



Honorable Mayor Lee
Honorable President Jenkins and Honorable Members of the City Council
City Administrator Johnson

January 2, 2026

Subject: Concerns Regarding Administrator's Office's Proposal to Move Parking Enforcement from Oakland Department of Transportation to Finance Department

Dear Honorable Mayor Lee, Honorable President Jenkins and Honorable Members of the City Council, and City Administrator Johnson:

We write on behalf of the City of Oakland Bicyclist and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC). During its December, 18, 2025, meeting, BPAC discussed a proposal from the Administrator's Office to move Oakland's parking enforcement functions from the Oakland Department of Transportation (OakDOT) to the Finance Department (Finance). From that discussion, BPAC voted unanimously to issue this letter to recommend that the City halt all further actions to move any Parking Enforcement functions from OakDOT until after the Public Works and Transportation, Finance, and Public Safety committees have requested and agendized consideration of informational reports from the Administrator's Office and OakDOT that describe the purpose of the Administrator's Office's proposal, as well evaluate the potential impacts and benefits either of retaining Parking Enforcement within OakDOT or, alternatively, relocating it to Finance. **We note there may be some urgency to this request, as it is possible that the Administrator's Office may intend to execute this reorganization within the first couple of weeks of January 2026.**

BPAC's interest in parking enforcement springs from the safety and equity considerations underpinning Oakland's current parking enforcement policies. We agree with Oakland's Parking Principles policy (Resolution 84664 C.M.S.) that directs the City to manage parking as a public resource and not as a separate revenue source. It was with these transportation and mobility goals in mind that the City Council organized Parking Enforcement within OakDOT at its formation in 2017. Since then, OakDOT has managed parking enforcement within the City with a view towards upholding the Parking Principles policy and the City's emphasis on equity and traffic safety.

Over the past decade, OakDOT has developed a robust set of policies geared toward achieving these important goals. During a BPAC October 27, 2025, Policy and Legislative Subcommittee meeting, OakDOT staff presented their vision for the future of parking enforcement, bolstered by the City Council's recent budget approval and direction regarding OakDOT's parking policies. The

October 27 discussion emphasized OakDOT's goals in parking enforcement, including prioritizing the benefits of meter turnover to Oakland businesses and bicyclist and pedestrian safety, as well as ensuring lower-income Oakland residents are fined equitably and not excessively.

With the above considerations in mind, and without knowing the rationale or supporting analysis behind the Administrator's Office's proposal to move parking from OakDOT to Finance, BPAC is concerned that this relocation may be primarily, if not exclusively, motivated by a desire to prioritize revenue generation over any other transportation, public safety, or equity considerations. And while Finance has ample experience collecting revenues, it is not inherently purposed for, or experienced in, implementing the City's mobility, safety, and equity policies.

Finally, we are unaware of a restructuring of this magnitude—impacting hundreds of City staff—ever being performed through a non-transparent, unilateral departmental action. Such a move risks causing serious mobility and safety impacts for decades to come. Especially since the City Council was the body that acted to house Parking Enforcement within OakDOT it is questionable even if the Administrator's Office can lawfully unilaterally relocate these City functions into another department absent the City Council's express authorization.

Rule 5, section 5, of the City Council's Rules of Procedure authorize the Public Works and Transportation, Finance, and Public Safety committees to request informational reports from City departments on topics within each committee's jurisdiction. The policy and legal implications of the Administrator's Office's proposal to relocate Parking Enforcement into Finance falls within the subject matter jurisdictions of each of these committees. BPAC therefore recommends that each committee promptly issue requests for informational reports from the Administrator's Office and OakDOT that evaluate the potential impacts and benefits of either retaining Parking Enforcement within OakDOT or, conversely, moving these functions to Finance. In the interim, we recommend that the Administrator's Office cease any further efforts, aside from responding to information requests, aimed at reorganizing Parking Enforcement into Finance.

We thank you all for your serious attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

David Ralston, Chair
Nicholas Whipps, Vice-Chair
City of Oakland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee