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1.

Motivation – Why did you choose to run for City Attorney?

I believe a professional, independent and effective City Attorney plays a critical role in addressing Oakland's challenges and making it shine even brighter. The City Attorney must provide impartial, objective advice and counsel, serve as a watchdog in City Hall to ensure that everyone knows and plays by the rules and stays in their own lanes and be a force for positive change. The City Attorney is accountable to the people of Oakland and provides an independent voice that can be a powerful force for change.

I have had the privilege and honor of serving as Oakland City Attorney for the past 5 years. I am seeking re-election to continue to implement my vision for the City Attorney's Office as a force for change both inside City Hall and in our community. My record demonstrates that I am a professional, independent and effective City Attorney who operates with integrity. I am running to continue this work that I am passionate about, and to continue the success I have had as Oakland's City Attorney. A few examples:

I went to trial and shut down two hotels that were magnets and centers for human trafficking and exploitation of girls and women. I have continued to file lawsuits and secure settlements requiring that other hotels/motels are good citizens and do not allow their businesses to be utilized by the sex trafficking industry.

I have invoked my power to bring lawsuits under the City's Tenant Protection Ordinance which my Office crafted, to require bad landlords to maintain their properties in compliance with Housing and Building Codes and to cease abuse of their tenants. The Emphyrean Towers is a landmark example of our work. We sued the owner for violations of housing and building and fire codes. The court appointed a monitor and subsequently, the bankruptcy court approved sale of the property to an affordable housing developer for long term affordable housing. I also sued the owner of a Chinatown SRO (single resident occupancy) to compel the owner to cease efforts to force the tenants out of the property so he could remodel it and rent for greater profits.

I have co-sponsored legislation that the council passed to require securing guns in vehicles. There has been a rash of gun thefts from law enforcement vehicles that have subsequently been used to commit crimes.

I co-sponsored the legislation that the council passed to make it a misdemeanor for anti-choice advocates to provide false or misleading information to pregnant women seeking information about their reproductive options.

Our Office's Neighborhood Law Corps has shut down numerous drug houses, problem liquor stores and bars that were hubs for violence and drug-dealing; and is pursuing lawsuits to close human traffickers who masquerade as massage parlors.

I have reorganized the City Attorney's office to focus more resources on public health and safety, code enforcement and initiating lawsuits to protect and advance Oaklanders' rights.

I fought to ensure that law enforcement has the right priorities by supporting the decriminalization of medical cannabis, and suing the US Attorney and the US Attorney General for the Fed's crackdown against medical cannabis dispensaries in Oakland. Law enforcement should focus on violent crime, not non-violent medical cannabis users.

I filed a lawsuit against the giant chemical company Monsanto to recover damages caused by its contamination of our storm water and the bay with toxic chemicals (polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB)).

I have reorganized the City Attorney's office to focus more resources on public health and safety, code enforcement and civil rights lawyering and enforcement -initiating lawsuits to protect and advance Oaklanders' rights.

I sued Wells Fargo for predatory and discriminatory mortgage lending practices against African American and Latino applicants.

My Office's Neighborhood Law Corps (NLC) has worked extensively on foreclosure issues in Oakland, forcing banks to clean up blighted properties and preventing banks from illegally evicting tenants from foreclosed homes.

I wrote and co-sponsored a tough new ordinance to crack down on illegal dumping, and the City has issued hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines to people caught dumping trash on Oakland streets and sidewalks.

Oakland reached agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, East Bay Municipal Utilities District and neighboring municipalities to upgrade our sewer system and protect the SF

Bay.

I am committed to keeping every Oakland neighborhood healthy and clean. We pursue polluters big and small, whether they are contaminating our air and water with toxic chemicals or dumping mattresses and sofas on a street corner.

I won a record \$15 million judgement against a fraudulent immigration consulting agency that preyed on immigrant families seeking legal residency in the US.

The City Council passed an ordinance I wrote with Councilmember Washington <http://www.eastbaytimes.com/opinion/ci_30140590/oakland-must-stop-deceptive-abortion-advertisements-east-bay>banning the provision of false information to pregnant women by “crisis pregnancy centers” masquerading as health care providers.

I have rigorously defended a woman’s right to choose by ensuring safe access to reproductive health clinics by successfully defending Oakland’s Bubble Ordinance in court.

On behalf of Oakland, Mayor Schaaf and I joined 72 other cities and counties in filing an amicus brief in the U.S. Supreme Court defending President Obama’s executive orders to keep immigrant families together (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and Deferred Action for Parents of Americans).

I filed an amicus brief on behalf of Oakland supporting the University of Texas’ consideration of race as a factor in admissions which the U.S. Supreme Court recently upheld.

2. Program and Priorities -- Elected office provides the opportunity to proactively lead by placing new ideas on the agenda for consideration and development. What are some specific ideas you intend to pursue if elected? What do you believe are the main priorities for the City Attorney?

My primary mission as Oakland's City Attorney is to represent the City—and by extension its residents, businesses, unions, and taxpayers—with the highest level of professionalism, independence, and integrity. These have been my values throughout my legal career.

I will always do what I believe is legal and right for the people of Oakland. My advice is not motivated by politics.

It is a top priority for me to continue to run an effective, efficient, and professional law office and City department.

Our City Attorney must serve as an independent watchdog to ensure fair and honest City practices, and keep political influence and corruption out of City government. It's my job to ensure that everyone knows and plays by the same rules regardless of political influence or position.

I co-sponsored a comprehensive Public Ethics Reform law that the City Council passed in January 2015.

I co-sponsored an ordinance that the council passed to ensure transparency in elections. The ordinance requires timely electronic filing of campaign finance reports.

I co-sponsored with Mayor Schaaf a Council policy on high-stakes negotiations to improve transparency and accountability in major deals and transactions.

I authored and co-sponsored a council policy that the city should lease rather than sell city property whenever possible.

I issued a memo reminding the various branches of city government of their roles under the City Charter. The City Council establishes policies and passes laws; all administrative powers, such as hiring, firing and contracting procedures reside in the City Administrator, Mayor, City Attorney and City Auditor. This separation of powers serves the people's goal of having the administrative decisions and processes handled by the administration free of interference by the City Council.

I created a new division in my office to improve coordination of labor and employment advice and counsel to the police department and other city departments. The division has a specific focus on police personnel policies, police accountability, discipline and making Oakland a model department.

3. Qualifications -- Please give a brief summary of your background and qualifications for the office of City Attorney. If you are the current City Attorney, what issues can you point to in your time as City Attorney that have had a positive impact; that have made a difference?

Since I graduated from Harvard Law School, I have practiced law, full time for more than 40 years. I have worked in the private sector for two major law firms and two prominent corporations and at every level of government, including more than 5 years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney. I have provided legal services to the people of Oakland and our elected and appointed public officials for more than 25 years. I joined the Office as a line attorney in 1991, was promoted to supervise the labor/employment unit and served as Chief Assistant City Attorney, second in command, for more than ten years. As Chief Assistant I provided advice to the City Council at its meetings and provided advice to the Mayor, City Administrator, every department and the city's boards and commissions. As City Attorney I oversee the operations of the Office including defending the City when it is sued, bringing affirmative actions the City's behalf to protect and advance Oaklanders' rights, craft policies and legislation for city administration and city council's consideration. I support open government by monitoring responses to public records requests and providing public advice regarding the respective powers and roles of the various branches of government.

See examples of my initiatives and advice that have made a positive impact in responses to Question Nos. 1 and 2, above.

4. Record Keeping -- What should the city do, if anything, about its record keeping practices?

Record keeping has been an ongoing challenge for Oakland. With the advent of current technology, the City can move to a procedure that creates electronic copies of all contracts, policies and procedures so that they are readily accessible. Some steps have been taken in this direction. For example, the online record track system posts responses to all public records requests and tracks them so that the public knows what questions have been asked and the city's answers. The police department is in the process of putting together a streamlined electronic records system for its policies and general orders and updating, consolidating them in the process. We need to have accountability to ensure that final contracts and legislation are provided in electronic form and pdf to the city clerk for our record keeping. Finally, the City can secure more back up storage for emails and convert key hard copy documents into electronic form for posterity. These tasks are underway to a large extent. But the staff that are responsible for this work have many other duties. The City's strained resources make it a challenge to accomplish this important work expeditiously. Although there may be a public perception that the City has sufficient personnel to perform its work, the staff is thin, with individuals performing numerous jobs on a day-to-day basis.

5. Neighborhood Legal Services -- What do you plan to do with the neighborhood legal services?

I assume you are referring to the Neighborhood Law Corps. Due to budget cuts, the NLC was cut to 3 attorneys. However, the council has prioritized this work and we now have 5 attorneys, each of whom is responsible for an area of the City. The NLC is a high priority for my Office and a key part of my vision. The NLC continues to work in the community to identify the problems and issues that the people express and then pursue those matters. In my responses to Question Nos. 1 and 2, I have described some of the important work the NLC is doing. I also have reorganized my Office to add two new divisions: Labor and Employment Division and the Affirmative Litigation, Innovation and Enforcement Division. The NLC, civil rights lawyering and enforcement, general public safety and general code enforcement units are in the latter division. Special counsel who report directly to me oversee each of these new divisions. The NLC will be able to better coordinate the affirmative litigation and lawsuits and analyses they perform within this new division. I also plan to seek reasonable compensation for the NLC attorneys. They currently make a wage that would entitle them to overtime if they weren't attorneys who are exempt from overtime. And they have difficulty living in Oakland with the salary they make which has not been increased since the NLC was established.

6. Police Misconduct -- What is the role of the City Attorney's office in making sure that police misconduct cases are properly handled? How would you evaluate the incumbent's performance -- what changes would you make?

The City Attorney has a significant role in handling police misconduct cases. Our office represents the City in arbitrations when officers seek to overturn discipline. The strength of the City's case depends upon the clarity and precision of City policies/procedures, training, and the adequacy of the police department's investigation and administrative process leading up to final discipline. City Council has budgeted additional resources to allow our Office to hire an attorney (Police Departmental Counsel) who exclusively advises the department on policies, procedures and uses of force and day-to-day issues. The City Council also has budgeted an upgrade of a supervisory deputy city attorney to special council to head the labor/employment division which provides advice to all departments, with a specific focus on police department and includes the Police Departmental Counsel. With these resources we are enhancing coordination of our advice and counsel. The City Administrator and I have established requirements and procedures to ensure that the department consults with my Office regarding the investigations and investigative reports and during the internal administrative process, for serious misconduct. The court overseeing the police department is reviewing our work and the department's work on police misconduct on a quarterly basis and has determined that the advice we are providing is consistent and clear and sound. The investigator also determined that our Office has handled arbitrations and other hearings with proper preparation and competence.

As the incumbent I would rate my performance as diligent and attentive to the importance of police accountability and fair and just policing that doesn't profile or treat African Americans and Latinos differently than whites. As an African American and a woman, I am personally and painfully aware of the fact that Black Lives do not matter at or as much as white lives in this country and that the legacy of enslavement, Jim Crow, the intentional criminalization of Blackness and the uneven playing field, wealth, employment and other disparities permeate our institutions and the entire fabric of our society. I am committed to doing all I can as City Attorney to make Oakland a model department. The federal court's oversight and the commitment of our City Council, City Administrator, Mayor and me to changing the culture of the department and holding officers accountable for misconduct gives me hope that we can make strides to accomplish our mutual goals.

If I ruled the world, I would not have the police oversee discipline of their fellow officers. I would have investigations conducted by civilian experts who are not sworn officers. Retired judges, attorneys, district attorneys, and expert investigators would be permanently retained to perform this work. I believe it is impossible for the police to handle discipline of their colleagues. These are the very same officers that they work with daily and who they rely upon to support and protect them when they are in danger.

7. Police Commission -- What powers should an independent police commission have and not have?

Civilian oversight is absolutely necessary to achieve a cultural change and to provide fair and just discipline and accountability for police officers. A police commission that includes thoughtful, tireless and committed members with the time and knowledge to understand the circumstances and make fair assessments of performance would build trust in the community and help to provide accountability and credibility. I believe the city administrator should have a role in overseeing the police chief because only she has the day-to-day oversight of the department. And I believe the mayor/city administrator should have a role in hiring and firing the police chief.

8. Expansion of Role -- Are you in favor of expansion of the role of City Attorney into areas presently reserved for the District Attorney?

No.

9. Authority from the State -- What is your opinion about special dispensations of authority from the state above and beyond the duties and authorities described in the charter?

The state has the power to legislate on matters of statewide concern. As a charter city, Oakland in

general has authority over local issues. I do not see any conflict between the powers of the City Attorney's Office under state law, and the powers and duties of my office under the City Charter.

10. Accountability -- How do you propose making yourself accountable and accessible to the citizens of Oakland?

As the City Attorney, I find that the most effective way to represent my clients is to be accessible and maintain open and constructive lines of communication. I have and will continue to have an open door policy with the Green Party and other organizations representing Oakland citizens. I place a high value on accountability for my office and all other City departments. The City Attorney's Office publishes an award winning Annual Report to give the public a detailed account of the work of the Litigation and Advisory divisions, financial results and community impact initiatives. Those reports can be found on our web site at: <http://oaklandcityattorney.org/Ops-Reps/Ops-Reps.html>

11. Money in Politics -- Do you support amending the Constitution to end corporate Constitutional rights and getting money out of politics? Have you [Taken the Pledge to Amend?](https://movetoamend.org/pledge) (<https://movetoamend.org/take-pledge-amend>)

I wholeheartedly support overturning Citizens' United to change the political landscape from one in which elected officials and individuals who aspire to become elected officials must spend the lion's share of their time raising money as opposed to making policies and crafting and adopting laws to protect and advance the rights of their constituents and improving our society. I have taken the pledge and support amending the constitution to overturn the US Supreme Court's Citizens' United decision. It is destroying the integrity of our government.

12. Endorsements -- Who has endorsed you so far? Who do you expect to endorse you? Who are you endorsing, from President all the way down ballot to local races?

I do not make endorsements in the City of Oakland Mayor's or Council races or the City Auditor's race because all of these individuals and entities are my clients and it is important for whomever holds the positions to be comfortable that I am providing objective, impartial advice without regard to my political positions or views of the office holder. In fact the SF City Charter prohibits the SF City Attorney from endorsing in local races of the city and county of SF. I have not endorsed anyone in the presidential race; however, I have contributed to Hillary Clinton's campaign and strongly support her as the only viable option for the presidency among the current candidates. Too much is at stake for me to vote for someone other than Hillary given the crucial stakes and the disastrous outcome if Trump is elected as president of these United States. I support Kamala Harris for Senate, Barbara Lee for Congress. I have endorsed James Harris, the OUSD Board president.

I am building a broad and diverse coalition and am honored to have the following early endorsers. A complete list of early endorsers can be found on my campaign website: <<http://www.cityattorneyparker.com>>www.cityattorneyparker.com.

Early endorsers include Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf, State Assemblymen Tony Thurmond and Rob Bonta, City Councilmembers Rebecca Kaplan, Dan Kalb and Abel Guillen, Oakland Firefighters, Local 55, Alameda Building and Construction Trades Council, the Confidential Management Employees' Association, David Kakishiba - former Oakland Unified School District ("OUSD") Director and Executive Director of EBAYC, Andrew Nelson - EBAYC and a rent coalition and police commission and community activist, Henry Gardner – former Oakland City Manager and City Administrator, EBMUD Board Directors Bill Patterson and Doug Linney, James Harris – President of the OUSD Board, Jenny Ong – Executive Director of Chinatown Chamber of Commerce, Pam Drake – community activist and Lakeshore – Grand business improvement district and Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson.

I hope to receive the endorsements that I received during my 2012 campaign, including the endorsements of the various bar associations, additional union support, and the various political organizations as well as additional elected officials and civic leaders. You can find my list of

endorsers in 2012 on my campaign website.

13. Campaign Funding -- How much money do you currently have for this race? How much money do you plan to raise? Where will the money come from? Describe sources of financial contributions for your campaign that you would refuse to accept (if any).

I have on hand approximately \$53K. Because I do not have an opponent, I plan to raise an additional \$10K to \$25K to spread the word about my record and my vision to voters. The City Attorney is an important post but many residents do not know the work the office does. The voters support and knowledge of my record and vision are important to empower me to continue to serve as a City leader and as a force for positive change. I want to earn every vote.

I will not accept contributions from city contractors who are negotiating with or competing for business with the City. I certainly would refuse illegal or improper campaign contributions. I also would refuse contributions from any organizations that I oppose on moral grounds, for example anti-choice, anti-gay, anti-environmental or racist groups.

14. Anything Else? -- Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?

I talked about my career background above, so I will focus on my personal history. I have lived in Oakland since 1981. I have been a lifelong legal advocate for civil rights, justice, women's empowerment and children. In 2015 the California State Bar recognized me for my integrity, effectiveness and professionalism, naming me California's Public Lawyer of the Year.

I was born and raised in Seattle, Washington, where my parents migrated to escape the virulent racism and grueling poverty of the rural, segregated South during the Jim Crow era. My mother was a sharecropper and my father grew up in a poor farming family.

My three siblings and I were raised in a strong union household. My father was a merchant

marine and proud member of the Marine Cooks and Stewards union. My mother was a hotel maid and a member of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Workers union. My parents were able to provide us with health, dental and vision insurance because of their unions.

I was inspired by the civil rights leaders of my youth. At the age of 12 I led a sit-in at a segregated lunch counter in Seattle. I decided to become a lawyer in order to fight for civil rights and equal opportunities for all.

In the early 1970s, I was one of the very few African Americans and women admitted to Harvard Law School. I had to fight hard every day against the entrenched attitude that a woman—and an African American woman at that—did not belong in law school. When I graduated from Harvard Law approximately 10% of the law students were women or African American.

During my more than 40-year legal career, I have been committed to using the law as a tool to champion African American and other people of color, women and other communities that are victimized by systemic racism and discrimination, create opportunities and fight for equal rights, opportunity and justice, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, national origin or economic status.

I have worked as an attorney in the private sector for two major corporations and two prominent law firms. I have served as an attorney at all levels of government—federal, state, and local—including more than five years as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of California, where I represented the U.S. in federal court litigation regarding complex policies and laws.

In 2005, the State Bar Board of Governors selected me for an appointment to the State Judicial Council. The constitutional agency chaired by the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice in the California State Court system.

Prior to becoming City Attorney, Barbara served for 20 years in the Oakland City Attorney's Office, including 10 years as Chief Assistant City Attorney, the second-in-command in the office. As Chief Assistant City Attorney, I oversaw all legal advice to the Mayor's Office, City Council, and all other City departments and commissions. and the creation of groundbreaking, nationally-recognized legislative initiatives, such as Oakland's Anti-Predatory Lending Ordinance, the City's "Bubble Ordinance" assuring women safe access to reproductive health services, and the decriminalization of medical cannabis.

I served as President of the Black Adoption Placement and Research Center, an organization that for more than twenty years found permanent, loving, and supportive homes for waiting children, many of whom are in the foster care system. I am Co-President of Sankofa Holistic Healing

Institute (supporting holistic health and healing for cancer and depression) and I have volunteered as a mentor for the East Bay College Fund, which provides mentors for college students who are the first in their generation to attend college.

My daughter Savannah, whom I raised as a single parent, graduated from Spelman College in 2012. I am the proud grandparent of Samuel Koda Clement, who will enter kindergarten this fall.

Yours truly,

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