorney General, as well as other relevant state agencies and local governments and surrounding cities and jurisdictions, to coordinate response to the deployment of U.S. military personnel as well as federal civil immigration enforcement resources;

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland is a sanctuary city for and of immigrants and our laws and values reflect that, and the City is committed to serving all residents with respect and dignity;

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland has issued Administrative Instruction Memo, issued to City employees on January 21, 2026, that contains the City's policies and protocols regarding interactions with U.S. Department of Homeland Security agents while on the job.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Barbara Lee, Mayor of Oakland, order that the City of Oakland shall take the following actions to prepare for any unilateral deployment of the National Guard, U.S. military personnel, or other increased federal enforcement presence in the City of Oakland:

Section 1: Creation of Protect the Town Task Force

- A. The Protect the Town Task Force is created to coordinate Citywide interdepartmental planning and response. Protect the Town Task Force will be led by the Mayor's Office, which will coordinate designated Departments' work to promote the well-being and safeguard the rights of all Oaklanders in response to threats arising from the actions and inactions of the federal government. The Oakland City Attorney's Office is invited and encouraged to participate. Protect the Town Task Force's work will include, but is not limited to:

1. Implement City operational plans necessary to respond to unilateral deployment of the National Guard or other federal military troops in the City.
2. Educate communities about their rights and preparedness for National Guard or other federal military deployment in the City.
3. Communicate with the public, including outreach and regular public updates if federal military troops are deployed in the City.
4. Meet with stakeholders and community advocacy groups to discuss the impacts of the National Guard or other federal military troop deployment in Oakland to inform the Task Force's work.
5. In partnership with stakeholders, utilize existing reporting mechanisms for the public to report alleged improper acts by the National Guard, U.S. military troops, or federal enforcement agents in the City.
6. Conduct after-action reviews to evaluate outcomes and strengthen future responses.
7. Undertake other actions as directed by the Mayor's Office.

Section 2: Community Support, Coordination, and Resources for Immigrant Communities

- A. The City of Oakland will continue to convene regular meetings with community leaders, immigrant rights organizations, and City Departments, to share information, determine community impacts, and build stronger ties.
- B. The City of Oakland will continue to partner with the Oakland business and community organizations to protect all residents, including immigrants who call Oakland home.
- C. The City of Oakland will continue to support the Alameda County Immigration Legal and Education Partnership (ACILEP) to which community members can report ICE sightings and the detention of community members. The City will continue to publicize ACILEP's phone number and website online, in print, and through city departments and staff.
- D. The City of Oakland will continue to provide Know-Your-Rights flyers in multiple languages.
- E. The City of Oakland will continue to provide upon request to Oakland businesses, community organizations, or individuals printable "Employees Only" signs to mark non-public employee-only areas.

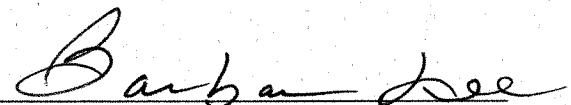
Section 3: Coordination of Legal Actions and Intergovernmental Operational Responses

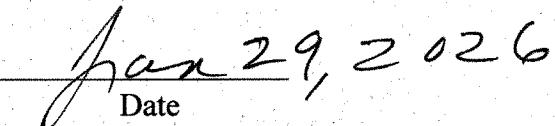
- A. The Mayor's Office shall work with the City Attorney's Office to proactively evaluate and pursue all available legal actions in the event of unilateral deployment of the National Guard or other federal military troops in the City and/or Region.
- B. The Mayor's Office shall coordinate and communicate with the City Attorney's Office, the California Governor, and the California Attorney General on any such legal actions.

- C. The Mayor's Office shall coordinate and communicate with the State and local government partners on operations and on-the-ground responses during any unilateral deployment of the National Guard.
- D. The City of Oakland will coordinate with the Alameda County Sheriff's Office and expect that Office not to participate in civil immigration enforcement.
- E. The Mayor's Office shall provide timely updates to the City's congressional delegation, and representatives of relevant Tribal, local, and state governments.

Section 4: Maintaining Local Control and Accountability of the Oakland Police Department

- A. The Oakland Police Department is entrusted to enforce local and state law in the City of Oakland through locally controlled law enforcement agencies guided by professional standards and community trust.
- B. In compliance with City policy, the Oakland Police Department shall not enforce nor assist Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials in enforcing civil immigration law violations to the fullest extent allowed by law.
- C. All City Departments shall ensure that staff are trained and in compliance with all city and state sanctuary policies and do not participate in immigration enforcement activities to the fullest extent allowed by law.
- D. Any city departments that become aware of immigrant enforcement activity in Oakland must promptly notify the Mayor's Office and the City Attorney's Office.
- E. The Oakland Police Department is entrusted with protecting and enhancing the health, safety, environment, and general welfare of the City of Oakland and is the primary law enforcement agency with jurisdiction in the City. The Oakland Police Department strives to foster trust and cooperation with all people it serves, including immigrant and refugee Communities.
- F. In the event of a decision by the federal government to unilaterally deploy the National Guard or other federal military troops into the City of Oakland, the Oakland Police Department will maintain its functional independence and will not act at the direction of the National Guard or federal authorities.
- G. To ensure alignment with other City departments and the Executive, the Oakland Police Department will report to the Mayor on known actions of the deployed federal troops, any responsive actions of the Oakland Police Department, and any other relevant information.


Barbara Lee
Mayor, City of Oakland


Date