

Oakland Community After-School Alliance

Join these participating organizations:

- Alameda County Youth Development, Inc./Scotlan Center
- Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN)
- Bay Area Community Resources (BACR)
- Bret Harte Community Collaborative
- Center for Family Counseling
- East Bay Agency for Children (EBAC)
- East Bay Asian Youth Center (EBAYC)
- Eastlake YMCA
- Girls Inc.
- Girls on the Run
- Hawthorne Community Collaborative
- Kaiser Permanente Educational Theater Programs
- Kids First
- Leadership Excellence
- Lincoln Child Center
- Museum of Children's Art (MOCHA)
- Oakland Asian Students Educational Services (OASES)
- Oakland Leaf
- Oakland Ready To Learn
- Oakland Youth Chorus
- Opera Piccola
- Project Reconnect
- Spanish Speaking Citizens Foundation
- Urban Strategies Council
- Youth in Focus
- Youth Together
- WestLake/Eagle Village Community Center

Reimburse OFCY \$2.4 Million in Miscalculated Revenues

March 22, 2006

Dear Council Member:

For the past three years the Planning and Oversight Committee (POC) of the Oakland Fund for Children and Youth (OFCY) has been engaged in a debate with the City regarding how to calculate OFCY revenues. It is time for the City Council to call the question and repay OFCY monies owed because of past miscalculations of OFCY's revenue.

In 2003, the POC questioned whether the City was properly calculating OFCY revenues. The POC asserted that the calculation should be based on the actual revenue that Oakland receives, the practice during OFCY's early years. The City Administration disagreed and claimed that planned budgeted revenues should be used.

To help resolve the dispute, the City Attorney issued a legal opinion in 2003 affirming the POC's view stating that, "annual unrestricted general fund revenues means actual unrestricted general fund revenues." The City Auditor issued reports in 2004 and 2005 affirming that opinion and calculates that the City owes \$2.4 million to OFCY and in turn to Oakland's young people.

During these years, the City Administration remained steadfast in its opposition when the POC and the Auditor brought this issue to the Council's Life Enrichment Committee in 2004 and to the Finance and Management Committee 2005. Last October the Administration threw a red herring into the discussion when it claimed that Measures Q, the library parcel tax, and Y, the violence prevention measure, restricted the library, police and fire budgets — in effect reducing OFCY funding by 75%.

Reason prevailed and in December, the City Council finally agreed with the POC, the City Attorney and the City Auditor that the City's actual unrestricted general fund revenues should be the basis of OFCY revenues. Now the question is whether the City will reimburse OFCY and by how much.

Again the City Administration is in opposition, claiming that the City doesn't owe \$2.4 million as the Auditor asserts, but only \$842,000. Why? Because the Auditor made a mistake. So another argument between bureaucrats, and our children are in the middle. The POC, a group of reasonable people without a team of lawyers and accountants, proposed that the City Attorney review the issues and agreed to abide by that decision. In a spirit of reconciliation, the POC offered to take payment over two years, without interest on the delinquent balance. The Finance and Administration Committee was scheduled to decide this issue on February 14th, but the item was pulled for the agenda yet again.

Reasonable people can disagree when it comes to questions of interpretation of the City's Charter, but they should work together expeditiously and in good faith to resolve the issue. It has been three years. It is way past time to reimburse OFCY these delinquent funds.

The Oakland Fund for Children and Youth is an outstanding success. OFCY has made Oakland a better place and it has much more to contribute. During the past eight years, OFCY has disbursed \$10's of millions to programs that have benefited tens of thousands of children and their families. Many, who as children were in OFCY programs, are now adults and they are voters and your constituents. We ask that you continue to support OFCY and Oakland's young people and their families with your vote to reimburse OFCY the \$2.4 million owed, thus ensuring that Oakland is in compliance with Measure K - Kids First!.

Sincerely,

Edward Hannemann, Chair of the OCASA Steering Committee

Additional Organizations in Support

Ala Costa Center
Alameda County Health Care Foundation
American Indian Child Resource Center
Art, Research and Curriculum Associates (ARC)
Asian Community Mental Health Services (AYPAL)
Attitudinal Healing Connection - Art Esteem
Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (BORP)
Bay Area Scores
Bay Area Video Coalition
California Tomorrow
Destiny Arts Center
Dimensions Dance Theater
Diversity Works
Donald McCullum Youth Court
East Bay Conservation Corps Charter School
Eastside Arts Alliance
Family Paths - Parental Stress Services
First Place Fund for Youth
Foster Youth Alliance
Global Education Partnership
Marcus A. Foster Educational Institute
Native American Health Center
Next Step Learning Center
OBUGS - Planting a Future
Prescott Circus Theater
Sports4Kids
Team Up for Youth
The Link to Children
The Mentoring Center
TRYUMF at Oakland Tech High School
Youth Alive
Youth Employment Partnership
Youth Sounds