

# GET THE GREASE



A Guide to Making Your  
Voice Heard

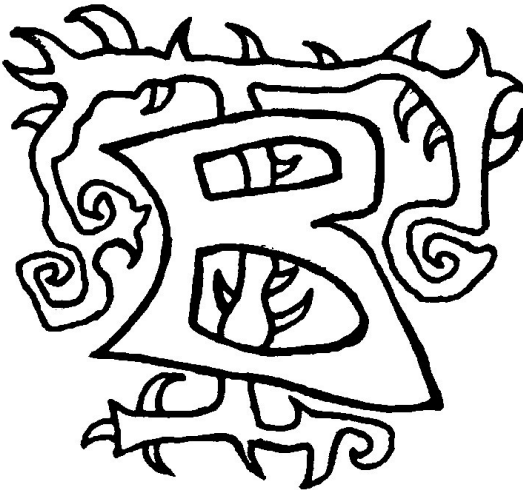
Emails and Signal messages with recommendations, ideas, criticisms, requests for mutual aid or to volunteer and/or join the collective are welcome.

**Bread and Thorns Mutual Aid Collective**

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# Making Your Voice Heard

The squeaky wheel gets the grease, and anyone who's dealt with members of the outspoken anti-homeless movement in Oakland knows just how squeaky they are. It's crucial we in turn make our voices heard - that we squeak at least as loud as the gentrifiers and haters trying to disappear us and our comrades. It is especially important to make our voices heard because we don't have the funding for advertisements and bribery that the anti-homeless movement does.

The two main ways you can make your voice heard by the Oakland city government is by

1. Contacting your city council member, and
2. Speaking at an Oakland city council meeting.

This zine aims to be a quick guide to squeaking loudly and getting the grease.

## Contacting Your City Council Representative

One of the easiest methods to be heard, and one that all of the gentrifiers and haters are already definitely using, is directly contacting your city council rep. You can call or email. First, though, you need to know who that representative is. Oakland has 7 districts, each with a council member. There is also an at-large councilmember, who is elected by all the citizens of Oakland and serves as the chairperson of the council. So that person is beholden to everyone in Oakland. Refer to the map on the inside cover to determine what district you live in. You do not need an address to contact your city representative.

### **District 1** (North Oakland)

Zach Unger

Telephone: 510-238-7001

Email: [zunger@oaklandca.gov](mailto:zunger@oaklandca.gov)

### **District 2** (Grand Lake/Lake Merritt/San Antonio/Jack London Square)

Charlene Wang

Telephone: 510-238-7302

Email: [district2@oaklandca.gov](mailto:district2@oaklandca.gov)

**District 3 (West Oakland)**

Carroll Fife

Telephone: (510) 238-7003

Email: [District3@oaklandca.gov](mailto:District3@oaklandca.gov)

**District 4 (Oakland Hills)**

Janani Ramachandran

Telephone: 510-238-7004

Email: [District4@oaklandca.gov](mailto:District4@oaklandca.gov)

**District 5 (Fruitvale/Jingletown)**

Noel Gallo

Telephone: 510-238-7005

Email: [Ngallo@oaklandca.gov](mailto:Ngallo@oaklandca.gov)

**District 6 (East Oakland/Eastmont)**

Kevin Jenkins

Telephone: (510) 238-7006

Email: [District6@oaklandca.gov](mailto:District6@oaklandca.gov)

**District 7 (East Oakland/Bay Farm/East Oakland Hills)**

Kevin Houston

Telephone: 510-238-7007

Email: [District7@oaklandca.gov](mailto:District7@oaklandca.gov)

**At-large council member**

Rowena Brown

Telephone: (510) 238-7008

Email: [atlarge@oaklandca.gov](mailto:atlarge@oaklandca.gov)

If you have Internet access, you can find more detailed information here:

<https://www.oaklandca.gov/Government/City-Council-Leadership>

It is important to put pressure on your local council member, but it is also important to make your voice heard at city council.

*The best lack all conviction, while the worst  
Are full of passionate intensity.*

We see this over and over. The worst people in the city – the ones you would never want to deal with – are the loudest at city council meetings. We also deserve to be heard. We cannot let ourselves be sidelined.

## Speaking at a City Council Meeting

If you have a phone that can scan the QR code over on the right here, you can access the C4C guide to speaking at an Oakland City Council meeting. It's straightforward with well-done graphic design, so we definitely recommend it over this guide, but if you can't access it, here is our set of instructions for speaking at a city council meeting.



You can speak virtually (via the Internet) or physically (at the physical location of the meeting). To speak at a city council meeting, you need to submit a “speaker card.” This also can be done physically or virtually.

### **Things to know before submitting a speaker card**

- You must submit a Speaker Card before the City Clerk announces the item you wish to speak on.
  - If submitting a Speaker Card by email or through Oakland’s website, take a screenshot of your email or online Speaker Registration in case your name is not called. This is particularly important if you submit a Speaker Card on the day of the meeting!
- You are not required to give your name or address in order to give Public Comment.
- Submitting a Speaker Card through Oakland’s website requires folks to create an account.
  - If you submit a Speaker Card through Oakland’s website, the name you used to create your account is the name the City Clerk will call during the Meeting.

### **Submitting a Speaker Card IN PERSON:**

Physical Speaker Cards are available in Council Chambers at the start of public meetings (e.g., 3:30pm for City Council Meetings). The City Clerk may be present to hand them out, but they are most often on one of the tables on either side of the Public Speaker Podium.

### **Submitting a Speaker Card BY EMAIL:**

Send the items below to the City Clerk: [cityclerk@oaklandca.gov](mailto:cityclerk@oaklandca.gov)

- Meeting Title (e.g., City Council Meeting)
- Meeting Date
- Name you wish to be called during the meeting
- Agenda Item(s) you will speak to.

*Take a screenshot of your email, especially if submitting a Speaker Card on the day of a meeting!*

### **Submitting a Speaker Card ON OAKLAND'S WEBSITE:**

- **STEP 0** | To submit a Speaker Card through Oakland's Website, you first need to create an account on the website.
- Go to <https://oakland.granicusideas.com>
- Click on the "Sign Up" button at the top right of the webpage.
- Enter your email address, a password + the name you wish to be called during a Meeting into the form;
- Click the box next to "I'm not a robot" at the bottom left of the page + follow the instructions on the pop-up window;
- Click the blue button that says "Sign Up" at the bottom of the page;
- Check your inbox for an email with the subject "Welcome to SpeakUp" from [speakup@granicus.com](mailto:speakup@granicus.com) (you may need to look in the Spam folder!);
- Click on the blue text at the bottom of the email that says "Click here to confirm your account".

### **Once You've Created Your Account**

- return to <https://oakland.granicusideas.com> and sign in, your name should appear in the top right corner + you can now register to speak online.
- Next, you'll look for the meeting during which you want to give Public Comment.
  - Click on the gray text that says "Meetings" at the top left.
- On the Meetings page, scroll down to find the Title + Date of the Meeting you wish to attend, and click on the blue button next that says "View Agenda".
- On the Agenda page, scroll down to find the Agenda Item you wish to give Public Comment on, and click the button that says "Register to Speak" below that item. *The button that says "Comment" is only for leaving a written comment on the website.*
- Below the blue box that appears, click the button that says "I agree, Register Me".

- Refresh the screen. You should now see green text below the Agenda Item that reads “Registered to Speak”. Take a screenshot of the Agenda Item + green text saying “Registered to Speak”!
- Check your email for the confirmation that you’ve registered to speak on that item.
- Want to speak on more than 1 Agenda Item? Repeat STEP 2 for each Agenda Item!

This guide was largely pulled from the C4C guide linked in the QR code. We hope, with this primitive print zine, to enable our fellow Oakland denizens to participate in our nominal democracy.

