

Oakland Post

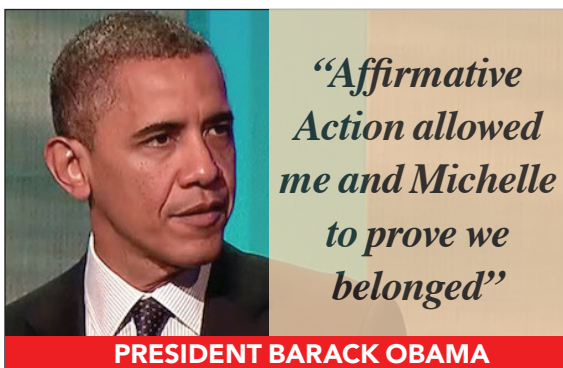
"Where there is no vision, the people perish..." Proverbs 29:18

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Affirmative Action Slapped Down



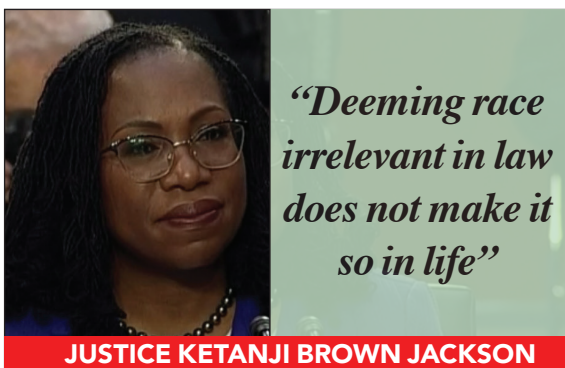
"Affirmative Action allowed me and Michelle to prove we belonged"

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA



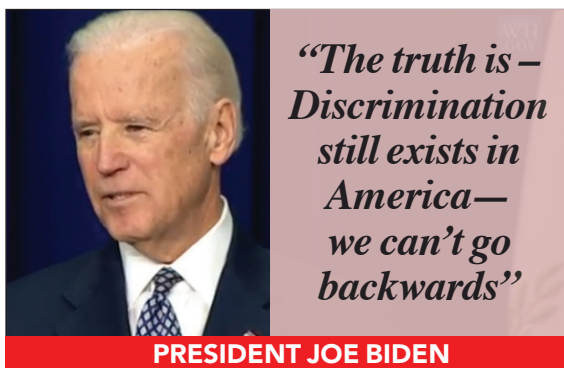
"The Supreme Court decision set us back more than four decades"

CONGRESSWOMAN BARBARA LEE



"Deeming race irrelevant in law does not make it so in life"

JUSTICE KETANJI BROWN JACKSON



"The truth is — Discrimination still exists in America — we can't go backwards"

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN



Council President + District 2 Councilmember Nikki Fortunato Bas (left) and Councilmember Treva Reid, who abstained during the vote..

City Council Adopts Budget, Closing \$360 Million Deficit and Maintaining City Services

By Post Staff

After numerous town halls and public hearings and much public input, Oakland City Council adopted a balanced budget for 2023-2025. While closing a historic \$360 million deficit, the budget focuses on delivering effective, equitable services.

Council President Nikki Fortunato Bas led the Council's budget amendments with her Budget Team, consisting of Councilmembers Rebecca Kaplan (At-Large), Carroll Fife (District 3) and Kevin Jenkins (District 6).

"We are standing together despite facing the worst deficit Oakland has ever seen. I am proud of the work City Council did to provide more support for the vital ser-

vices Oaklanders rely on (in) building upon Mayor (Sheng) Thao's proposed budget," said Bas.

"Our balanced budget expands our community safety work by focusing investments in violence prevention programs, including more support to address sex trafficking; adding community ambassadors in our business corridors, focusing on our most impacted areas; adding civilian investigators to solve crimes; supporting small businesses by continuing our facade improvement program; activating our public spaces; providing critical funding for more affordable housing; and supporting arts, culture, parks, youth and senior programs," she said.

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Swanson for State Senate Campaign Raises \$30,000 at Scott's Bunch



Sandra R. Swanson, standing, is joined by Post Newspapers Publisher Paul Cobb and California State Treasurer Fiona Ma at a fundraiser for Swanson's campaign at Scott's Seafood Restaurant. Photo by Conway Jones.

By Post Staff

This week the Sandra R. Swanson for State Senate campaign reported receiving \$30,000 in donations from their first major fundraising event of the summer.

California State Treasurer Fiona Ma was a special guest speaker at the event. Treasurer Ma also made a major personal donation and described her friendship and support of Sandra from the time they served together in the California State Assembly.

The Sunday brunch was held at Scott's Seafood Restaurant at

Jack London Square in Oakland, CA. Scott's owner, Raymond Gallagher has joined other business leaders like, Ces Butner, founder, of Horizon Beverage, and Carol H Williams of Carol H Williams Advertising in making generous contributions to the 'Swanson for Senate' campaign.

Like all other state campaigns, the Swanson campaign is seeking donations this week to meet the June reporting deadline.

"This is an important deadline for all campaigns to show some

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Sandra R. Swanson, standing, is joined by Post Newspapers Publisher Paul Cobb and California State Treasurer Fiona Ma at a fundraiser for Swanson's campaign at Scott's Seafood Restaurant. Photo by Conway Jones.

Alameda County Grand Jury Says Former D.A. O'Malley Violated State, County Regulations to Win

By Ken Epstein

An investigation conducted by the Alameda County Civil Grand Jury has revealed that employees in the office of former District Attorney Nancy O'Malley, including prosecutors, may have violated state and county laws and regulations by using work emails and county-owned equipment to raise money and campaign for their boss in the 2018 election, according to the recent annual Grand Jury's report.

"When the District Attorney's Office management learned that there was improper behavior among District Attorney staff, they took no immediate corrective action, and staff faced no consequences related to that behavior," according to the report, which was released on June 23.

The grand jury's investiga-

tion, which reviewed hundreds of documents and interviewed more than 30 people, concluded that about 25 staff in the district attorney's office campaigned during work hours, using county-owned computers and the county-operated email system to raise money for O'Malley's 2018 reelection campaign.

"(Violations) included requests from district attorney staff to donate to O'Malley's campaign, as well as attending campaign events, distributing of campaign flyers, and participating in photographs that district attorney staff believed were used to help her candidacy," the report said.

In addition, the emails were coordinated with police unions in other cities and counties to request their attendance at cam-

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Mayor Sheng Thao Removes Former Judge from Police Commission



Judge Brenda Harbin-Forte (Ret.) Superior Court of Alameda County

By Post Staff

Oakland Mayor Sheng Thao has removed former Alameda County Judge Brenda Harbin-Forte from the Oakland Police Commission.

An appointee of former Mayor Libby Schaaf, Harbin-Forte's term on the Commission ended on Oct. 16, 2022, and she has remained on the commission at the discretion of the Mayor's Office.

"Judge Harbin-Forte's seat on the Commission was a holdover position, which she graciously served at the pleasure of the Mayor's Office," Thao said in a statement to KTVU. "I will be using the current vacancy to appoint my own person. I thank Judge Harbin-Forte for her service on the Commission."

The decision to remove Harbin-Forte comes in the midst of infighting among members of the Oakland Police Commission and concerns raised by police reform advocates that the commission's dysfunc-

tion has kept it from fulfilling its duties to ensure police accountability and initiate the search for a new police chief.

Police reform advocates and several members of the commission spoke recently at a press conference on the steps of City Hall calling for the removal of Harbin-Forte and Commission Chair Tyfahra Milele.

Speaking in an interview with KTVU, Regina Jackson, currently a commissioner and three-time former chair of the commission, praised Mayor Thao's "bold action that will allow us to focus on work that will help guide us out of [federal oversight] and toward effective police accountability."

"Sustainability and credibility in the Oakland Civilian Oversight structure is the paramount mission at hand," Jackson added. "Thank goodness for checks and balances."

In an interview with KTVU Wednes-

day, Harbin-Forte blamed the mayor for caving in to people who sought to remove her from the commission.

"I see it as a badge of honor," Harbin-Forte said. "It means that somebody was scared about what we were doing."

"The mayor has been helping to ensure that the control of the Oakland Police Department will stay in the hands of the federal monitor."

"I think that it's unfortunate that she has chosen to mislead the public, to mislead Oaklanders and buy into the rhetoric of others who don't have the best interest of all Oaklanders at heart," Harbin-Forte said.

Speaking at a recent Police Commission meeting, chair Milele accused those who want her removed of a "coordinated attack staged by the colluding members of the [Police Commission], the [Coalition for Police Accountability], and the chair of the selection panel."



Oakland Mayor Sheng Thao. File photo.