

# CITY OF OAKLAND

## BUDGET ADVISORY COMMISSION

Meeting of the City of Oakland Budget Advisory Commission (BAC) held **Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at 6:00 PM.**

The Budget Advisory Commission was held in Hearing Room 2 in City Hall.

### **Commission Members:**

Mandela Bliss, Larisa Casillas, Mike Forbes, Ben Gould, Mike Petouhoff, Jane Yang, Stephisha Ycoy-Walton, Karen Roye, Neil Thapar

### **City's Representative(s):**

Tiffany Kirk Patrick, Asti Jenkins, & Walter Silva – *Finance Department*

### **Meeting Minutes:**

- Welcome and Admin Matters - 5 min  
Present: Commissioners Bliss, Yang, Gould, Ycoy-Walton, Roye, Petouhoff, Thapar (Arrived late) and City of Oakland staff members Kirkpatrick and Silva;  
Absent: Commissioners Casillas and Forbes  
Roll call was conducted with six out of nine current commissioners present, establishing a quorum
- Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes - 5 min  
Attachment: from Tiffany/Walter/Asti
  1. Defer meeting minutes to next meeting
- Commissioner's Protocol - 15 min
  1. New appointments: Neil Thapar And Karen Roye
  2. Reappointment: Ben Gould
  3. Holdover status: Stephisha Ycoy-Walton and Mandela Bliss
  4. Officer Elections – October is election month for Chair of commission, Vice-chair, and Finance & management committee liaison
    - Commission voted to keep Commissioner Yang for Chair unanimously
    - Commission held private ballot for Vice Chair position for Petouhoff and Gould. Five votes for petouhoff and two for Gould. Commissioner petouhoff won vice chair position
    - Gould accepted nomination from petouhoff for Finance and Management committee liaison, chair voted unanimously
- City Updates - 30 min
  1. Public Comment

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- Mayven Griffin – Advocates for the unhoused population. Recommends the city work with the homeless on providing a better environment, stopping encampment sweeps. Creating a community from the ground up. Happy to learn from the committee and support as needed
- 2. Finance Department update
  - The FY2025-27 Adopted Budget is live online and out for print. Department performance measures have been published online
- 3. Council Finance & Management Committee update
  - Attachment: [Report With A List Of Options To Raise An Additional Ongoing \\$40 Million In General Purpose Fund Revenues](#)
    - Commission encouraged to read through report and make notes/recommendations
    - Will go to Council in January to be on the ballot in June 2026 primary election. Commissioners need to submit feedback in November to get recommendations to Council by December
- Community Engagement Ad Hoc: Final Report on Community Input on the Budget Process - 20 min
  - 1. Casillas submitted Final draft in a timely manner, will present to Council and need to get it on the agenda
  - 2. Yang asked City staff when budget process starts for mid-cycle, Kirkpatrick responds that city budget process will start in December/January
  - 3. Petouhoff acknowledges that the Biennial process was very different and more transparent than the last budget process
  - 4. Roye mentions how the report reflected the community input with integrity and care
  - 5. No public comment
- Consolidated Fiscal Policy Recommended Amendment - 30 min
  - 1. Current policy has a 15% of the General purpose fund budget threshold
  - 2. Gould notes changes will include calculating the min. amount of the RETT at \$70m and no more can be used for ongoing expenses. Anything over the threshold will go to other things like paying down debt, re-building reserves, street repair, and other services
  - 3. Volatility of the RETT
  - 4. Council intends to take an increase to the RETT to council soon so there is a rush on the decision of this CFP amendment
  - 5. Roye – advocates consumer buy in, difficult for city depts to budget to volatile revenue, highlights the need to stabilize reserves
  - 6. Petouhoff wants to articulate the broader case of using one time funds for ongoing expenses is not a good budget ideology
  - 7. Current CFP 25% for Debts, 25% for reserves, the remaining to ongoing services

Petouhoff motions to send this report, as is, as a formal recommendation to the City Council and to be presented at a future meeting. Ycoy-Walton seconds.

Vote: Bliss- Yes, Gould- Yes, Petouhoff- Yes, Yang- Yes, Ycoy-walton- yes, Roye-Yes, Thapar- Yes. Voted yes unanimously to this motion

- Open Forum - 10 min
  - 1. Ad-hocs in commission

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- There are 2 types which are standing ad-hocs and temporary ad-hocs. Standing ad-hocs (topic based) such as community engagement ad-hoc, public safety and economic development ad-hoc, housing ad-hoc. There are temporary ones such as the \$40m revenue project proposal. They are fluid and one time ad-hocs that end after the project is over.
- There used to be a Pension/long term liabilities ad-hoc that has been discussed on re-instating but there is no current lead on the project
- Ad-hocs can have 4 members
- 2. Start 2026 Strategy planning
  - Form an ad-hoc to finalize recommendations for the \$40 million tax revenue proposal
    1. BAC Invitation to FY2026-2030 Fiscal Roadmap - Long Term Fiscal Health from the City's budget administrator
    2. Keep the money flowing in Oakland
    3. Increase quality of life
    4. Educating the community about the tax
- 3. Berkeley projects
  - UC Berkeley Goldman school of public policy offer two types of project assistance:
    1. First year group project 4-6 students
    2. Advance policy project 1 student working full-time
  - Commission can take advantage of the student assistance on ad-hoc projects
- 4. Mayor Lee – Charter reform working group
  - Examine Oakland City Charter to determine if the charter needs to be updated
  - Yang encourages commission to check with council members if they will be hosting community forums in their districts to discuss the charter reform
  - Gould discusses the city charter reform around the commission's appointments and possibly streamlining the process to encourage more commissioners to join
- 5. Commission meetings outside of City Hall
  - City staff has to coordinate translation services and set-up
- 6. Public Comments:
  - Mayven provided information on the unhoused community on Wood st and the work she does to educate people about homelessness.
- Adjournment