

OFFICE OF THE CITY AUDITOR
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**Audit of MEASURES M & N:
Emergency Medical Services
Retention Act & Paramedic
Services Act**

*Oakland Fire Department spent Measure M & N proceeds as intended,
but audit stresses the need for better management of controlled
substances and more detailed spending plans*

OAKLAND, Calif. (May 29, 2018): The Office of the City Auditor released their audits of Measures M and N for fiscal years (FY) 2015-16 and FY 2016-17.

Oakland voters passed Measure M – the Emergency Medical Services Retention Act, and Measure N – the Paramedic Services Act in 1997. The Measures imposed parcel taxes to support emergency medical services and paramedic emergency services, respectively. Both M and N require the City Auditor to perform audits of the measures with the intention of providing assurance to taxpayers that Oakland Fire Department (OFD) is spending the revenue from the parcel taxes appropriately.

Alameda County assesses and collects parcel taxes under Measures M and N from more than 106,000 Oakland properties and remits the tax proceeds annually to the City of Oakland. In FY 2015-16 Measure M revenue totaled \$2.02 million and Measure N revenue totaled \$1.62 million. Similarly, in FY 2016-17, Measure M revenue totaled \$2.06 million and Measure N totaled \$1.64 million.

The audit's overall objectives were to determine whether OFD spent tax proceeds as intended by the Measures and assess whether Department internal controls over tax proceeds are in place and effective.

Both audits confirmed OFD's expenditures of the Measures' revenue was spent as intended, but identified the need for better management practices around their spending plans. Most notably the audit of Measure N found the need for stronger departmental internal controls around controlled substances.

Controlled substances, such as Fentanyl and Midazolam, are an essential part of services provided by paramedics to patients with medical emergencies. Both medications are regulated by the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

The audit recommends providing adequate security over these substances throughout their lifecycles from the moment they are ordered, to ensuring they are stored, transported, distributed and destroyed properly, to guard against theft and improper use.

The audit also recommends OFD and Medical Services management finalize and fully develop its spending plans for the Measures. Such plans are common budgetary tools managers use to plan for anticipated tax proceeds and the corresponding expenditures that are permitted within the legal requirements of the Measures.

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To view the full report please visit: www.OaklandAuditor.com

Our new website is coming soon! Expected launch date is mid-June!

City Auditor, Brenda Roberts has served as Oakland's elected citywide auditor since 2015. She has two decades of professional experience as a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Internal Auditor and Certified Fraud Examiner working with national firms KPMG and Deloitte. Auditor Roberts has performed audits for agencies including Fortune 500 companies, and has worked for the U.S. Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Labor, and City/County of San Francisco. She has received many accolades for her professional excellence including: Knighton Award – Gold from the National Local Government Association, Exceptional Achievement Award from the U.S. Department of Labor and a Significant Achievement Award from Deloitte & Touche, LLP. Oakland has been her home for over 25 years, it is where she built her life and raised her three daughters. She is committed to making Oakland run with efficiency and transparency and moving Oakland forward, pushing for greater cost savings and accountability on every level.