

**Oakland Police Officers Association**

**555 5th Street**

**Oakland, CA 94607**

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**Dear Police Officers Association:**

**Improving literacy in Oakland is important to me, as is reducing the crime rate. I believe that making sure young people in Oakland can read well and have the support they need to finish their high school educations will help ensure that they become productive citizens instead of criminals.**

**The Oakland Public Library and all its branches are crucial to this effort. In addition to promoting literacy, they provide safe places for kids to hang out after school and programs to engage them during the summer. Oakland residents passed Measure Q for libraries by more than 77%, but now this parcel tax is in danger of not being collected because the city may not be able to fund the minimum \$9,059,989 that is a condition of Measure Q's implementation.**

**I am writing to your association to encourage your membership to make a financial contribution toward your retirement fund to help bring down costs so that the neighborhood libraries in Oakland's poorest communities can remain open and continue to**

**provide the important services they do.**

**I very much appreciate and value the important and dangerous work police officers do and very much support defined benefit programs for public employees. However, all other City of Oakland employees contribute a percentage of their salaries in order to receive this benefit, and I do not believe it is unfair or unreasonable to expect police officers to contribute a percentage of their salary toward their retirement.**

**I hope you will consider my request and help make Oakland a city that provides for not only the safety but also the full well-being of its citizens, especially the youngest ones.**

**Thank you.**

**Sincerely,**