



Office of the City Auditor Update

December 31, 2021

Holiday Wishes & Year-End Update



When I reflect upon this past year, I am humbled by the challenges our City continues to face. We are all being pushed in ways we could never imagine. However, throughout the year, I was also reminded that Oaklanders are resilient - we are survivors, we are creative, we are caring, we are adapting—we are community.

As the pandemic continued to impact us all, my office was even more determined to work smarter and more efficiently. As a result, my team's tenacity allowed us to publish some of our most impactful audits to date. In April, we released the [City of Oakland's Homeless Encampment Management Interventions and Activities audit](#), revealing the City lacked an effective strategy for dealing with the growth in encampments and did not provide sufficient policy direction or adequate funding at the onset of the homelessness crisis. In June, we quantified the initial financial impacts of COVID, when we released a performance audit of the [City of Oakland's Financial Condition](#). We presented our audits and findings over 20 times to various community groups throughout the City, the City Council, and the City's Budget Advisory Commission.

In March, we won a distinguished [Knighton Award](#) for our performance audit of the [Oakland Police Commission and the Community Police Review Agency](#). Judges noted, "the report not only examined specific concerns of citizens and City leaders, but also acknowledged the tumultuous climate surrounding policing in America. The audit recommendations were specific, clear, and effectively addressed fundamental causes of the issues identified."

Additionally, our office's Whistleblower Hotline received 158 complaints, engaging my team in numerous investigations, which resulted in publishing three substantiated reports on the [Oakland Parks Recreation and Youth Development Department](#), the [cannabis dispensary application process](#), and [the City's contract with a bio-hazard clean-up firm](#).

As the New Year approaches, I want to remind you that our commitment to Oakland residents is to consistently do more while creating even greater government accountability. Since taking office again in 2019, we have issued 22 reports—and it is important to note the size of the office has not changed in over 20 years—we remain a dedicated staff of 10 employees with only 8 auditors, including myself. Yet, in the last 20 years the City's budget and responsibilities have continued to increase—therefore leading to decreased oversight. Oversight is one part of the equation, the other is to demand the most critical city services are prioritized, delivered, and the City's ongoing performance is monitored and corrected in real time. Make your voices heard—communicate with your City leaders often and in organized numbers—do not allow your wants and needs to be silenced and continue to share your concerns with me.

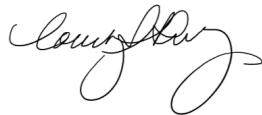
In 2021, we kicked off my citywide Listening Circle Tour. I met with over 15 community groups (neighbors, board members, friends, etc.) and I'm looking forward to meeting more Oaklanders in 2022. Please reach out and schedule a listening circle (*more information below*) so I may hear your greatest concerns as we plan our future audit work and continue investigating allegations of fraud, waste, and abuse. Our work includes critical recommendations that lead to an improved and accountable city government.

Looking ahead, we will be releasing our second homeless services audit, a follow-up audit of the Oakland Police Department's use of overtime, an audit of Oakland's building permitting process, and more.

I know this past year has been full of challenges, so I hope the coming year brings more certain times for your family and the City.

Here's to deepening our collective resiliency and to a safe and healthy New Year.

Committed to serving you with the utmost integrity,



COURTNEY RUBY, CPA, CFE
CITY AUDITOR



[View All Released Reports](#)

Announcement Public Ethics Commissioner Appointment



Public Ethics Commission | CITY OF OAKLAND

I am honored to have the responsibility to appoint a Commissioner to the Public Ethics Commission for the 2022-2025 term. Over the next two weeks I will be accepting applications. Click [here](#) to learn more about the role of Commission Members and fill out an application. *If you would like to be considered for the appointment, please email your application to [Dena Shupe](#) by close of business on Friday, January 14, 2022.*

[PEC Commissioner Vacancy Announcement & Application](#)

Call to Action Schedule a Listening Circle With Me



My Office is continuing its City-wide listening tour into 2022, so I may hear directly from Oakland residents about your greatest concerns facing our City. I believe those affected by the biggest issues in Oakland, often hold the solutions to these problems.

Schedule an in person or Zoom listening circle with me today. Your feedback will be included in our annual audit planning process and some of your concerns could be addressed immediately through our [Whistleblower Program](#) (see below for more information).

[Schedule a Listening Circle](#)

SUBMIT A COMPLAINT TO OUR WHISTLEBLOWER HOTLINE

This confidential hotline is for employees or residents to report **fraud**, **waste**, and **abuse** in the City of Oakland. Available 24/7.

(888) 329-6390

[Submit Online](#)



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