



August 6, 2024

The Honorable Sheng Thao  
Mayor  
City of Oakland  
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza  
Oakland, CA 94612

Mayor Thao:

On behalf of the police officers of the City of Oakland, we urge you to resign immediately as Mayor of Oakland.

To protect the safety of Oakland residents and businesses, the Oakland Police Officers Association executive board Monday voted unanimously to seek your resignation.

Oakland's hard-working, dedicated, and brave police officers put their lives on the line every day to protect the citizens of Oakland. But your policies, and those of the council majority, continue to whittle away at police officers' ability to protect Oakland from violent crimes, murders, shootings, carjackings, burglaries, robberies, sideshows, and the mayhem that Oakland experiences daily.

The FBI raid of your home and your campaign supporters was a turning point. We believe everyone is innocent until proven guilty. However, your credibility has been irreversibly impacted by your decision to go into hiding and not address the public for nearly a week after the raid. When you did provide public comments, none of them rang true.

Throughout your almost two years in office, violence, crime and fear have spiraled out of control. Just within the last 48 hours Oakland suffered a mass shooting in East Oakland and a three people were shot in West Oakland.

This past Thursday, in another Oakland shooting tragedy, Run Hua Kang, 33, was in critical condition after a bullet came through a wall and went through his head. Hua immigrated to the U.S. from China "searching for the American Dream for his family." Hua is the provider for his wife and their two daughters, seven months and three years old, as well as for his parents.

Teenagers are shot dead on our streets, the elderly are afraid to leave their homes, mass violence and shootings occur in beloved neighborhoods, small businesses are victimized hourly by burglaries and robberies, daily sideshows threaten public safety, our population lives in daily fear, and Oakland is now, on your watch, considered to be one of the most dangerous cities in the world.

Here are some of the unacceptable and troubling facts of your failed leadership of our wonderful city:

Crime is out of control, yet we only have a limited picture of how bad it really is.

Why? Your continued de-funding of police has made it nearly impossible to determine the number of home and business burglaries/robberies because in some instances it takes several days for officers to respond to calls for help.

Right now, our city stands at 54 homicides (last year 64 souls sadly lost their lives by this time). Sadly, this death figure could change at any minute. In 2023, the crime rates were through the roof. This year, it's difficult to tell how bad the situation is because of OPD understaffing. While data for crimes against persons are likely current, property crimes and crimes reported online are approximately four months behind. Citizens are so frustrated by understaffing that they underreport property crimes which also impacts the data and its reliability.

It was a lie when you told the San Francisco Chronicle that "Oakland is turning the corner and the public safety investments we have made are paying off."

Residents mock your statements that your 'violence prevention' programs are "successful." No one believes your 'prevention' programs are successful when, sadly, a teenager was shot to death last week and four people were shot at a 400+ person sideshow this weekend.

Because of your failures to take action, Gov. Gavin Newsom sent the CHP to help OPD protect citizens. Despite rising crime and fear, your administration and your supporters, councilmembers Nikki Fortunato Bas, Carroll Fife, Rebecca Kaplan, and Dan Kalb, took no

action to protect residents and businesses who were forced to plead for help from the Governor.

It took Gov. Newsom to step in and provide leadership when none was forthcoming from you, Bas, Fife, Kaplan and Kalb. The Governor is now also taking action against disreputable District Attorney Pamela Price for her failures to protect Oakland and Alameda County from criminals.

Just last week, Gov. Newsom called upon you to change the city's police pursuit policies to help OPD officers capture more criminals. What have you done? Nothing.

You allowed Oakland to go more than a year without a permanent police chief.

You accepted responsibility, and then tried to blame others, for failing to apply for millions in state grants to fight retail crimes. The money would have given Oakland surveillance cameras, more foot patrol officers, and a new fleet of cars.

On top of the devastating, out-of-control violence and crime, the City of Oakland is currently in a fiscal crisis, and should it result in bankruptcy, this will only lead to a further deterioration of public safety.

The budget you recommended and passed in July by councilmembers Council President Nikki Fortunato Bas and Councilmembers Rebecca Kaplan, Kevin Jenkins, Carroll Fife and Dan Kalb, cuts the police force from 712 sworn officers to 678 officers. Previously, you eliminated 91 positions, cutting cops from 803 to 712 officers, which sent crime skyrocketing.

And, these cuts could go deeper, you have stated, and police staffing could fall even further in the range of 600 sworn officers, if your current budget--which bets on the sale of the coliseum--doesn't work.

Oakland needs somewhere between 1,000 to 1,200 officers to be at full strength, to protect and serve people and businesses in Oakland. A study is due later this year from the city's consultant, yet you have not requested this information now, when we need it the most to make sound budget decisions to protect public safety.

The OPOA and the public have little faith that your current budget will be successful. Your sale of the African American Sports & Entertainment Group of the Oakland Coliseum Complex is likely to be a failure. It is telling that the A's sold their half of the property for \$125 million, while you allegedly will receive \$105 million for the city's half. On the face of it, that's an immediate loss of \$20 million to city taxpayers.

We have no beef with AASEG, but we believe, as do many others, that the sale of public property is not a sound fiscal policy decision. Your administration should be cutting everything it can--with the exception of police officers. In fact, you should be adding officers to address what everyone else can plainly see: Oakland is violently unsafe.

The responsibility for crime and violence in Oakland rests squarely on your shoulders. We are fed up with your poor public safety decisions.

You stated in a rare media interview, that the upcoming November recall election against you is a "huge waste of money. It's going to cost millions of dollars, upwards of \$10 million, during a time where we're looking to see how we can save the people who are working for the city right now."

We believe that no amount of money is wasteful when it comes to preserving and protecting Democracy and the public. We support the recall. We urge you to resign now, prior to the Aug. 8 filing deadline. The city can use any money it saves from your resignation for hiring more police officers to protect the public from violent crime--and get Oakland back on the right track.

Every day you are in office, Oakland is less safe. Your administration has turned Oakland into an international embarrassment. When, as the East Bay Insider reported this week, 73% of Oaklanders believe Oakland is on the wrong track, it's time to pack your bag and leave city hall.

Sincerely,

Huy T. Nguyen  
President  
Oakland Police Officers' Association

Timothy Dolan  
Vice President  
Oakland Police Officers' Association

Timothy DeLaVega  
Treasurer  
Oakland Police Officers' Association

Glen Hara  
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