

Jean Quan for Oakland Mayor

Summary of Envisioning East Oakland Town Hall Meeting



"In a lot of ways, there are two Oaklands. Many of the services we get in the rest of the city, people don't expect here. There's a lot more violence and a lot less retail. We think it's really important to empower and involve people from East Oakland because if East Oakland moves, the whole city moves."

Jean Quan

On October 2nd at Elmhurst Presbyterian Church, East Oaklanders of all ages, backgrounds and income levels joined mayoral candidate Jean Quan and Assembly Member Sandre Swanson for a town hall meeting to take a big-picture look at the community's biggest challenges and best opportunities. Below is a sample of ideas and strategies residents shared about all aspects of East Oakland's health and development—from public safety to job training programs—to identify pathways to success.



JOBS & INDUSTRIES

Challenge:

High unemployment weakens our neighborhoods. Too many jobs in Oakland are held by non-residents. How

do we put East Oaklanders to work?

Pathways to success:

- City programs that train Oakland residents for local jobs
- Make Oaklanders priority hires
- More places to go obtain job readiness skills
- More information about existing programs and services
- More support of small businesses for job creation

LOCAL BUSINESS DISTRICTS

Challenge:

Walkable commercial corridors with one-of-a-kind small businesses create more than jobs—they add stability and character to our neighborhoods. How does East Oakland get down to business?

Pathways to success:

- Lessen the bureaucracy that stands in the way
- Restructure business associations
- Bring green jobs to Oakland
- Advocate for business success



HEALTHY & SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Challenge:
How do we increase well-being in East Oakland?



Pathways to success:

- Shops of all kinds (for example, bakery, produce, bikes) that charge reasonable prices
- Farmers markets and healthier selection of food at supermarkets
- Zoning against fast food restaurants
- Regular trash clean-up
- Increased HIV testing and sexually transmitted illnesses education
- Parenting classes
- Focus on healthy eating in our schools and less soda consumption



PUBLIC SAFETY

Challenge:
We want to be able to walk our streets without fear of violent crime. We want

to put a lid on public nuisances that decrease our quality of life. And we want to feel that the police are for us, not against us. What can we do together to build a safer community?

Pathways to success:

- Maintain community policing and neighborhood beat cops
- Live OPD telephone line for reporting crimes or hot spots
- Install better street lights
- Address prostitution, create safe houses, support prevention programs w/funding
- Recruit new officers from Oakland to replace expensive older cops, and offer early retirement
- Create jobs and after-school activities for youth
- Quicker responses from the police and fire departments, especially in the flats
- Stop police harassment



OUR YOUTH

Challenge:
Substandard education, violence, chronic unemployment, substance addiction, teen pregnancy, discrimination, mental illness: Our young people face numerous obstacles and dangers that erode their sense of self-worth and keep them from reaching their goals. How do we help them increase their chances for lifelong success?

Pathways to success:

- Keep kids out of trouble with after-school activities, professional and peer counseling, and drug prevention programs
- Put more students on the college track by hiring better qualified teachers who love their work
- Act as a community mentor
- Encourage more parental involvement
- Make education a priority so that students take responsibility for learning
- Demand accountability from school principals
- Address racism from teachers
- Create housing for foster youth
- Fund our schools equally

East Oakland Town Hall Steering Committee

Kevin Mann, East Oakland Field Organizer
 Jeffrey Cash, District 6 Coordinator
 Howard Dykoff, District 7 Coordinator
 Pam Drake, District 3 Field Organizer
 Tavae Samuleu, District 5 Field Organizer

Jose Dorado	Richard Mead
Kathy Dwyer	Jose Perlera
Sylvester Grisby	Sue Piper
Lailan Huen	Tony Robinson
Ricardo Jazquez	Kim Shipp
Frank Kellum	Rev. Dr. Martha Taylor
Karen King	Vallie M. Townes
Marilyn Lawson	Carlos Uribe
Justin Lin	Allene Warren
Noah Lystrup	and the Elmhurst Community

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