



**CITY OF OAKLAND  
OAKLAND POLICE COMMISSION**

**Special Meeting Transcript  
Public Hearing on Policing in the Homeless Community**

**February 16, 2019**

1:00 PM

Taylor Memorial Church

1188 12th Street, Oakland, CA 94607

- Regina Jackson: Some of the handouts are complaint forms. So give us a couple more minutes. I think just hold for one sec. I am going to call the meeting to order. I apologize, I didn't have my glasses on...
- Speaker 1: Here you are.
- speaker 3: Are these seats taken? [inaudible]
- Regina Jackson: Still have to share with your neighbors. The one I gave you was a complaint form and the commissioner will explain that. So, Captain Leonard is... should be on all of the agendas that you have.
- speaker 3: Sam, do you want one?
- Speaker 1: No, I'm fine.
- Regina Jackson: The complaint form was from a different pile. I'd be happy to hold on to it.
- Speaker 2: Get some more on this side?
- Regina Jackson: I'm not sure there are enough for everyone, so we ask that maybe you share with your neighbor.
- Regina Jackson: Okay, I think that we're probably well enough organized that we can go ahead and get started. It is 1:12. Can everyone hear me? We're going to go ahead and get started.
- Speaker 3: Are there more agendas?
- Regina Jackson: I think that we're asking people to share with their neighbors. I'm not sure that there are enough. My apologies.
- Regina Jackson: So, it is now 1:13. I'd like to offer you all welcome on behalf of the Police Commission. I'm newly elected chair of the commission. My name is Regina Jackson. Thank you for being here. This is an extraordinary outreach and showing.

Regina Jackson: I'd like to provide a little bit of overview for this forum. First off, as Police Commissioners, I just want give you a general overview of our duties and powers as you know, most of you put us in this position by the creation of the 2016 voter-enacted change to the City charter called [inaudible 00:02:38]. During our meetings we are actually working on identifying oversight [inaudible] police officer discipline.

Regina Jackson: It's our job of providing oversight to the community commissioner review agency to have the Police Commission ensure that misconduct complaints filed against police officers are investigated by third parties, not police investigators. The Police Commission holds final authority over [inaudible] discipline when the CPRA, the Community Police Review Agency, and Internal Affairs disagree on the results of an investigation. Is everybody clear on that?

Speaker 3: No.

Speaker 4: No.

Regina Jackson: Okay. So, when there are police misconduct allegations there are two entities that do the investigation. One is IAD, which is part of the regular police department. The other is the Community Police Review Agency, which we have oversight for. If at some point the results differ between the IAD and the CPRA, then we are responsible to enact whatever the investigation is. That would be, a discipline committee is put in place. So it's elevated to us in that case.

Regina Jackson: So what I didn't do was to have everyone check in for a roll call. So I'm going to do that now. So, Commissioner Ahmad?

Comm. Ahmad: Present.

Regina Jackson: Commissioner Smith?

Comm. Smith: Present.

Regina Jackson: I, myself, am here, Regina Jackson.

Regina Jackson: Commissioner Dorado?

Comm. Dorado: Here.

Regina Jackson: Commissioner Prather?

Comm. Prather: Here.

Regina Jackson: We have a quorum. Commissioner Harris is absent and for most of you we recently had Commissioner Benson. She resigned.

Regina Jackson: Excuse me. I also like to point out that one of our new city council members is in the audience. I'd like to welcome Nikki Fortunato Bas. (Cheers)

Regina Jackson: Thank you for being here, council member Bas.

Regina Jackson: So I'd like to go over the purpose of the hearing, and thank the incredible hours of work in to create this opportunity, The Coalition on Police Accountability.

Regina Jackson: (Applause)

Regina Jackson: They have provided us history, background, insight, recommendations and we will continue to need your support.

Regina Jackson: The purpose of the hearing is to ensure that future changes in policy adequately address the concerns raised by the unhoused Oakland residents. As members of the public most affected by police action, your testimony is crucial. We want to hear from you. We want to know what your experiences are. We want to understand what recommendations you may have for us.

Regina Jackson: Following this hearing, the Police Commission will review the testimony that's been received, and we will write a hearing report. This report will serve as a first step in drafting new policy, and will be used as a foundation for whatever changes in policy will be proposed as a result of this hearing.

Regina Jackson: This is our first hearing as a police commission, and we expect to have several more on acute issues that are affecting the citizenry of Oakland. I know that we are called a police commission, but I really feel like we are a people's commission. And so I'm hoping that all of you citizens that have something to share will do so today.

Regina Jackson: There will be other opportunities afterwards, but [crosstalk] to identify that we normally have a two-minute time clock in our commission meetings. We recognize that this is quite a bit more important so we have identified three minutes as our general allocation. But if there are people who have testimony that will potentially go over, there are breakout rooms for you to share a more expansive explanation of the issues that you want to raise.

Regina Jackson: I also would like to say that we have two microphones. There is one that is available for people that might not want to be videotaped. And it is the one that is directly back here, just behind the black line. For all those that don't have a problem being videotaped, you can step forward to this microphone.

Regina Jackson: We have two testimonial assistants, Henry Gage and... Is John here? Okay, so we have one testimonial assistant, Henry Gage. Speakers are requested to be mindful that staying within the three minutes is really important, because we only have a certain amount of time here, and we want to be able to capture

your comments and your concerns and your recommendations, as efficient a way and hearing you.

Regina Jackson: There is scribe received testimony that will be viewed along with all other testimony that we will use to draft the commissioner's hearing report. I also want to acknowledge that we have students from the UC Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy. They want to complete a survey. After presenting their survey receipt will be able to receive a stipend. Please check in with Ann Janks. Her [inaudible] right now. And this will happen after the forum.

Regina Jackson: I would like to recognize our host pastor, or on his behalf, Pastor Anthony Jenkins, of Taylor Methodist, for allowing us to use this space. We kindly suggest that the first speaker called during the open forum is going to be, because Pastor Jenkins is not here, is going to be Pastor David Brazil.

Regina Jackson: We are getting ready to transition to the public hearing and we are grateful that Pastor David Brazil gave his assistance in securing this space. And we want to have him provide... we want him to provide a liturgy of safety to set the foundation, to set the basic ground rules used by organizations to create safe spaces for community dialog.

Regina Jackson: And with that, I'd like to thank you. Thank you Taylor Memorial for welcoming us into your home. Again, thank the Coalition for Police Accountability for coordination from beginning to end. We want to thank the Clinic United and [inaudible] Churches for their lunch volunteers. They were pretty magnificent, don't you think? (Applause)

Regina Jackson: As well as [inaudible] and Whole Foods for their generous donations. (Applause), and all the volunteers who participated in making this event a reality. Thank you. (Applause)

Regina Jackson: Please come forward.

David Brazil: Thank you so much, Police Commissioners and beloved family. My name is David Brazil. Good afternoon. I am proud to welcome you into my church home of Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church, where I am the community outreach minister under Pastor Anthony Jenkins, who extends his invitation of hospitality. He is very grateful to have you all here. So please find yourselves welcome at Taylor. And Pastor would also want me to let you know that services are tomorrow at 10.

David Brazil: So when we think about the sort of crisis that's going on in what someone told me are unhoused neighbors are dealing with, those of us in the Christian tradition think about the commandment that we have to love our neighbors as ourselves. And when Christ gives his teaching, somebody, a wiseacre, says, "Who's my neighbor?" And that's when Jesus tells the story about the good

Samaritan. So a neighbor is somebody who's been beaten up by robbers and left for dead. Right?

David Brazil: And we're living in a form of society where a lot of people have been beaten up by robbers and left for dead. They've been beaten up by the robbers of capitalism, they've been beaten up by the robbers of unchecked development, they've been beaten up by all kinds of robbers. (Applause)

David Brazil: [crosstalk] Get real about this crisis. But I'm not here to preach a sermon. That's again, at 10 a.m. tomorrow. But I have been asked to issue that welcome from Pastor Jenkins and also to share the liturgy of safety that we developed in some of my church [crosstalk] that I pastor.

David Brazil: So this is something that we do because I pastor a church in North Oakland, [inaudible] Fellowship, where we don't call the police. We have joined a national pledge, along with First Congregational Oakland and some other churches. We don't call the police and we're figuring out what it means to create community safety on policing.

David Brazil: And in order to do this we all have to take responsibility. No longer outsourcing our safety to the police but looking to our own communities to create safety. And the way we do this is by creating collective responsibility. So, in [inaudible 00:12:46], we have some basic ground rules, and then we ask people to create the safe space together.

David Brazil: So what I'll do is I'll share our ground rules with you... thank you. Thank you so much. And let this be a teaching for other spaces you can bring it. But I'll share some ground rules with you. And if you are able to assent to these, at the end I'll ask the whole audience to say in a call and response to me, I'll say, and you'll repeat back to me, "I will create a safe space." And so that way everybody in the room will have agreed that we can agree to these rules and we can create a safe space.

David Brazil: So, we say, to create a safe space, this is a sober space. We ask that if you are drunk or high right now, that you leave, because people are dealing with recovery issues. We ask that you don't shout. We ask that you don't fight. We ask that you don't use hate speech. And we ask that you don't call the police. (laughter)

David Brazil: So those are the ground rules that are creating collective safety for our communities. So if you can assent, I will say, "I will create a safe space." And you will all say back to me, "I will create a safe space."

David Brazil: So, I will create a safe space.

audience: I will create a safe space.

David Brazil: The space is safe. Thank you so much. (applause)

Regina Jackson: So again I ask you, if you would like to share, see Henry Gage, okay? And step to the podium. And our first speaker is Commissioner Ahmad.

Comm. Ahmad: Good evening everyone. Today I'm Commissioner Ahmad. But I want everybody in the audience to know who's homeless, I was homeless in 1977, 1981 and 1985. And at that time I had so much pride, even though I was homeless I just called it sleeping in my car. But I was homeless. So I don't want people to look at me as a commissioners. It's not being a commissioner for the people. I'll always be for the people. And I just wanted you guys to know, yeah, I'm clean and sober today, and serving on the commission. I'm a mechanic here in Oakland for 25 years at A.C. Transit. I'm a grandfather of eight, and I'm a father of six. So I just wanted you guys to know you won't get the snub from Commissioner Ahmad. (Applause)

Regina Jackson: Thank you, Commissioner Ahmad. As people are coming up, I don't have speaker cards, but I will be told the name and we'll do it one by one.

Regina Jackson: Welcome.

Michael Lee: Good afternoon, Commissioner. My name is Michael Lee. I am a former homeless individual. I'm also proud of the service as an advisor of the 77th Avenue Rangers. [inaudible]

Michael Lee: Rangers in the house? Rangers in the House...

Michael Lee: (adjusting microphone)

Michael Lee: I come here today to share a few things with you. The first thing I want to share with you is the reality of homelessness is that people are dying in the streets and it's illegal to save ourselves.

Michael Lee: There are numerous laws, specifically at state level 647(d), which basically makes it illegal for us to engage in any kind of quality of life survival[inaudible 00:16:57]. We have no place else to go except the streets, for a lot of different reasons, but mainly economic.

Michael Lee: The role of the OPD is one of denial. They continually tell us, "I'm only following orders; I'm just doing my job." History has taught us the bankrupt nature of that argument. OPD has the ability to simply say, "We can't do that. We don't have the resources. It's not our job."

Michael Lee: Because what is the job of the police? The job of the police is to ensure public safety. The job of the police is to prioritize whether they're going after bank robbers or chasing homeless people. They are deciding that their job is to chase homeless people. They are deciding, last Thursday and Friday and starting next

Tuesday, to continue to enforce a morally bankrupt policy that takes people out of their tents, people just trying to survive. They're kicking them out of their tents in the pouring rain and then turn around and take those tents and take those blankets from them. They're the ones that continually say, "It's my job."

Michael Lee: The second part of this is, and I'm... closing in. That homeless people, specifically the 77th Avenue Rangers, we seem to have a problem getting them to respond. Your concern is our concern. We don't want to be dealing with antisocial homeless, drug dealers, criminals, prostitution, because that's not what we're about. We're sitting on the sidewalk waiting for housing that we can afford. So your concerns are our concerns. We don't want those people around us. But when we do the right thing, as citizens of this country, that is our right, and as good citizens and in pursuit of our good neighbor policy, to report these things, OPD turns a blind eye because they say it's not their job, or somebody else's job.

Michael Lee: For instance, we had numerous abandoned vehicles on the street. Time and time again we call and say, "Please come to get these vehicles because it's creating a problem. We try to work with the business owners. We try to explain to them, we're trying as hard as we possibly can to get these vehicles off the streets and stop blocking them.

Michael Lee: When the fact of the matter is that two weeks ago we had a gun incident. Somebody brandishing a weapon, threatening people with it. And we could have done what we normally do and that's a little bit of street justice. We don't want to go through... on that because that creates other problems. The thing of it is that it took OPD 15 minutes to respond to a gun incident. If we would have been in Montclair, [inaudible] or up in the hills, it would have taken them 30 seconds to maybe two minutes. But because of the fact that we're homeless, unsheltered people, they decided it's not my job.

Michael Lee: Well, what is the job of the OPD? We're asking the city right now, right now, to work with us to improve our community so that we can all enjoy a quality of life. So that we can all eventually find housing that we can afford. Because unlike some people, the 77th Avenue Rangers, we are committed, absolutely committed, to stop living on the sidewalk. We don't want to be there from now until hell freezes over. We want housing that we can afford. But in the meantime, we are going to protect what we have, and the stability that we have, and the City of Oakland, and the City Council members here, that are here in attendance today, does not only respond to a reasonable request that we are making [inaudible] That we will defend ourselves by any means necessary. 77th Avenue Rangers in the house. (applause)

Regina Jackson: I have several speaker cards. I'm going to identify several people. If you could take their places at the podium. Alfred Frenswah. Walter Right. Followed by Derrick Soo. And then Esther Goldstein.

Alfred F.: Good afternoon everybody. First of all I want to say thank you for saying our house.

Regina Jackson: Thank you.

Alfred F.: I don't know what to ask because I've been in trouble a long time. I [crosstalk] So basically it goes back three or four years I go back. I want to say I appreciate the officers that entered my [inaudible] and my campsite or tent site and treated us and our site with respect. They did not enter any tent without first saying, "Hello, is anyone home? Is everything and everybody okay? All right?"

Alfred F.: They also warned us about [inaudible] relocation in the near future and everything, even though they knew the activities were in process, they came to inform, not enforce. All authority is granted to those that are [inaudible] feels that their service will be given in a way that [inaudible]

Alfred F.: However, [inaudible 00:23:21]. Thank you.

Regina Jackson: Thank you.

Derrick Soo: Good afternoon. Thank you, my name is Derrick Soo. I am the leader of the 77th Avenue Rangers. We are a self-organized group. We self govern ourselves. I have been in my location for five years. This is unheard of, and I have... before the recent issues, I hadn't had a complaint filed in four years in my camp. But, since the holidays, the police have pretty much left us on our own. So we've had a large influx of criminal element into our camp.

Derrick Soo: And I asked constantly for assistance from the division sergeant who comes down to talk to us every week. We're part of the sanctioned camps in Oakland. We are one of the large camps. We have 34 individuals in our community. But we're having an influx of criminals. We had a rapist that we had to deal with. And the police too half an hour to come down to respond to my 911 call at two in the morning.

Derrick Soo: Like Mike Lee said, we had an individual brandishing a gun in my camp just a few days ago. It took 15 minutes for a police officer to show up. We get stolen cars being stripped on our street. I call 911 and I'm lucky to get a response in 24 hours. I have pictures of this on my Facebook website of everything that I talk about.

Derrick Soo: These are things that the police need to help us with, because there's a lot of criminal elements that do a lot of harm to the homeless camps. Women and children are the most vulnerable. I, [inaudible] Camp, as far as I know, is the only one in Oakland that houses children and women.

Derrick Soo: Thank you for your time.

Esther G: My name is Esther Goldstein. I'm here to speak on a couple of things, and hopefully within those three minutes. I lost my housing to OPD's choices. I lost everything in the house that I lived in for 25 years at the time. I had to live in a hotel for nine months. I know what it feels not to have a home, but the difference was that I knew it was going to get fixed back up. And I knew that I was going to have a place to go.

Esther G: That is the only time that I experienced not having a home and understanding what it is to be unhoused and not have a roof and not knowing if you're going to shower and you can cook your own food. I know what it's like only for that short amount of time.

Esther G: What I see in the streets, what I pay attention to, when I drive by, when I walk by, I understand that every human used to be a child. They had a home, wholly, because I know children now don't. Something happened to them in their lifetime, where the human [inaudible] right now.

Esther G: We can all change this by loving all the humans that you see. You can change your children's future by the love that you can give to them. Right now I see so many young black men in their twenties. They're hustling. A lot of them have a record. They don't have a home. And I wonder, what happened? What happened to their childhood?

Esther G: It's so much trauma out here in the street we have to fight that only with love. If you have room, if you have anything extra, if you have a second pair of shoes, give. Give so more people don't need. Fight with love always. You see a child, you see a young adult, you see, especially black people, black lives, love them. Love them. Stop the trauma. Stop the cycle.

Esther G: I would [inaudible] everyone in this room and I find out I have to leave. But I wish and I hope I can watch you later, all the testimonies, all the passion. And hopefully the work that you all are going to do will change it. Because I did go through the CPRD then and I felt that injustice. It was 21 charges; absolutely nothing happened. Nothing happened. [inaudible] shot up in my house, only my pets were in there. Nothing happened.

Esther G: I love all of you.

Regina Jackson: The next speakers to come to the podium please, will be Jason William, Melvin Deal and Lodi [inaudible 00:29:57]. Forgive me if I mispronounced your names.

PART 1 OF 5 ENDS [00:30:04]

Regina Jackson: Stated your names.

Speaker 5: Yeah, [inaudible 00:30:05].

Speaker 5: Well, my experience was just like a bad experience, two weeks ago. I drive a truck and there was something wrong that was hitting on my dash board and I pulled over by 23rd and Foothill. I had my hazards on and everything and I was looking around to see what the noise was, I was wondering was it one of my air lines or whatnot. Just maybe a hot, what, barely ten minutes here comes some lights just rushing up to the back of the truck. I'm like, okay. So the officer was like hey, what are you doing? I'm like, I'm sorry, I'm checking my truck. I'm hearing something on my gauge saying there's something wrong with my truck, which I thought had an air leak.

Speaker 5: He was like, oh, well, this is your truck? This and that. And I'm like, yeah, I drive for this company. I'm like come on, it's obvious. So, he was like, do you have your license? I'm like, well, the license is in the cab of my truck. So, I said, if you don't mind, I will go ahead and get my license. I'm like, I have my work badge on me, obviously. I was like well, let me go walk into my truck, in the cab of my truck to go get my license. So, I go walking. You know the routine, they steady got the hand on the gun, as usual. Come on now. I slowly, I'm like, watch my hand, officer! I'm going to go above my dashboard and I'm going to get my license. Watch me! Watch!

Speaker 5: So I just hand it over there, like, okay, okay. I'm like, here. And then he's like, well what's going on? I'm like, I just told you, bro, I'm broke down right here, I just want to make sure that I have some brakes before I turn in this truck. So he's like, oh. So he ran my license and everything.

Speaker 5: Uh, well, I just wanted to make sure, because we got a call.

Speaker 5: How'd you get a call so quick? I'd been there for like ten minutes! I bet it was ten minutes by Garfield Elementary, and you got a call like somebody's vandalizing the truck? I'm like... really? Yeah, so, anyway... I just thought that was a bad experience. I mean, do you see that I have my work badge on me that says I work for the company that the company logo is on the truck? It's like, I'm just done with it. I mean, I don't know if I lost respect for the law or whatnot, but it was just... I don't know.

Speaker 5: Other than that, I'm done with it.

Regina Jackson: Thank you, sir.

Melvin: Hello everybody, my name is Melvin [inaudible 00:32:56]. I'm a 58 year old black man that's living in Oakland. I'm not a criminal or anything like that, but today, I have a police record, because I'm homeless. I have nowhere to go or anything like that, but I had some marijuana on me. Marijuana is legal, but OPD took me to jail, not once, but twice for possession of marijuana. I don't have money, I get SSI. My girlfriend had to really put that money up to bail me out of jail, so I can keep hustling and doing what I'm doing so I can eat, so we can eat. It's just a shame that, you know, I can't just do what's right out there with the OPD just

coming to mess with me. I'm not doing anything. Like I said, I'm not a criminal! I'm 58 years old. It took all this time for me to go to jail for some marijuana? To get a record?[crosstalk 00:33:53]

Speaker 6: Mm-hmm (affirmative).That's not right.

Melvin: That's not right.

Regina Jackson: Next up is Lowdai from the organization HAWG. After that, Victoria Bell and Veronica Alexander and then... Darby Butler?

Speaker 7: Yeah!

Regina Jackson: And...

Lorelai: Did you mean Lorelei when you said Lowdai?

Speaker 8: Would that be Lorelei?

Regina Jackson: Oh, my apologies!

Lorelai: That's okay!

Regina Jackson: Yes, it looks [crosstalk 00:34:33]like a "d", my apologies. Lorelei from the organization HAWG. Thank you.

Lorelai: Hi there, sorry!

Regina Jackson: No problem.

Lorelai: Messy handwriting.

Regina Jackson: My apologies.

Lorelai: So, my name is Lorelei and I work with HAWG- Homeless Advocacy Working Group.

Speaker 8: Louder.

Speaker 9: Get closer to the mic.

Lorelai: My name is Lorelei. Is that better?

Speaker 8: Yeah.

Speaker 9: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Lorelai: With Homeless Advocacy Working Group. I just want to point out my boots today. I especially did not clean them for you so you can actually see that for the past two days I have been going to Lake Merritt Park because there was an eviction over at the city hall closure, of what they were saying 12 residents around Lake Merritt, which we calculated to be well more than 50.

Speaker 9: Mm.

Lorelai: We were moving people and helping them in the rain, pouring rain, on Thursday. Fortunately, yesterday, it was only sprinkles. We were sliding through the mud, moving people on Thursday. So, the whole thing about the city's trying to do this fine line between the Martin vs. Boise litigation from the Ninth Circuit Court saying that as long as they have somewhere for them to go, then it's legal for them to move them.

Lorelai: The thing is [inaudible] just going to say Irvine, there is never enough spaces. And what spaces they do have are, basically, shelter beds for one evening. So, you have to gather all of your possessions to enter the shelter bed, have it for one night, and then you can't take your pets or anything else with you and then at 7:00 am the next morning, you're out on the street with nothing but your possessions. That is not an option. Unless there is stable, secure housing...

Lorelai: And the Tuff Sheds, the biggest thing about the Tuff Sheds is that people don't want to take it, because they were worried. They don't know who the person is, what's going to happen, am I going to get raped? Or they just have someone who talks in their sleep or doesn't sleep the whole night, and that's really stressful. The whole thing about the police eviction is not [inaudible] barred for the city administration, because they are using the police to make an eviction. They [inaudible] they're not as rough, they're not like arresting people as much, but the thing is that they are being used as a tool.

Speaker 9: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Lorelai: For the administration, to evict people because they are inconvenient. What was interesting about Thursday is that the city administrator who came to the eviction was like, oh I saw the thing that you wrote to the Obama Foundation that we were evicting people for Obama coming to town, that's totally not true. I didn't even know he was coming to town! It's like, how did you not know that Obama was coming to town for a conference? You're a city administrator, so now I know you're lying to me!

Lorelai: So, of course we are evicting people at Lake Merritt for Obama and Steph Curry, because they want to make it look nicer. This meeting is about just making sure that there is decriminalization of homeless people in Oakland, and making sure they're not used as a tool, because every time I go to an eviction, I can show you videos of how many victims I've been to where there are eight to ten cops, standing around, not doing anything except being an intimidating force for the

[inaudible] maybe 25 feet. Sometimes I just have to move them from one section to another 25 feet and that's a \$50,000-\$75,000 each eviction.

Speaker 9: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Speaker 14: Shoot!

Regina Jackson: Time's up! Thank you.

Lorelai: Thank you very much.

Regina Jackson: Before the next person comes up to speak, I'd like to request that we don't take pictures at the back mic, and if you want to testify at registration, please go to the mic. So, we have Victoria Bell next.

Speaker 9: Your mic is on.

Regina Jackson: Followed by, I'm sorry Victoria Bell next, followed by Veronica Alexander and then Darby Butler.

Victoria Bell: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Victoria Bell and I would like to discuss... I was a former homeless person, as well, but I did my homelessness in Berkeley, but I've been on my own for 13 years, and my second year in housing. But I've noticed since I came back to West Oakland from East Oakland, that I've been arrested two times since I moved in November. They were really, like, misdemeanors, false accusations and allegations. Then, while I was in jail, somebody made a false accusation that I wanted to kill them and that they know that I have a gun. I have never had a gun in my possession in my whole life.

Victoria Bell: I was raised up in a non-violent home, went to a school that always spoke about non-violent and staying away from guns, you know? I am really like a community based type of person and it's just like, I've been in jail in three months for 2 false accusations. Even while I was in jail. The police are at my housing unit with helicopters and police on both sides shouting my name. Everybody in the Bay area knows Victoria, so that's just like embarrassing.

Victoria Bell: And for one, police officers are at a phone call, like did you see them? Or like questions and no, I'm already in jail, you went with a lie. I mean, I am embarrassed. I've already been embarrassed by a lot of things at home, you know? It's just like, every time I call them, the way the officers treat me, they treat me like I'm a little girl or that mental illness, because I don't like to state this, but the housing and the police officers know that I have a mental illness, right? So, they intimidate me and think that I don't know my rights.

Victoria Bell: I am very educated. Just because I have a mental illness, doesn't mean that I don't know my rights or that I don't know what's going on. They try to belittle

me and I tell them that, hey, like, I need my locks changed, because I might be kind to a friend or family member and they may spend the night at my house and do hospitality. And they might run off with something of mine, like really like a key or something. And I tell them, no, can you give me the key or can you talk to them and they tell me to go back in the house, but I'm the one that called the police. I'm the resident here! They're talking to the person that I called on!

Victoria Bell: I never got my key, my doors are unlocked. I'm scared to go to housing because they treat me bad and they call the police on me, too, every time I need help. And I tell them, I'm a woman that takes medication every night, that I have to go to sleep, I live here alone, that I don't feel safe. They tell me that I can't call housing at this time. I know my rights, 24 hour, that's an emergency call. You are supposed to change my locks. I don't care if I have [inaudible] you guys are to change my locks.

Victoria Bell: They just walk off nonchalantly. This last time, a week ago, before I went to jail, I asked them for my police report, they wouldn't give me a police report. I had to call an emergency line to have them send out another officer so that I can get my locks changed, because I don't even have a phone anymore. I'm just disgusted with the Oakland police. I never really felt this way until recently, four months ago, this November. Like how the officers are even operating themselves. There's no justice, no safety, no equality, no nothing. You know? It's really sad. Thank you for your time.

Regina Jackson: So, after, let's see... Veronica Alexander, Darby Butler, random...

Speaker 6: Random citizen.

Regina Jackson: Oh, random citizen, sorry. Aka Mavin Carter Griffin? Okay, thank you.

Speaker 8: Yep.

Veronica Alexan: Hi everybody, my name is Veronica Alexander and I am also a formless youth. I grew up in foster care system here in Oakland. I aged out at 18. I tried to get every resource that was available at the time, but I realized that everything was lottery based. I am now housed and have been house for eight years, but it took eight years and I'm 33 years old and when you do the math, you see when I got housed.

Veronica Alexan: The reason that I feel that people aren't getting the services that they need is because we've already heard from other people's testimonies. Just because you get housing doesn't mean that the problem changes. You have to deal with discrimination from the police. You have to deal with discrimination from the people who work at these social service agencies, mental health agencies, as well. And this is the main reason why people would rather be in tents or to themselves versus going and getting services. I live on 14th avenue, and I'm actually getting ready to transition out of Oakland, not by choice.

Veronica Alexan: There is a growing homelessness encampment that started happening. I went to the city council many of times, I spoke with city council representatives, I used the 311 app, because the legal [inaudible] has been an issue since I lived there in December of 2011. What I'm noticing now with the growing homeless encampment, two things I saw recently. One, I see public works, about a month and a half ago, remove a lot of the belongings from the homeless encampment that was on [inaudible] street. That's the main intersection for Highland, over to 14th street on the back side. They really dumped peoples' belongings over there, moved them around the corner.

Veronica Alexan: I have went to the city council about that and nothing seems to be done. I have neighbors, because also, I get that police do do good things. I have not seen that what other people have experienced with police with the homeless camp that's near me, but I have seen neighbors who get on Next Door are literally talking amongst each other and come up with things to call the police to these homeless[inaudible 00:44:32] because honestly, they want these people gone. Just not in my neighborhood. What I feel that police are using being used as a tool here because I really feel that the heat needs to be turned up on a lot of these organizations that are supposedly out here helping people.

Speaker 10: Right!

Veronica Alexan: These social service agencies that are getting funding from the federal government, counting all these homeless people, but yet, we still have an issue. There is only 36 beds in Alameda county for shelters in the whole county, and that's not just with Oakland. I mean, Alameda county extends all the way to Fremont, all the way to Berkeley. So, there is an issue here. For a long time, I felt like the city of Oakland, the city council, and a lot of the administrators have long pushed the issue while collecting money on people's behalf.

Veronica Alexan: [inaudible] to this house, what's really going on with the city officials and all of these politicians, because you know, when it's election time, they wanna talk that good game, but then once they get into the office, they don't have too much to say. I would also like to see OPD's officers trained better with mental health and dealing with people who have mental health issues.

Veronica Alexan: I would also like to see funding going back into homeless outreach stabilization teams, because that's one of the ways I did get off the streets. Thank you.

Regina Jackson: Okay, so... Um, Mavin Carter Griffin, please? Followed by K.P. and then [inaudible]

Megan Carter Gr: Hi, I'm Mavin Carter Griffin, I'm the founder of the Wood Street Collective. There are about 75-100 people living on Wood Street between 18th street and 28th street. Over the past 5 years, I was living there and living in a couple of other spots, but mostly there. Just me and 12 other people in a tiny gray [inaudible] houses to a couple of tents and then everybody seems to be filtering

down, filtering down, and soon [inaudible] all filled up, like almost overnight with all of these RVs. What I want to speak on is police response time, if we do feel like calling them, because to tell you the truth, we're all pretty much grown up in our areas, so we don't really have too many issues that I've found. [inaudible]

Megan Carter Gr: The police have, you know, been called [inaudible] the places I've lived, been housed, or living inside of in the curb-sided community. Oakland is my choice, and the reason for that is we are sort of left alone and we can thrive better. Everybody kind of takes care of each other, but there's people there to exploit us and sometimes cops really just drive by. You know? They go in, drive by, drive by, it's like, you don't really want to deal with them and t[inaudible 00:47:42]

Megan Carter Gr: I don't really have anything to say much about OPD. I've had a lot of things happen to me in Oakland, but I would choose Oakland over anywhere else to live based on the community and the strength of the people and the resilience of the people and the fact that we solve our own issues. We don't need to be policed. We don't need to be parented as homeless people. We aren't even homeless, home is Oakland. We're just architecturally challenged. You know?

Megan Carter Gr: My architecture isn't the same as your architecture, but it doesn't make it against the law. So far, we haven't really seen any action against us in that way. [inaudible] county they're only too happy to run you for endless warrant search, throw you in jail three or four days, take you on a magic tour. I've been arrested on time in Oakland, and that's for having the mouth that I have. I feel privilege to be able to have that mouth. I've got a clean record. My father was an attorney for people's [inaudible] back in the 60s and 70s. So, thank you! I [inaudible] a little and I'm very grateful and very pleased to be accepted in Oakland as much as I have been. I've learned a lot and I just think that to be living on the curb, it's not illegal. An ordinance does not supersede the supreme court and the bill of rights and the constitution of the United States of America, which says this land is your land and my land made for you and me.

Speaker 7: That's right!

Megan Carter Gr: So, we get to live where we want to live to pursue happiness. Basically, if I'm not messing with you, you're not messing with me, then we're okay and we can make money the way we want to make money as long as we're not messing with each other making that money. That's what America is supposed to be about, everyone is supposed to rise. I was arrested on 245, that's assault with a deadly weapon. My deadly weapon was a pair of booty shorts.

Megan Carter Gr: I was sorting out our trash pile trying to break it down into recycle, and I had some other person come up and offer me money for sex and I'm not a prostitute. I found that to be a great insult, not that there's anything wrong, I suppose with some of my fellow people doing what they do to make money, but that's not my thing right now. That's not me. I disagree with this person and

then one of my brothers stepped up for me and told this person to get out. This person was demonstrative and so he got demonstrative, too, and they had an altercation in which [inaudible] got broken.

Megan Carter Gr: I wasn't the one, but three or four weeks later, I found police harassing somebody in front of my house. I put my head outside of my shack and I'm arrested instantly and not told why I'm arrested and I was taken in for a five day tour of Santa Rita, as if that's gonna be a problem. I spend a very luxurious five days, getting my hair braided, and eating gray food, and forgetting my [inaudible] and not wearing the right color shirt and no one gave me any hassle, and it didn't bother me. I was released and everyone was like, oh you gained weight! And oh, how was your tour?

Megan Carter Gr: Look, as a free person, I have to stand up for my rights every day and there's gonna be cause to challenge that. They're going to want me to sit down and know my place. They're going to talk to me like I'm stupid. They want to sit there and push their agenda on people that don't understand that they have rights in certain ways and where that boundary is and I'm going to one that's going to speak for that. So I just want to say thank you.

Megan Carter Gr: I have a funny story to tell that's not going to happen in the next two seconds, so God bless you all and thank you for having me in Oakland.

Regina Jackson: Thank you.

Regina Jackson: I have K.D., Bryan from Rory, and then that's [inaudible 00:51:09].

K.P.: Hello, everyone. My name is K.P. I want to speak for the younger demographic of unhoused people. I know that my peers have tended, over the last decade or so, to be unhoused more often than not in my community. I, personally, have been in and out of a stable home since I was 11 and homeless my last two years of high school.

K.P.: I'm now a first year college student at the University of California, Riverside.

K.P.: Thank you.

K.P.: When I do come back to Oakland, like I am right now for the three day weekend, I still do not have a place to go. I believe when it comes to dealing with any person, not just young people, it's about how you approach them. It's about whether or not you approach them as a human being or somebody who is automatically perceived to be a criminal or somebody in danger, or somebody of suspect.

K.P.: I think it's a general human kindness thing that the innocence until guilty thing is real. That's something that every person should have the right to and not

automatically be perceived as somebody who has done wrong, or somebody who has any time of ill intent.

K.P.: At the end of the day, these are not unhoused people. These are not homeless people. These are people. They're human beings.

Speaker 7: Amen!

K.P.: Who deserve to be treated better.

K.P.: I believe if you treat anybody, especially in Oakland, if you treat anybody ill advised, then they will react accordingly. Then the interactions don't go as well as you would have liked them to. It's just a matter of... I personally believe that when the police approach people they should come looking to inform, [crosstalk] not enforce them.

Speaker 7: Yes sir, yes sir!

Megan Carter Gr: Yep! Yep! Advise.

K.P.: I think that a lot of the times they come and they tell you what not to do, but they don't have any access to resources or things to do correctly, or where to go. They just tell you what not to do or where not to be at, and that's not very helpful for the people who are finding themselves in these predicaments. I just think in terms of the approach to people and the resources that the police are given and the kind of conduct that they are set to abide when approaching people who are unhoused, needs to be changed. Thank you.

Regina Jackson: Thank you.

Regina Jackson: Hmm. So, Brian [inaudible] then next Wendy, then [inaudible 00:53:56].

Brian: Hi, I'm Brian. I wasn't planning on speaking today, but it seemed appropriate. I wanted to ask, I have a great deal of respect for this commission and I'm so glad that this is happening. I find myself listening to these statements, these heartbreaking statements from everyone and being a little worried because I love that we have a police commission, but everything I've heard about it has led me to believe that the city does not support a police commission in all the best ways and that the authority may have been stricken a little bit.

Brian: I'm listening to all of these stories, and I think about your mandate and I think about how much you have the ability to influence or do about these things and so it's sad to me to listen to this, to listen to all of these stories and think that this information is being collected to a body that may not have the ability to do anything about it. I don't know. I guess my question is, how much of this can you do something about and everything I've heard is that the resources are extremely limited and I've heard a lot of bad stories and I thought it would be

nice if we could hear some victory stories from this commission, which I am hoping, I would assume you have access to those stories. I would love to know how much of this you've actually helped with and also if there are also wins in the history, because it would be nice to know.

Regina Jackson: I want to say that we are stronger than we look and that you've heard. We're in our second year, and we are actually provide a homeless policy. The policy space is our sweet spot, so we're just getting up and running in that space. I have every hope that we're going to come up with an outstanding policy that will change things.

Brian: And do you have tools to enforce that? Or just recommended policy?

Regina Jackson: No, no, no. We have some tools for having worked with OPD, but we also recognize that there is a necessary culture shift and so engagement is very important. We're going to have our commissioner [inaudible] add to that.

Speaker 11: Oh boy.

Speaker 12: All right, can everyone hear me? Good afternoon.

Speaker 13: [inaudible]

Speaker 13: [inaudible]

Speaker 10: Yes!

Speaker 9: Woo!

Speaker 13: Well, [inaudible]

Regina Jackson: It is.

Speaker 13: Would it be okay if I answered his question? I'm happy to defer to you, if you'd like.

Speaker 13: Okay.

Speaker 12: I'd just like to answer...

Speaker 13: [crosstalk 00:56:49][inaudible 00:56:49]

Speaker 12: All right, thank you for the question. I think it's a very important question.

K.P.: Closer.

Speaker 12: I think it's a very important question to ask. This body, the police commission.  
[crosstalk]

Speaker 10: Louder!

Megan Carter Gr: Louder!

Speaker 9: Right into the mic.

Speaker 12: In our [inaudible] capacity, we [inaudible] get to deal with, specifically, policies and procedures [crosstalk]

Speaker 10: Louder!

Speaker 12: We weigh in on those procedures and policies and not only do we give recommendations, but I want to give you a success story since you asked for one.

Speaker 12: We get to go to the city council, and we actually fought the police department on recommendations for policies that we felt didn't go[inaudible 00:57:29].

Speaker 12: So recently, we fought the police department on a new policy for the use of parole and probation searches. As many of you may know, local district attorneys offices evoked a search clause as part of a independent probationary period. That means that they can come in and, for any purpose, without probably cause, they can search your person, your [inaudible] on your phone, all these things. The OPD came up with a policy in which they were going to use and implement those probationary and parole searches.

Speaker 12: This body felt that policy did not go far enough. Therefore, we came up with our own draft of that policy and we submitted an alternative policy to the city council. The city council would not accept OPD's and would not accept our policy, so we blocked them. We blocked OPD from implementing this policy. That came back to us to sit down and work out with OPD what a new policy was going to be. I'm happy to say that we are currently, still, in negotiations with them but just as recently as this week, my co-commissioners and I met with OPD, got several concessions from them on their policy. They adopted categories of stops, like traffic stops where, we'll see in the final working where probationary searches, search clause would not be implemented.

Speaker 7: Amen.

Speaker 12: So you asked for a success story, that's our success story. We were able to get OPD to expand the policy and make it more community friends, more friendly to the affected community as we saw it. Look, the homelessness issue is a new issue for us. OPD has presented to us, and has basically said at this point, the policy's evolving and working with the city as a task force there's a lot going on

in that vain. We're collecting, through this process, information. I think the testimonies are very important to us in terms of how we take that information and then how we as an oversight body over OPD, then dictate to OPD how they are to involve themselves in this task force, how they carry out their policies. Rest assured, if we do not agree with OPD and...

PART 2 OF 5 ENDS [01:00:04]

Speaker 15: Assured, if we do not agree with OPD and their implementation of a policy, vis a vie the homeless, we will again take it to the city council. We will again attempt to block their implementation of a policy and we will attempt to get our version of the policy adopted. Again, a success story and the teeth that we have in this vein, we will see from here on out.

Speaker 15: There is an immense amount of pressure I think on this group to come up with the right answer but the one thing I can say is that we fully appreciate thus far and we expect more testimonials. Everyone's words today are important; everyone's providing evidence for us to take to the chief, to take to the mayor, to take to the city council.

Speaker 15: Look, there's not a member of OPD here today. We are here to gather this information and then tell OPD what we heard, what we saw and to have them write that into policy or at least in the way they work with the task force. So I hope that answers your question, I thank you for asking it.

Regina Jackson: Thank you so much, Mr. Riley for waiting. Yes, you're up now.

Mr. Riley: [inaudible] very much. Matter of fact, thank Taylor Church, Pastor John for your hospitality.

Regina Jackson: [inaudible]

Mr. Riley: No, okay. Pastor John's not here, right? Pastor Jenkins, I'm sorry.

Mr. Riley: I'm militant, I'm going to tell you right off the bat. I'm a very militant guy. I'm 70 years old, guess what? I was around with the Panthers, I knew Huey Newton and Bobby Seale and all of them, okay? So my thing is this: homelessness is political. First of all, all right? I ain't going nowhere [inaudible]

Regina Jackson: Get closer to the mic.

Mr. Riley: Everybody sitting at that table, who pays your money? Do you get money for doing anything for homeless people? Anybody up here get any kind of grant or anything [inaudible] homeless people?

Speaker 16: No.

Mr. Riley: No? Let's do that and then let's share with the homeless people. See, that's what's happening. We don't do that. Missions, shelters, give them money! For every homeless people they house. But guess what? They don't share it with us, they just house us. What happens if you go, "Well I'm a mission and I've got \$3,000 a month for everybody that I'm housing and I've got 30 people. Now, I'm going to share it with you, I'll split it with you \$1500 to you, get a place. Now you can afford it."

Mr. Riley: I'm a militant I could say. It's happening. St. Vincent Du Paul, Salvation Army. Salvation Army is one of the biggest homeless helpers there is. But guess what? Guess where the money goes? In their pockets. Anybody talks about homelessness, you can be brainless or homeless. Brainless is when you don't see where the money is and you go, "I'm homeless, help me!" No, say, "I'm homeless, I want some of that money." That's what you gotta start doing, that's what I'm doing right now. And I'm keeping it all. I'm telling everybody who wants to join the real coalition which is Black Lives Matter, no everybody's lives matter.

Mr. Riley: Let's get some money together. You see those people, they're making the money, BATS and all that, Salvation Army. Go up there and say, "Can I get some money too?" Say, "I didn't think I had [inaudible] he was talking about money." He said, "Y'all got money for this. For the homeless people. Can I get some?" They're going to say no. But if we keep banging on that wall, we're not banging on police. Because guess what? The police, may be okay on certain levels. As a matter of fact, that's one of the things too, do we have any policemen here? Is anybody representing the police here?

Female Voice: No.

Mr. Riley: Two sides to every story, we need them too. Can somebody tell these people [inaudible] They go, "Stop all in the street!" Nothing wrong with that. What I'm saying is there are two sides to every story. All right? So next time we have a meeting, can you please have somebody who can say, "Yeah I'm a policeman and I'm doing this because of this." No, no, I'm not looking for applause. Because when you're down and out, because I've got some friends they can't even walk straight.

Mr. Riley: Now, we get into the real story. I'm not going to be here too much longer but I do have a couple things I'd like to say.

Regina Jackson: Okay, thank you sir.

Mr. Riley: Okay. 5150, Alameda has the biggest count ... Does anybody else know what 5150 is?

Male Voice: Mental health.

Mr. Riley: Alameda has the biggest count in the nation of 5150s. Demographics are very important. Nobody said that tonight so I'm going to say that word: demographics. Okay? Look into demographics. You guys want to be important, you want to do something, you want to help yourself? Go demograph. Because how many people [inaudible] were the poor people here? You look at the math on the demographs, how do I read this? Jesus Christ, it's red. How homelessness ... Doden, [inaudible] they ain't got no people out there. No people homeless. You really want to do something? Ride BART and you will see all the tents. But that's not important where the tents are, what's important is what we're going to do about it. This is what this meeting's all about, a coalition not ... Help me, but I'm tired of this.

Regina Jackson: Thank you Mr. Riley.

Mr. Riley: No I got a couple more ...

Regina Jackson: Okay, can you [crosstalk] About one more minute?

Mr. Riley: Okay. Real quick. This will be 30 seconds. There's good news and bad news, that was the bad news okay? I'm here to add some good news, but let's not forget about police. Because they're humans too. And to err is human. So everybody's bashing them, and I can ... I hate policemen. I mean, if you're a policeman, get out of my face but at the same time, to err is human. That's all I'm saying, on that level. And one more thing and I will finish. You need to hear this. Why is the queen X through Z? Thank you.

Regina Jackson: Kathy Leonard is up next. Rotilia Louis Scoval and then Jonathan Rapp.

Kathy Leonard: Hi my name is Kathy Leonard [inaudible] and I'm here to speak about what I have witnessed at [inaudible] on MLK, right off of West Grant Avenue. So this entire summer I collected donations from my neighbors and delivered them to our homeless neighbors all over Oakland. But I saw day after day police vans stationed at the MLK location right next to Grant Avenue. They would just be sitting in their vans looking at people. Looking at the people who lived in tents. So a couple of times I approached them and said, "Is there a problem?" I identified myself as an Oaklander and as a member of the community police advisory board. They said, "We're just here seeing what's going on." So I shared with them that it is probably uncomfortable for our unhoused residents to be watched by Oakland Police Department.

Male Voice: Intimidated!

Kathy Leonard: And I felt very strongly about that. And every time I saw the police posted there, and that was a lot of times because I was going by there everyday all summer long, I would approach them and say the same thing. This is an uncomfortable situation. People don't like to be stared at, to be watched when they're at the

lowest point in their lives. Thanks to the City of Oakland, and we won't get into why that is.

Kathy Leonard: So that's why I would like to share that I felt uncomfortable seeing them there myself. People are trying to go about their lives and they don't want to be stopped by the Oakland Police Department. Thank you very much.

Regina Jackson: Next up is Rotilia Lemill Scoval and then Jonathan Rapp.

Rotilia: My journey -

Male Voice: Can't hear you.

Regina Jackson: Into the mic. Thank you.

Rotilia: My journey with this started five months after I came back two years ago. I worked at William [inaudible] Company in the financial center, that is no longer there. It's a gaping hole. Maybe three days after I became homeless, lost my children in a very botched court case where our system is breaking down. Where you can pretty much do anything you want to if you have enough money.

Rotilia: Three days after I got here, I'm walking around 14th and Jefferson and instantly every thought that I'm thinking is being relayed over your loudspeakers. The Oakland Recreation loudspeakers. When it first happened it was very alarming. I didn't understand it. I mean literally everything I was thinking, 'I have to go to the bathroom.' I can hear myself saying, "I have to go to the bathroom." I mean technology is fierce, but if I have no temporal privacy, I have no civil liberties. I have no civil rights.

Rotilia: [inaudible] as far as housing. I've been living on the street for two years. I have been [inaudible] go back to the police department, there was no investigation. They've tried to kill me in many different ways: poisoning ... as many ways as I can think of. I took this in stride, because there's nothing I can do about it because my mindspace is still on your loudspeaker. I can still go out there and hear myself thinking. It's not right. I don't know what you need to do to have it turned off, what you need to do [inaudible] But it needs to stop. Okay?

Rotilia: [inaudible] I'm dealing with just about every Fortune 500 company in its existence. They are beta testing everything they possibly can on my little being. I am one person. I can only handle so much. Okay? And the positive of this, we came up with maybe twenty different scenarios in how do we build Oakland? How to create a standard for Oakland where there is no poor and there is no poverty. I personally created a charity to spearhead this city being the standard, the example. So that we can spread. For two years I've been begging the person who said that he bought all this property, to please give me money for my

charity. Please give me the resources that I need, so we can get these people off the street.

Rotilia: I've been begging for buses, I've been begging, pleading, crying, screaming over your loudspeakers for assistance. From the city. From him. From the president. I have sent so many Twitters to the president with documentation. With your Oakland Mets. Your Oakland Rising. Your East Bay Rising. Do you know how confusing that is? When you are not a local and you're not from here and you're looking at maps and you have no idea where you are?

Rotilia: And then to top it off, when I came ... We're seeing the sets. I get the report, I go to John Dorch. John Dorch is not even a viable mental institution. It's just a bunch of people, hordes of people laying all over the floor, beaten, taking medication that they don't even remotely know what it is. I know this because I went and 90% of them came from the 14th and Jefferson area. Not only are they allowing my consciousness to be relayed over your loudspeaker but they're beaming information into people's heads, causing them to become violent and to beat each other. You have people dying over there. There's no police representation when I came, there was none. There are people, actors, in your uniforms. Yours! Done in your cars, that are supposed to protect us and then not even mean it.

Rotilia: I went to Kaiser. It was a set. A movie set. I went to Sinai, it was a set. It was a year before it was a real facility that we were being sent to and we were getting real medication. It was a year before I saw John George in Hayward. The John George I was in, it was by 580. They had makeshift building into John George. It was full. These people that have suffered are still sitting over there in Savoy and the [inaudible] I saw a Douglas parking lot employee take a woman this big, throw her in her car and beat her within an inch of her life. It took two people to drag this man off. It was because she called him weird.

Regina Jackson: Ma'am, I'm sorry we have to ask you to wrap up. But there are other opportunities [inaudible]

Rotilia: Okay well I'm going to have to ask you to please write in assistance in getting a federal prosecutor. Okay? And witness protection because my life is in danger. They have been trying to kill me. Over this money. Money that's already there. Nobody in Oakland should be on the street because the money's already available. When are we going to get them off the street? When are the buses going to get out there? I know that money's there. [inaudible]

Rotilia: There's my personal money. Settlements from Kaiser, settlements from [inaudible] because they know what they did to me. They know exactly what they did and you got on record. Audio and video because you have cameras everywhere. I been all over the city. Why? Because they made me walk the whole city. Every line I walked was supposed to be area that I was in charge of as far as the main concern that there was nobody on the street. To start.

Regina Jackson: Thank you.

Male Voice: We hear you. We hear you.

Regina Jackson: Thank you so much.

Male Voice: God bless you sister.

Regina Jackson: Jonathan Rapp? Next Lily Kelly, Layette Simmon, and then Anita de Asis Morale. Again, forgive me if I am not pronouncing your name correctly.

Jonathan: Thank you very much. Hi everybody, good morning. Basically I am here today because I live in the city [inaudible]

Regina Jackson: Excuse me, we can't quite hear. Can we keep the background noise down? Thank you.

Jonathan: So basically, I work at Western Regional Advocacy Project. I don't know if you guys have heard of it ... basically since early 2010, we've been doing community outreach to the homeless community. Initially we had a free housing initiative, contacting the community that were self-identified mentally ill. We just wanted to understand why they need the rations [inaudible] The story that the outreach came back to us, the results, we have over 1700 [inaudible] across the country. We are based in California but we have members in Colorado and Oregon and other places across the country.

Jonathan: Basically, what we found out through that community outreach of the homeless people, what is their interactions with police. They tell us the story that 82% of them were harassed for sleeping, 50 of those were actually cited and 31 of them ended up arrested. This is for sleeping. Then we ask them about, 77% of them were harassed for seating, for laying down on the sidewalk. As you all know, speaking about policy [inaudible] The great supreme whatever the city's ... to manage homelessness unfortunately. And then we asked them, 75% of these people were harassed for loitering, 53% of them were actually cited, 26% were actually arrested. For the heinous crime of loitering. [inaudible]

Jonathan: We found these results and we want somebody that actually can help us and can tell us, prove me wrong. I want to be honest with the community. We don't want to be become famous like the other gentleman was saying. We don't want to [inaudible] So then we asked Berkeley University, they have a law clinic. Have you guys heard? We basically through our research, we asked to [inaudible] They produced the new report called the California New Privacy Laws that basically, the city of Oakland has orderliness restrictions as they call it for standing, sitting, or resting. Or then for sleeping, camping or logging. For begging or panhandling, given this bundle of 19 restrictions and actually 14 laws. This is just to control extreme poverty and homeless people.

Jonathan: Talking about laws, [inaudible] If you guys want to find out what I'm talking about, copies of the reports. What do we do with this information to make sure that the homeless community that were just stopped and actually find some justice? The only thing that we can [inaudible] bill of rights in California that was introduced by Paul Macchiato. Some of you might have heard about the right to rest and have to change [inaudible] You yourselves are going to find that if you want to have adequate operations between the police and the homeless people. How do you know these restrictions aren't going to put you guys in a course of collision? And the only way that ... the city needs to understand that police departments, laws, ordinances are not designed to house people. That's not the goal on society. [inaudible] That's the job, clearly that's not the story so please I would recommend you guys please recommend the police department to leave people the fuck alone. [inaudible] It saves money not to kidnap its people. Thank you very much [inaudible]

Regina Jackson: Thank you. Can you leave the papers up [inaudible] Thank you so much. Right in the front. Right here in the front. Thank you.

Regina Jackson: So I, one, want to acknowledge that council member Lynette McElhaney has joined us from District 3.

Regina Jackson: All right, so we have Lily Kelly next, Lyette Simmon, Anita [inaudible] and [inaudible] last.

Lily: Hi, I'm Lily. I work for a local safety net clinic. I've been volunteering with the village a bit and my background is in public administration. I also have a question for the panel, or I guess two questions. One of which is, given how incredibly important everyone here is and how important their stories are, what are you currently planning to do going forward to make sure to capture not only the stories of the people who had the bandwidth and fortitude to come to a town hall meeting but all the folks who are not in this room who are also affected by the police and in particular unsheltered folks who are affected by the police?

Lily: And then my second question is how are you making sure that that process is trauma-informed? Since trying to gather survey information, gathering information in general, feedback for public services is already a challenge but in particular you're dealing with folks who have already gone through a lot of trauma. So that needs to be a specific process that needs to have different considerations than what is normally used. So those are my two questions.

Regina Jackson: So let me try to answer them. First, we mentioned at the beginning of the meeting that we are going to be issuing a hearing report after we comb through all the rich stories, both video taped and audio taped. Then what we're doing is inspecting that that hearing report to inform the foundation of our recommendations for the homeless policy. I do want to say that in my day job as president of the [inaudible] development center, we are a trauma-informed

care agency and so I have some insights to hopefully be able to provide the undergrid around the policy recommendations that will be inclusive of that. That will recognize how traumatized people are, how triggered, they're suffering from many different challenges. In order to really share the kind of care that's going to help them move forward, then it must be [inaudible]

Lily: So how's that affecting your data gathering? And that's more my question, less about the policy and more about even after the policy is written, how are you going to continue to get these stories? Not just from town hall meetings but other trauma-informed processes.

Regina Jackson: I am not sure that we've thought that far out. This is our first forum. We recognize that it was very important to do it on the unhoused and again with the support of the coalition, that has allowed us to get here. I think, I don't want to say baby steps but we do have to take it slow, cautiously and carefully and then hopefully build upon it. Does anyone else want to answer that?

Speaker 17: I was just quickly going to say, I mean this is an opportunity for you to share insights and thoughts that you might have in terms of recommendations because this is actually for you to give us your best ideas so if you wanted to move some of those forward [inaudible]

Lily: Let me get back to you.

Regina Jackson: Thank you very much. Okay my staff is still large. Lyette Simmon, Anita de Asis [inaudible] Are you Anita?

Anita: Yes I am Anita.

Regina Jackson: Okay. Are you Lyette? Okay so Anita if you could just hold for a moment, we have a bunch ahead of you. Thank you.

Speaker 18: Hello [inaudible]

Regina Jackson: Hello.

Speaker 18: [inaudible]

Regina Jackson: Can you move the microphone a little closer? Yes.

Speaker 18: I'm an African-American black lady, that was raised in the ghetto. You guys could do a lot more about the police. [inaudible] Hopefully no one up here [inaudible] every time I go outside. The police never helps us. They've never helped us. When we try to go get jobs, [inaudible] I lost my housing back in 2006. I put in the work. I put in the work. I found [inaudible] I'm not like that anymore. The police still won't let me [inaudible] It's like, do I have to literally got to pull God out the sky and ask him to help me? [inaudible] I smoke drugs,

been to 20 programs, they want my housing back, nothing works. I'm trying. It makes you want to give up and die sometimes.

Male Voice: No no no.

Speaker 18: I got a husband, I've been married for over 25 years and I've had 30 houses. I have 4 kids, thank God they all live out of the ghetto. It's just more work, back and forth [inaudible] If God put women on the Earth to [inaudible] the Earth [inaudible]

Anita: Hi, my name is Anita. People call me Anita D. I've been a homeless advocate for several years and I was homeless for the past year and one month. I'll go through some of the things that I've witnessed as well as what I've personally experienced.

Anita: I live in a camper with my daughter and we're constantly told by police to keep it moving even though I know that you can't stay in the same place for over 72 hours, but we'll be parked somewhere and in less than 24 hours we're being told to move. When I asked what code ordinance they're asking me to move when it's been less than 72 hours, they don't tell me they just tell me that I can't be there. That's very disruptive [inaudible] my daughter can get to her, she has a job, I have a job. We try to find a place where we both have access to public transportation and not have to travel too far. Or we'll have access to a bathroom and a shower. So it's very disruptive.

Anita: I've also witnessed -

Regina Jackson: Excuse me, folks in the back could you please keep it down so that we can hear the speaker? Thank you. Go ahead, thank you.

Anita: That there is a separate use of police -

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Speaker 19: Thank you. That, there is an excessive use of police presence during evictions, and first foremost that police shouldn't be involved with evictions because they automatically criminalize people when they are present. There's an assumption that we are criminal that's why the police need to be there.

Speaker 19: And also is very dehumanizing. And an eviction isn't a need for that many police. For example, I was helping to applicate at the Lake Mary evictions this past week. And there were seven squad cars and 14 police for four homeless people, and that makes absolutely no sense, both in police force use and how much money that cost. I've also witnessed police and known police hurting cameras, working with Department of Public Lawyers to [inaudible] and dump them places, as well as picking up homeless individuals and then dumping them to [inaudible] instead of telling them that if they attempt to leave, to even go get

their belongings, and even individuals who live by themselves in the cuts, for reasons where they can't be seen. This has happened specifically through the month of June and August of last year, 2018, they were going around picking up people, throwing them in the back of the OBD squad car, and dropping them off at specific encampments and telling them if they try to leave, they'll be arrested.

Speaker 19: I also know of the police raiding homes [inaudible] who actually are asking that the [inaudible] help, who then have been gang raped by police in their squad cars. Homeless women. And these women have been talked to, [crosstalk] black women, specifically, have been called out their names, and because they were homeless, have also been disrespected for being homeless, and told that they aren't worth shit because they're homeless, that the cops wouldn't believe them.

Regina Jackson: But we do.

Speaker 19: I've also witnessed that when [inaudible] rapes, and robberies, and assaults or attempted murders happen on a campus, police will be sitting right across from the street from the campus in their squad cars doing absolutely nothing, and then when the actual residents or advocates try to do something to stop the rapes, the robberies, the assaults or the attempted murders, the people who are trying to stop them from happening, both arrested. The advocates will be arrested and charged with assault or battery when they're trying to do a self defense or defend or protect somebody who was normal.

Speaker 19: In terms of policies, I kinda mentioned one, that there just shouldn't be that much police presence. Oh ... also, when we go to the campus when they get evicted, before house folks get to the tenants, police will wake up people by kicking the beds, or kicking the tents with their batons, and as soon as house folk show up, they stop what they're doing. That needs to stop. There are currently three anti-homeless bills in the books here in Oakland, and those need to either be taken off the books or be prioritized specifically if we're in a housing shelter crisis [crosstalk 01:33:15]. If they can be prioritized arresting people for marijuana, then they better be able to be able to get UFD prioritized [crosstalk 01:33:30].

Speaker 19: Also, I see that the police work with the business recruitment districts and the ambassadors to criminalize homeless people and to push people ... the loitering laws as John and Matt spoke of, and I find in public relationship between police enforces or private security to harass homeless people which should not exist. The ambassadors should not be there to be the private [inaudible] of the police force to harass homeless people. And working with the department of public works to clean encampments and to evict encampments actually because the police are there, it gives department of public works the feeling that they can do whatever they want, so they don't follow the policy. Because the police are there, they feel that they can do whatever they want, they don't bag and tag like they're supposed to. They throw everyone's things away. When people try

to get in there and get their personal belongings, the police stop them. The police is being used to harm homeless folks, and not just criminalize homeless folks, but harm them. That needs to stop as well.

Speaker 19: Also, this is to the audience, I'm part of a class action lawsuit. We have over 30 plaintiffs. If you've been criminalized in the last year, by the city and any of it's agencies, I'll be sitting in the back and you're welcome if you have a lawsuit, we're taking this to class action. So that whatever comes out of this lawsuit is gonna affect all those people.

Regina Jackson: Then Jason Wither. And then Sean Wilson.

Nikki: Good afternoon. My name is Nikki Fortune. [inaudible 01:35:33]. First, thank you to the police commission for having this hearing. You all know that the police department's policy on homelessness is from the 1990s. You have very, very important work to do to update that policy and move forward as a council member to supporting your recommendations. I just wanna say to the audience, because I've been here listening, that I see you. I hear you. What folks talked about in terms of us really remembering that everyone who is unhoused is a human being and deserves dignity and respect. [crosstalk 01:36:18], so thank you for saying everything that you've said today. I also wanted to share with you that on the 26th at our council meeting, council member Caplin is going to be introducing your resolution to declare a homeless emergency here in Oakland.

Nikki: The purpose of that is really to put at the forefront for all of us, that we do have a homeless crisis, and we need to make sure that we are addressing it. We need to ensure that every 60 days or so, the council reflects on what we have been able to do to take action. I'm one of two council members that represent the Lake Mary area, the other council member is also here. It's really heartbreaking and it's been heartbreaking to see the closures since last fall. The reason Lorelei from Haute spoke to that, the reason is because we don't have enough shelters for everyone, and the shelters that we do offer are not always appropriate for people, and that means we're just moving people around.

Nikki: So, I do want to work with you around real solutions, community-lead solutions to homelessness. I know that it's about providing homes, there's a lot that we can do in terms of making sure that we're using public land. We're using even private land and private ideas. As a council member, it's been really affirming to me to hear some of my constituents say we have logular buildings we wanna donate to help the homelessness. There's a lot of resources out there. We need to make sure that we are able to take advantage of those resources. So, I'm looking forward to working with all of you as we go through our budgeting process to prioritize our resources for sanitation, drinking water, other services for homelessness, and also making sure that we're addressing this problem by creating affordable housing for everyone as soon as we can. Thank you.

Regina Jackson: [crosstalk 01:38:24], then Sean Wilton. Then Xander Brown. And then Tracy Johnston. Should I repeat? Sean Wilton. Jason Wither. Xander Brown. And then Tracy Johnston.

Speaker 20: Xavier Brown.

Regina Jackson: Okay.

Speaker 21: [inaudible 01:38:54].

Regina Jackson: Can you speak into the mic?

Speaker 21: [inaudible 01:39:05]. 27 years. I'll be 61 in five days, I've been in Oakland since I was four. [inaudible 01:39:11]. I'm calling my loved ones. I'm calling the government, they started coming out here and they start doing what we used to do in the 70s. You feel me? It's part of this community, it's been out here. I hope we see some changes. It'd be nice. I'm [inaudible 01:39:43]. Peace out.

Regina Jackson: Thank you. Xander Brown, Tracy Johnston, then Sean Bradford, then Alfred Wright. Maybe they've left. Then Marcus Littlejohn. Merodia Alexander.

Speaker 20: [inaudible 01:40:17].

Regina Jackson: Okay.

Speaker 20: It sounds good anyway.

Regina Jackson: Thank you. [inaudible 01:40:26], Eugene Townsman, Marissa Seco, David [inaudible] ... oh, here we go. Thank you.

Eugene: Hi, my name is Eugene Townsman.

Regina Jackson: Okay, thank you sir.

Eugene: Yeah, I was walking my dog to the store [inaudible] --

Regina Jackson: Can you speak closer to the mic? Thank you.

Eugene: So I walked to the store and on the way back from the store, I was walking my dog. We were on the way back from the store, somebody had called the police on me and my dog. You know? [inaudible 01:41:13]. "what's your dog's name?" Then he put me in the car. "You going to jail." "For what?" "Beating the dog." I aint beat no dog.

Eugene: So we get there, "Now you wanna talk to the police officer?" [inaudible 01:41:14], because somebody told you I hit a dog? Man, let me tell you. What's up with these police? They don't like us no more? [inaudible 01:41:14]. We can't

even walk down the street with our own dogs. Then they gonna tell you you hit your dog. What kinds sense is that? You know. And that's all I got to say about the police. Police is no good. Thank you.

Regina Jackson: Okay, great. Thank you. followed by David Critten, Prescott Guardino, and Juan Cargood.

Marissa: Hey, my name's Marissa Seco. I worked as a domestic violence [inaudible] advocate in Oakland for the last seven years.

Regina Jackson: Excuse me, hold on one sec. Excuse me, in the back, can you please keep your voices down so we can hear the speaker? Thank you. Go ahead.

Marissa: First, I just thank you so much for holding this public forum. I think it's long overdue to be able to have this opportunity and I also just like to suggest that as you're thinking about making policy recommendations, obviously it takes a lot to come to a meeting like this and tell your story. It's not an easy thing to do and especially if you've been through a really traumatic experience of being assaulted, being unhoused. And I do think ...

Speaker 22: Quiet please.

Marissa: ... it's really important that you guys think about how you are intentional about giving all the input that you need to be from houseless people and a huge percentage of houseless people are survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, abuse, trafficking. It's really important that there be opportunities for people not in a public space like this, but to have one on one conversation. To have surveys to have other ways of giving that input and I think it would be amazing if you also thought about having some kind of advisory board to help you in backing this policy recommendation that is entirely made of people who are unhoused or who've experienced housing [crosstalk 01:43:22]. It's so important that we're not making policies about people without centering their experience, because they're the ones who will leave the solutions to be problems.

Marissa: And I also just wanna say that I'm very concerned as an advocate, about what I'm hearing from people about their experiences of domestic violence and sexual assault on the streets. It's a huge problem and I don't think that the city is doing enough to try to really reach out and think about ways to make sure that everyone is safe in our city, particularly people who are vulnerable. Women and girls, and members of the LGBTQ community in particular, are not being served the way that they should be, and I'm very worried in particular about how survivors can be criminalized by law enforcement when they're not being careful about how they look at these issues when there's not person to person communication.

Marissa: I'd also like to add that I don't think it's a good use of resources to be part of these evictions that are happening at different encampments. It would be so much better if the city was reaching out to service providers, having advocates there who can work with people, make sure that they're getting services, that they're getting the resources that they so desperately need and desperately want. [inaudible] spending hundreds of thousands of dollars for police to go out there and further criminalize them.

Speaker 20: Thank you.

Regina Jackson: There are some young people in the break out rooms that are doing surveys, if you wouldn't mind sharing that then after you get the survey receipt, you can also receive a [inaudible 01:45:10]. Ann is raising her hand. Marissa? Ann's raising her hand, that's who you should see, okay? We appreciate that. Ali Rasheed, Jay Williams.

Tracy: Pick me? I'm Tracy Jensen.

Regina Jackson: Okay, my holiday. Yes, thank you very much.

Tracy: Okay, I just wanna quickly bring up a budget item. Any homeless budget for 2017 to 2019. There is money for dedicated encampment cleaning crew, and I assume dedicated encampment doesn't mean every homeless person living in a tent somewhere. Anyway, that budget for three years is one million, one hundred and forty thousand dollars. That's a thousand dollars a day. I'm wondering how the city is possibly spending that money for dedicated encampment clean up, and could some of it be passed around to homeless people themselves to clean up? Something. Okay, thanks.

Regina Jackson: Thank you very much. Jay Williams, Zakia Jendae, Jorge Nerman. Ill be calling Lily Kelly, Mae Riley, Josh Anderson, David Diaz, [inaudible 01:46:43]. Nino Parker. Is Nino still here? Come on up. Then John [inaudible 01:47:02], Wilfred Harvey, Doris Brietta.

Wilfred: I am Wilfred Harvey. I recently returned to the city of Oakland.

Regina Jackson: Excuse me folks in the back, can you bring your voices down please? Thank you.

Wilfred: And there's been a lot of talk about following the money, and it's important that we do follow the money. In 1980, the [inaudible 01:47:43]. In 1990, we created complete town committee against the wishes of City Hall. The population moved from 330 to 370. The government pays us by headcount. That's how you get cruisers. That's how you get fire departments. That's how you get libraries. In 1995, I was your district manager for what we call the mid decade, that's getting ready for the year 2000. We move to 390, and we did this on the backs of our homeless population. We made special effort to find and count our homeless population. Why are they crying in the desert?

John: Hi everybody. My name is John Martinet. I call myself a resident here in Oakland, California. I was born and raised in Oakland. I left Oakland in 2005, went to Las Vegas, Nevada for a while. Came out here about a month ago to care for my aunt. Certain circumstances I kinda got stuck here in Oakland. So now I'm sleeping in cars, sleeping in vehicles by homeless guys. I've just been noticing, when I was gonna come back and growing up in Oakland, working over by a school district custodian and working by a school district, things that's going on here with the police is still the same. I don't care where I'm at right now, it's homeless people out there. Everybody's not out there for the wrong reasons. [inaudible] harass us. Pound on the doors. I was fortunate enough to get a vacant car while I'm out there, but yeah. They come through there harassing us, banging on the windows, breaking us out the cars. Searching. Flashlights. The whole nine yards. It could be one, two o'clock in the morning sometimes.

John: It's still the same. Everything's still the same it was when I left to go to Vegas and then I came back.

Regina Jackson: There was a question from a member of the audience whose homeless, that asked if we would be running our policy recommendations to the public or holding another public meeting to present to the homeless population. The answer at this five minutes us that we were going to develop a hearing report before we began making policy recommendations. I imaging that it would be very important to be able to break another of the audience to hear some of the thoughts to make sure that we captured it correctly. So, we'll be following up on that. I am gonna have to work with the coalition commission to figure out when the timing is for that. I think it's important.

Tracy: Thank you.

Regina Jackson: So [inaudible 01:51:18]. And after that, Wilfred Harvey ... oh, sorry. Some of these are people that ... apologies.

Speaker 20: Yes ma'am.

Nino: Morning everyone, my name's Nino Parker. [inaudible 01:51:43].

Regina Jackson: Move closer to your --

Nino: Oh, Lake [inaudible 01:51:43]. One of the questions that had been asked earlier by some [inaudible 01:51:59]. They have the right to fire and hire the police chief. That's a lie. Secondly, one of the things that we had to brought to the attention of the commission was, we waved the police department to handle evictions [inaudible 01:52:20], whatever you wanna call it. We [inaudible] a particular police officer who knew how to do that would come out making people feel like they're being harassed or expected. And so we found out from just that little bit of information that the way that things were handled, that the

policy hadn't been updated since 1996, and that was the snatch homeless policy. We'd just come in, just throw people out that came in so we couldn't do most everything you wanted.

Nino: That's been asked for by this commission. It was due in September, we hope that it will come out sometime this year. Last time I talked to the chief, he said something about December, and now were in February. But no, they could do a lot for us, and folks, what we have to realize, the people that were most important to the homeless community is this commission, because one of the things I experienced on December 26th, day after Christmas. I was out from Lucky's, I just bought some cat food for my cat 'cause I have a home-in cat. And some police officers came up. There was a lady sitting outside of Lucky's, and another couple of guys having a beer. I sat down to talk with them 'cause I know them. The SUV pulls up and tells us all to leave immediately. Just leave.

Nino: So, I questioned them. [inaudible] just because of being harassed so many times, they thought [inaudible] immediately. But I asked the police officers, I said, "Why do I have to leave immediately?" We went back and forth for about maybe, almost close ... 10 to 15 minutes of him telling me that I have to leave and me telling him I didn't have to leave, and I said, "You go in the store, and you ask the store manager how long someone can be outside of this store after buying some cat food. Can you be out here five minutes? Can you be out here 20 minutes?" 1030 at night, there was an older thing where people were trying to get out the way and just be themselves.

Nino: So, there's a lot of different things that happened after people getting pulled over for this, that, and the other. But what I really want this commission and what we really need to stop from happening is our quality of life. That means when we just somewhere sitting on a bench, and you got your backpack and sleeping bag with you, that doesn't mean that some officer has the right to come and harass you or even talk to you or even make you move or said anything whatsoever. We have to be looked at a just regular citizens everywhere we are.

Nino: And the last thing I have to say, just in closing, is what happened at the lake. I understand the lake has a lot of issues, a lot of encampments in the areas that are very visible and there's a children's play area on kid path. But, when you convict another human being out of their dwelling, into a rainstorm like what I saw on February 14th, it was getting close to the inhumane, people. I talked to the city administrator, asking him not to do this. You could even wait and put it off in the afternoon when the rain stops. Or put it off another day. I don't think nobody should have the right to evict a person out of a tent on a story day into the rain.

Regina Jackson: Thank you. After the speaker, it's council member [inaudible 01:56:07].

Zakia: Greetings and good afternoon. My name is Zakia Kente, thank you Regina for all the work you've done in East Oakland, [inaudible 01:56:13]. Couple things I wanted to share with you. One, unfortunately in 2013, my apartment was accidentally burned down by a move intoxicated property manager. Completely burnt down. We received a coupon from Red Cross for housing at Motel 6 for three days. That's it, pretty much. A couple of vouchers. I went to the city of Oakland, they had absolutely zero resources for us. Zero. That's unfortunate. The city can do better. One.

Zakia: Second thing I wanted to bring to your attention is the fact that all the sites that we see ... many of the sites that I see here in Oakland, where the unhoused are living, other people are dumping trash there. And I know for a fact, the apartment I've had for 24 years, every year we get an opportunity for heavy trash days. In 24 years, we've only seen it used once there. I've only seen it used once. And homeowners, they have heavy trash days. So many of them don't use it, so those resources that are being paid for by taxpayers, that are not being used, should be used for those encampments where people who are less fortunate and they're not bringing couches, televisions, stoves, refrigerators, and dumping them there. So, the city should take care of that.

Zakia: Also, the city should provide bathrooms and sinks, so those who are unhoused could have somewhere to at least use the bathroom. There's portable showers. We need to use the resources that tax payers are paying to help those who are less fortunate. And, there's so much more and I'm gonna get some other things I want to speak on, but even coming here today, I'm grateful to be here. I was at Imani Church, they invited me to come out as a volunteer, and to be honest, when I came to volunteer, I was told I wasn't needed this morning. I showered up at 1130 this morning. I was told I wasn't needed. Which I don't think is factual. We're giving out food in the back and they're acting like this food is coming from their homes, giving just a few items here. A few items. There's still bags and boxes of food there, pass that stuff out. Pass it out. There's those who need it.

Zakia: And also, I talked to a couple other people here tonight, they're sharing their stories and they're getting paid 20 dollars to share their story. So I'm sure they're taking the 20 dollars to share their story, but I'm sure those stories could write grants. Write letters to grant millions will be given for those who are less fortunate. Let's make sure that the information in these heartbreaking stories that are being shared, make sure that comes back to those who shared their stories. Thank you.

Regina Jackson: [inaudible 01:59:22]. Do you wanna make sure to go back and complete that so that we can have all that information. They are [inaudible] is willing to take the survey. The survey receipt, you get growing. And then hopefully [crosstalk 01:59:41].

Zakia: But I'm saying we need to really take the resources and give it to those, and the last comment, I also just wanna share with you, if you look around the room, there's more people who are probably housed than unhoused. And if you really wanna reach the unhoused, why don't we send vans or some type of carpool and offer them opportunity to come here so we can really hear from them, so we can get them

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Speaker 23: Come here, so we could really hear from them, so we could get them here, because I've seen more housed than unhoused I believe here.

Speaker 24: We did!

Speaker 23: [crosstalk]

Speaker 25: We did! They left

Speaker 23: [crosstalk] Good I saw a few came through but there's a lot more.

Regina Jackson: I understand.

Speaker 23: Thank you.

Regina Jackson: They did the best they could I'm sure. Thank You. Council member

Speaker 26: Good Afternoon, I'm Madame Chair of the Commission to the community, the beloved community that's gathered. I want to appreciate you all for holding this hearing and for allowing our public processes to expand beyond our walls. It's hard for us, I think, to accept that we are getting better, even when our better is still not good enough.

Speaker 26: I've been on the City Council for six years and we have come a long way in trying to crack open a system that doesn't really know how to engage housed folks, let alone the large number the growing number of people that are unhoused and landless here.

Speaker 26: The question before this commission today is really about policing and homelessness as I understand it. Dealing with our unsheltered constituents and you're also receiving a lot of information I hope as you capture it will give us some insight into the other things. The other related issues that the council and our entire community can begin to weigh in.

Speaker 26: I go out to the camps and the night camps. Many of you know that my eldest son is homeless as well. So I come to this with a sensitivity about the ways that county and city systems are broken. One of the things I want the commission to undertake as you begin to make recommendations is the concern that I've

heard from my unhoused constituents around the need for policing. Juanita B came up and she talked about the abuse in the camps and we take very seriously the allegations of officers mistreating people. What I've heard from my constituents is that police are not responding to the regular citizen claims, whether that's domestic violence, violence between unhoused people or the fact that there's criminality and gang violence in the camp and exploitation of vulnerable people, people who exploit them. So we need some suggestions around how to deal with that and address it with sensitivity.

Speaker 26: Police officers have been increasingly used when helping people move or relocated from an existing camp that is unsanctioned, unpermitted and unsafe. They have been utilized in some respects because public employees have requested police presence. I have been present at relocations where housed people have pulled out weapons on city staffers. Whether that's somebody who's really distressed or not in their full mental healthiness or someone who's trying to be defiant for other reasons. But it has become a great concern, one of the reasons the public has begun to see when staff stopped cleaning and clearing, leaving the camp replacement to clean and clearing because public employees complained for their own safety. So public workers felt like they could not go and clean safely while members of the camp community were present. So these are complicated nuances as we try to navigate.

Speaker 26: To the speaker who talked about the million dollars or so that we allocated over three years and really wanted to question the safety and sanitation, there's a real tension right now between how much we do invest dollars that are scarce into servicing camps versus how much we put into permanent housing sources. We've come along way between the county, the city, and say we have to put some services in place, but that then takes away money from permanent housing solutions into we will get a more moral accounting from our federal and state partners.

Speaker 26: So as you all are thinking about some recommendations for us I hope that you're helping us try to figure out how we allow regulated camps that are self governed in a way that we can adequately provide safety services to, while not policing that community, while doing what we're doing for housed communities. In terms of making sure that neighbors are fair and decent and kind to one another and that true criminals who are dangerous can be apprehended and taken away from the community.

Speaker 26: I'm really sitting here with a question. I don't know if any of us or any community has solutions. There lots of ideas, whether their tiny homes or self guided [inaudible] But the true solution to this is an economy that works [inaudible] where people are housed with a key and the privacy that they deserve.

Speaker 26: So I hope that you all are dealing with this policing issue, which is so critically important, and I really looking forward for recommendations. But for all of us,

please let us think very intentionally about how Oakland can come together in one voice and make greater demands from our federal and state partners for increased resources because we want to see our community housed, we want to see this crisis abated across this entire beautiful city. Fifth largest economy in the world, hundreds of thousands of Californians sleeping outdoors every night we can and should do better. So thank you all for volunteering your time, coming here on a Saturday. For each of you that is giving your time to this effort to help us get better and to help us be a more just and compassionate society. I appreciate you and thank you.

Regina Jackson: Thank you very much. I don't know if you heard [inaudible] other than that, that brings my list to the end is there anyone else that would like to speak?

Prescott: I [inaudible] about these subjects that are-

Regina Jackson: Can you identify your name I'm sorry

Prescott: My name is Prescott, I've been living here for quite some years and really I just I'm trying to observe nature [inaudible] I do that a lot of times, I go down to nature areas and little wild areas out here in Oakland I enjoy them very much. But that's what's really on top of my mind really, but then I've been in these streets for many many years. You would not believe my tale, you can not even attempt to read through my entire story, I wouldn't bother. However, one thing I would like everyone to hear, to know, is that everything that I've been hearing from all of these speakers here is all completely relevant. It all happens every day. All of this, I've been watching go on every single day all the time. I'm almost every corner where you turn, where there are people living in the streets you have the same problems. Where one person is here speaking about their experience, it means that there's a Pandora's Box of the same situation going on with the same people elsewhere. It's a huge problem bigger than we can comprehend.

Prescott: So I mean everyone that's been here talking completely on point. I see all of the truth here, it's really to be away from my birds and my trees and all of that. Okay, but the type of thing that's going to bring me here to let you know that you people are on point and this stuff is really important right now for people. I'm a wildcat I live in the street, but I'm not this type of cat that's going to be there with his hand out begging for change. I'm on some other stuff okay. I'm not trying to bring you all through that, that's irrelevant. But what I want you to know is that I'm out there and I see all these things and I experience all these things and they are very real and they aren't going to go away unless we do something about it. So that's all I really want you all to know so don't stop this keep this going okay.

Regina Jackson: Thank you very much. Next speaker card is for Terry Freeman. And I don't if there's anyone else that would like to speak as well, otherwise Terry will be our last speaker. [inaudible]

Rotilia: Good Afternoon

Regina Jackson: Good Afternoon. Hold on let's get the mic adjusted and everything

Rotilia: I didn't think I was going to make it, I was sideswiped by a car. First all of thank you so much-

Regina Jackson: Can you speak closer to the mic

Rotilia: They call me Pocahontas, because I'm a full blooded Indian. I'm Cherokee/Choctaw, I'm also I'm a thirteen year survivor of terminal cancer. I have six brothers [inaudible] 75 % of Oakland [inaudible] I used to think myself [inaudible] but I don't worry about it. The main reason I came here is because the only suggestion I really like is communication is the key. I don't care what language, Korean, Vietnamese, Spanish. That is the key.If you got to do sign language. God gave us all a purpose, and it's to love each other. [inaudible] For the police officer, okay, [inaudible] and my background in what really works, especially the rookie, if your foot patrol, [inaudible] If you don't know your environment, because things I've noticed most here, it's guilty by association in this country. Like I said I'm homeless completely, but every day I've been on the streets has been a blessing to me. And I wanted to appreciate the time that I do have here, because I've learned so much the homeless, the crack addict, the heroin addict, everybody has a purpose no matter what it is.

Rotilia: [inaudible] Listen don't talk at them, talk to them. I have two degrees in psychology maybe because I want to understand, what I'll prove what you're doing now. That's why I say I appreciate that you have given your time. Everybody got something to say. [inaudible] You know all I ask is just communicate. No matter what you have to do, sign language, writing, that's the key that's the whole. That brings about respect and I thank you.

Regina Jackson: Thank you. Justin Lee and then Shawn Woods.

Justin Lee: Hi My name is Justin Lee. I worked with council member [inaudible] One of the basic guiding moral principles of the work that I have done while working in the city and working with homeless people [inaudible] has been regardless of your housing status you are still a constituent to be served. That is something I've done my very best to try to do while working [inaudible] in my neighborhood. Something that I think goes a lot with others have mentioned is that current police policies also do not served the housed residents as well.

Justin Lee: One of the things I tried to create was an institute at Bayside Park with the help of OPD and other city leaders is a model for community policing. But I cannot deny that there were certain bad actors at Bayside Park, with many others people who have been living there, people who I've had some communication with, but there were also calls that residents were making to OPD and they were not receiving any services at all.

Justin Lee: I can tell you that this is something that I've done my very best to investigate including doing ride-alongs with OPD, speaking to all the officers, speaking to the different levels of chains of command. Something that I also see is not only housed residents want a policy where there going to be served, being able to receive services from emergency, emergency services in a timely manner. But that also officers themselves are asking for a clear policy in what they're supposed to do. Many of the officers that I speak to tell me that they are all whole oriented individuals and that they do not get clear orders of what they're supposed to be able to do. They say if they do not have a clear understanding of what their discretion is, then they won't act all. I understand we're hearing stories about things that are egregious that officers are doing, but at the same time I want to tell you from the housed resident perspective. They're being told by officers that they need to do absolutely nothing at all.

Justin Lee: That is something that I find to be very problematic, because homelessness is absolutely not a crime, but illegal behavior is still illegal and must be done. Something must be done about that, right? I thought that it's better to have one clear policy that can serve everyone. Unhoused, housed and also the officers who are out there trying to do the typical work. Thank you very much

Regina Jackson: Thank you. Shaun Woods

Shawn W: Williams

Regina Jackson: Oh I'm sorry

Shawn W: I did come prepared so I'm going to tell it like it is. I don't want to give the wrong impression, injustice is not a symptom of crime, homelessness, or hunger. Hunger, homelessness and crime is a symptom of injustice and oppression. So we know that, we have a problem in our county. You know I do like, I see a lot things, I see we all have a responsibility to do our part, everyone here. All white folks ain't bad and all black folks ain't good. It's in our community, because the amount of homelessness is buried in the injustice of not having solutions for a problem that, I'm sure if I had forty acres and a mule I wouldn't be up here.

Shawn W: So this is something that has been going on for a long time. So it's bigger than so, so you know you've got good people, judges, whatever police, whatever there's misinforming, they don't have all the facts. You know the truth. So the bottom line is that the last few years have been really bad on my health. I worked, I was in the union for eight years. I did, you know, I worked all my life and I got into a journey that took me to a place where I haven't been able to recover, but if I had the support or whatever and the necessary tools to recover. I would rather have a roof and running water. I like camping, but you know I mean, but this is a phenomenon that's in the black community to the white community. Now you know they don't care about you either. You know what I'm saying, what I mean by that is that powers that be, we can solve the

homeless crisis and the hunger crisis overnight. It doesn't take a rocket science to learn how to feed people and care for one another, and so.

Shawn W: I lost everything in one year, I came back my camp. Not my camp, but the camp that I was in we were informed that we would be able to store our things, when they come in and bulldoze the place. They're coming to put stuff, to clear the site and once we clear the site we're store your things for a reasonable amount of time and then you come get them that way you know things deemed not hazardous, right. So if it's not hazardous, okay, my clothes is hazardous, my food is hazardous, my paperwork is hazardous. They threw away everything, they didn't store shit. You know what I'm saying, I'm talking about that's blatant lies, they come in doing the thing and post it up there. You know, I'm like okay we're out of the site [inaudible] I mean the thing about it is you got the mayor, the city, whoever, the police out here and they can't figure this thing out. Give me one more minute, but..

Shawn W: But, like I was saying they created these problems and then they come and blame us for the problems. We got a responsibility, but at the same time who's there to make sure that the people who are supposed to help are really helping, so that the money and the funds go to certain things. I mean that, half that money could be used to solve the problem, if we were serious. They don't want to solve the problem, they could solve it overnight. I mean really, I have two or three dozen solving solutions. I know any one of them would work, so I mean it's a matter of you being next to the person that it's in your office. It's like these two different camps right, the camp is I realize even more prominently, after the Rodney King verdict. Rodney King verdict, you know this black man was brutally beaten on national TV and when the verdict came back not guilty I mean the world was polarizing. Some people were polarized, but that's when I knew they were white people, they were swept away by the verdict like what the fuck that's not right.

Shawn W: When the powers that be say its right and you showing that it's not about black and white, it's about right or wrong, okay. So you going to have somebody in this position and it's going to take the good white folks, the white folks that's in the middle class having these positions up here, sitting next to a racist motherfucker and you going to say look if you believe that that's right then you're wrong. See you're going to have to separate yourself from that person and take the position that you're a real American, you have a duty to tear down white supremacy mentality.

Regina Jackson: Thank you. So I want to read a solution. It was given to us. It is possible for the City of Oakland to hire unhoused people to keep our blocks [inaudible] clean. OPD to hire or to assist unhoused persons to keep eyes out for activity that create harm in the camp or tent site, this allows us to do for ourselves. It can be done, I'm doing it. [inaudible] Albert

Speaker 27: Yes thank you

Regina Jackson: Thank you for the suggestion. At this point I have no more speaker cards.

Speaker 28: Actually this man said he filled out a card, but I think he was maybe out of the room when his name was called so if he could speak, thank you

Regina Jackson: Thank you sir

Mr. Riley: Hello, how you doing. My name is Dan, Dan Hillman

Regina Jackson: Speak in the microphone please

Mr. Riley: I'm resident of Oakland

Regina Jackson: Thank you Albert

Mr. Riley: I've been out here for a whole session and [inaudible] and everybody had something to say. Little, small what have you, it all means something. You know, I, as a kid I had two parents, just one parent, my mother. My father was a stepfather and they was always fighting and that type of stuff and one time they got into it and I was like sixteen years old and he got mad so he kicked me and kicked me in the eye. I lost my right eye after that everything started going down hill I started to feel like I wasn't worth anything you know.

Mr. Riley: I wasn't worth it so I was going through life, dodging and doing all of this. I worked at Morgan Pritchman Center and at Morgan Pritchman I learned a lot about myself, [inaudible 02:22:16]. It made me understand who you are and who you can be you know, don't let nobody else tell you that you can't be that person that you want to be. And I want everybody to understand something, just because. Like I'm homeless right now, let me tell you something you know where I stay at, where I sleep at night? The [inaudible] where people

Speaker 29: Use the bathroom

Mr. Riley: That's where I stay at, I have my blankets. I go up to a clean [inaudible] and that's where I stay because I went through housing and housing. They told me you're 62 years old and I can get you a place and all of that, but I'm still waiting four, five years later and I'm still waiting. I went down there the other day and the person that I deal with is never there. One person transferred me to another person, someone always be there, but they don't lose anything. You know they have an agenda to keep you on the waiting list, you know what can I say. It's nothing I can do, nothing I can do about it.

Mr. Riley: About the homeless they were talking about first, about the police and my manager where I was staying had a home. A house to rent, everything was OK until she died and the son, I think, see I stayed downstairs in one of the houses and she stayed upstairs and she died. So the son want to take over, so what happened was the sons knew they from that area and they knew the police in

the area so they evicted me. I had a big screen TV, I had alligator shoes, I had everything because I was working and all a sudden they came and arrested me because I didn't have a place to stay because they evicted me, so I was sleeping on the porch. They came arrested me and threw me in jail, so you know, that's the way it's been going on and on and on and on. And everyday I'm hoping things get better, but it seems like I'm getting older and older. That's all I had to say

Regina Jackson: Thank you so much. [crosstalk] Everybody else. There are students from UC Berkeley Goldman School who are taking survey information, and they're raising their hand. Once you give your survey you can get a survey receipt and you can turn that in for a stipend. It will help us documenting the information that we need. Come on forward.

Speaker 30: I just wanted to say. I just wanted a couple of seconds to say this. This was a great turnout today and I go to a lot of homeless events and the reason there were a lot of homeless folks here today is because of transportation. All events, if anyone wants to put on a good event inviting the homeless transportation is the key. That's why, I've never seen so many homeless people in an event. You all have done a good job. The city of Oakland, or whoever has vans and transportation if you're doing anything with the homeless transportation is key. Thank you. Thank you all for doing this, you know you all have my heart.

Regina Jackson: Thank you. So I once again want to applaud the coalition, they put this entire event together. [inaudible] At the end they will also be giving you rides to wherever they picked you up from or wherever you're going. Lorelei is in a big purple sweatshirt waving her hand. I want to once again thank Tim for welcoming us, I do understand that Pastor Jenkins is now here. I also want to thank-

Speaker 31: Well done Council Taylor! Let's give another hand!

Regina Jackson: I also want to honor everyone for [inaudible] liturgy of safety. Everyone was so courteous and respectful and transparent and honest. And it's the only way we can make a movement, the only way. So thank you.

Speaker 32: Yes, yes

Regina Jackson: Thank you for sharing your stories. I'm sorry I'm a little touched now

Speaker 32: It's all right

Regina Jackson: We can't help but improve a policy that's almost thirty years old. But we're going to make every effort to anticipate, so that policy in its lasting effort will anticipate, many of the issues and challenges that will not be fixed overnight

Speaker 32: One day at a time

Regina Jackson: One day at a time. Thank you so much they will bring our commission hearing to an end. Okay its been motioned by Commissioner Smith, council member Lovado. All in favor

Multiple ppl: Aye

Regina Jackson: Okay thank you thank you so much

Multiple ppl: Yay!

Regina Jackson: If you can't get to the police commissioner meetings on every second Thursday, watch us live we need your support

PART 5 OF 5 ENDS [02:28:20]