



The Honorable Mayor Barbara Lee

City Administrator Jestin Johnson

Council President Jenkins and Members of the Oakland City Council

Oakland City Hall

1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza

Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Urgent Call for City Staff Return to In-Person Work

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

On behalf of the business members of the Downtown Oakland Partnership, we are writing to respectfully and urgently request that the City of Oakland require City staff to return to in-person work in Oakland on a consistent basis.

A strong, visible, and engaged City workforce is vital not only to the economic recovery of Downtown but also to the health, safety, and resilience of our entire community. The absence of a consistent government presence has had a direct and compounding effect on small and local businesses, many of which continue to struggle with decreased foot traffic, reduced daytime activity, and the ongoing perception that Downtown is no longer a central, safe, or thriving civic hub.

Small businesses—many of them minority- and family-owned—rely heavily on a steady stream of local customers, including public employees, to survive. Without a regular, physical presence of City staff, these businesses face daily uncertainty and are at risk of permanent closure. Every day that passes without action undermines not only their ability to stay open but also the City's broader economic development goals.

Additionally, public safety remains a growing concern. A more active and populated Downtown during business hours directly correlates with safer streets, greater accountability, and improved conditions for all who live, work, and visit Oakland. A return of City staff to in-person work sends a powerful signal of leadership, confidence, and commitment to revitalizing the core of our city.

As we strive together to strengthen Oakland, we urge you to prioritize this action as an essential step toward long-term recovery, business sustainability, and public trust.

We appreciate your continued leadership and respectfully request your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

On behalf of the Downtown Oakland Partnership Members



Oakland Metro Chamber of Commerce

Lakeside Partner Group

Blue Shield of California

Pacific Gas & Electric

Credit Karma

Marqeta

thredUP

Awaken Café and Roasting

Aldin Company

Kaiser Permanente

TMG Partners

Paramount Theatre

Fluid510

Oakland School for the Arts

Oakland Kia/ Chevrolet/Ford

The Clorax Company

Holland Partners Group

Another Planet Entertainment

Oakland BID Alliance

Ridgemont Hospitality

Comcast

Gensler

Kinfox

Chromata Retail

BuildGroup

Behring Co.

Roofstock

Samuel Merritt University

Transwestern

Oaklandish

The YMCA

EBMUD

Fennemore Wendel

Martin

The Port Bar

AC Transit

Carmel Partners

Frontline Realty Capital

Lakeside

Tidewater Capital

Black Cultural Zone

Rubicon Point Partners