

## ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE OO

### Vote no on Measure OO

**Measure OO is unnecessary.** Kids First! funding is safe for another 12 years. The City Council, recognizing the value of many Kids First! programs, just unanimously extended the original Kids First! measure until 2020. Next year, Kids First! will receive about \$10 million.

**Measure OO is fiscally irresponsible.** It would more than double funding for non-profit organizations, increasing the Kids First! share of City funds to almost \$16 million per year for the first two years, and \$26 million the third year, at the expense of essential City services, such as police and fire, libraries, parks and recreation, senior services, and repair of potholed city streets. If this passes it will contribute to an even worse fiscal crisis as the City anticipates cutting tens of millions more from our budget this year due to the current recession.

This expensive measure is **ballot-box budgeting at its worst**, making it even more difficult for the City to meet its responsibilities in this time of economic uncertainty and budgetary hardship. The City needs flexibility to address ever-changing needs and financial situation. The City will be forced to cut safety, library, and recreation services that help children, to meet the narrow language of this strict initiative. This measure has no sunset – this is irresponsible and bad public policy. The original Kids First! measure included this safety feature, and the success of funded programs merited renewal. This proposal has no sunset clause or any provision for periodic review.

Vote No on Measure OO.

s/Helen Hutchison

President, League of Women Voters of Oakland

s/Audree V. Jones-Taylor

Director of Parks & Recreation

s/William B. Patterson

Former Administrator Oakland Recreation Department

s/Ignacio De La Fuente

President City Council

## REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE OO

**Yes on OO is about kids** and what we need to pull our youth and our City out of this mess of killing and crime.

I am Daisy Velasco. I grew up in a tough neighborhood. I see what's happening on the streets. It's no place to be – too much violence and too many of us dropping out of school.

Kids First! programs offer places to go, people who care, and a better way. Without the help of these programs, I would have easily fallen victim to the streets.

I've been lucky to be in after-school programs that kept me safe, gave me opportunities to grow and learn, and helped me get into college. But there aren't enough programs for all of us. I know because too many of my friends didn't have these opportunities and they're struggling now as young adults.

**Yes on OO** because it makes sense to expand things that work – programs that prevent kids from getting into trouble and teach us to be successful members of our community.

This may be a political game to some people, but to me it's about success or failure – life or death. Are kids important enough to YOU?

**Yes on OO** because the City Council can't get the job done – that's why I helped collect 40,000 signatures to let the citizens of Oakland decide what's best for our future.

**Vote YES on OO! "Our Oakland Kids First."**

s/Daisy Velasco

Kids First! Program Alumnus & California State University East Bay Student

s/Olis Simmons

Executive Director, Youth Uprising

s/Teresa Williams

Principal, Bret Harte Middle School

s/Michele Clark

Executive Director, Youth Employment Partnership

s/Jamie Marantz

Principal, Edna Brewer Middle School