



April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

**Oakland City Council**  
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza  
Oakland, CA 94612

**RE: Letter of Support for the Ordinance To Strengthen Illegal Dumping Enforcement**

On behalf of the Downtown Oakland Partnership, we write to express our strong support for the Ordinance to Strengthen Illegal Dumping Enforcement, which increases penalties for illegal dumping, establishes violations for transporting waste in vehicles without license plates, and strengthens enforcement mechanisms across the city.

Illegal dumping continues to be a persistent challenge in the downtown core, creating significant public health, environmental, and economic impacts while placing ongoing strain on maintenance efforts and local resources. Oakland receives approximately 25,000 service requests annually related to illegal dumping, yet only a small fraction of citations are issued and successfully collected. The cost of cleanup, including more than 9,000 tons of waste removed each year, places a heavy burden on City services and downtown stakeholders working to maintain safe and vibrant public spaces.

This ordinance reflects best practices developed through statewide, county, and regional efforts to address illegal dumping. By increasing fines and penalties, holding vehicle owners accountable when their vehicles are used in illegal dumping, prohibiting the transport of waste in vehicles without license plates, and streamlining citation and collection processes, the ordinance establishes clear and enforceable consequences. At the same time, the inclusion of a community service option provides a balanced approach that promotes accountability while allowing pathways for compliance.

Importantly, this ordinance complements SB 1218, which would link unpaid illegal dumping fines to vehicle registration holds. Together, these local and state-level efforts represent a coordinated and comprehensive strategy to deter illegal dumping, improve compliance, and reduce the burden on Oakland's communities.

The Downtown Oakland Partnership remains committed to working alongside partners to advance solutions that strengthen the broader Oakland community. We support the equitable and strategic implementation of this ordinance to help build a cleaner, safer, and more resilient city.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Downtown Oakland Partnership