

News Release

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Oakland City Attorney, City Auditor Propose Critical Government Reform Package

Oakland, CA – City Attorney John Russo and City Auditor Courtney Ruby proposed a package of critical administrative reforms Wednesday to make city government more accountable, more transparent and more effective for the taxpayers of Oakland.

At a press conference Wednesday with the offices of City Council President Ignacio De La Fuente and City Councilmember Pat Kernighan, City Attorney Russo and City Auditor Ruby called for five good government initiatives in a package called Real Oakland Administrative Reform, or R.O.A.R.

“As we have all witnessed, recent events have created a crisis of confidence in our city government,” Ruby said. “I believe that the five administrative reforms we’re offering here today get to the heart of creating transparent, principled and accountable government in Oakland.”

“As Oakland’s elected watchdog officials, we have serious concerns about the lack of protections against abuse of taxpayer resources,” Russo said. “These initiatives will ensure a fair and ethical work environment for city employees, and at the same time, they will allow the people of Oakland to once again feel confident that their government is working for them on the level.”

The reform package includes:

1. A whistleblower protection ordinance – sponsored by De La Fuente and Kernighan
2. A strong anti-nepotism ordinance – sponsored by De La Fuente
3. Reform of flawed personnel department procedures to reduce taxpayer liability
4. Reform of the city’s inadequate records management practices
5. A new employee ethics program that includes mandatory ethics training for all supervisors

Russo and Ruby called on the City Council to unanimously approve the legislative initiatives in the package at the earliest opportunity.

For more information about the Real Oakland Administrative Reform campaign, please go to: www.oaklandcityattorney.org or www.oaklandauditor.com
