



MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 29, 2026

TO: Barbara Lee, Mayor
Betsy Lake, Acting City Administrator
Chuck Baker, Assistant City Administrator

CC: Tony Batalla, Chief Information Officer & Director of Information Technology

FROM: Michael C. Houston, City Auditor

SUBJECT: Comprehensive Cybersecurity Assessment

The City Charter tasks the City Auditor with conducting audits and reviews that “the Auditor deems to be in the best public interest.” Cybersecurity is critical to delivering essential services and protecting sensitive information, making it in the best public interest to review. Cybersecurity is also a high-risk subject for the City of Oakland that warrants specialized review.

The City Auditor’s Office Commissioned a Comprehensive Cybersecurity Assessment

In June 2024, the City Auditor’s entered into a professional services agreement with an outside contractor, Illumant, LLC, to conduct a comprehensive cybersecurity assessment. The contractor concluded its work in June 2026.

The assessment included reviews of the security of the City of Oakland’s networks, websites, web applications, physical locations, staff, and systems. The assessment included internal and external vulnerability analyses and penetration testing of sites, applications, servers, routers, desktops and firewalls, as well as social engineering, threat modeling of privileged roles, and analyses of security technology/strategy and the governance affecting the City’s information technology environment. The contractor, which worked closely with senior staff of the Information Technology Department throughout the assessment, provided reports detailing findings and recommendations.

Public Reporting on the Cybersecurity Assessment Will be Limited

While we generally publish written reports of audits, substantiated investigations, and other Office projects for the public, we limit distribution of findings and recommendations from security audits to those with a need to know. Limiting disclosure prevents potential for undue harm to the City and individuals and entities with ties to the City. Relatedly, records from the cybersecurity assessment are exempt from disclosure under the City of Oakland’s Sunshine Ordinance (Oakland Municipal Code Chapter 2.20) and California Public Records Act (CA Government Code § 7929.210). In addition to not publishing findings and recommendations from this assessment, our Office will not share any of the cybersecurity assessment’s methodologies or analyses. The City

Auditor's Office will limit its public reporting about the cybersecurity assessment to what is included in this memo.

Reporting on the Cybersecurity Assessment's Findings and Recommendations Will be Limited to Those with the Need to Know

Like the performance audits our Office conducts, the assessment includes recommendations to management and those charged with governance and oversight. Accordingly, the City Auditor's Office will work with our contractor to share the findings and recommendations from the cybersecurity assessment with the City officials and senior-level employees who need the information to address the findings and recommendations. Additionally, because the City Council is responsible for setting City policy and allocating City resources needed to address findings and implementing recommendations, we will pursue a high-level presentation of the cybersecurity assessment to the City Council at a closed session meeting.

Next Steps

I will inform you about updates about this matter. In the meantime, please contact me directly if you would like to discuss or have questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "MCHouston". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael C. Houston
City Auditor