

ATTACHMENT B

City Responses to Grand Jury Recommendations & Findings

RECOMMENDATIONS

Grand Jury Recommendation	City's Response/Comments	Responsible parties	Timeline, Next Steps
<i>Recommendation 26-1: Within 120 days, the City of Oakland (City Council) should enact an ordinance requiring businesses to subscribe to waste collection services.</i>	This recommendation has been implemented. This ordinance currently exists – it is already mandatory that commercial properties subscribe to mixed materials waste disposal services per Oakland Municipal Code Chapters 8.28.100, 8.28.120, and 8.28.142 https://library.municode.com/ca/oakland/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT8HESA_CH8.28SOWACODIRE The City has drafted an amendment to the existing ordinance to create a mechanism to collect the debt from unpaid garbage bills and to impose these services on a commercial property that is subscribed to inadequate service or lacks it altogether. This modification will be implemented in the near future. City staff already conduct outreach and enforcement to require businesses to obtain sufficient service. The Ordinance modification will strengthen the City's available enforcement mechanisms.	Oakland Public Works	Additional Ordinance to be presented to Council for action by September 30, 2026.
<i>Recommendation 26-2: Within 120 days, the City of Oakland (City</i>	This recommendation has already been partially implemented, and the rest of the	The City Administrator's	Ongoing. The City will continue working with leaders both regionally and at the

<i>Council) should enact legislation regulating private junk haulers similar to the city's ordinance regulating construction and demolition debris haulers, including registration requirements, prohibitions on the use of unlicensed haulers, the creation of a public list of licensed haulers, and a requirement that haulers provide proof of proper disposal to the city.</i>	recommendation is being pursued with a statewide, rather than local, hauler registry. The City agrees that more regulation is required around improper haulers, and to help the public identify valid haulers. On the latter, the City has already created and shared a public list at: https://www.oaklandca.gov/My-Household/Waste-and-Recycling/Illegal-Dumping-Services-for-Oakland/Licensed-Junk-Haulers However, the City disagrees that a purely local municipal code revision is the solution, given junk haulers operate across city and county lines. For that reason, a regional and/or state-level approach is required.	Office and Oakland Public Works	State level to advance legislation for a broader hauler registry and enforcement system.
<i>Recommendation 26-3: Within 90 days, the City of Oakland must undertake improved education campaigns to promote use of the free bulky waste pickup and drop-off services, including targeted outreach to residents of multi-unit dwellings and communities where English is not a first language.</i>	This recommendation has been implemented. Oakland has already launched this expanded education and outreach campaign to promote the use of the free bulky services, in multiple languages, including specifically for residents of multi-unit dwellings. This work recently benefited from funding via the Illegal Dumping Expenditures Action Plan and will expand and intensify with the Crankstart Foundation's investment.	The City Administration and Oakland Public Works are undertaking this work.	Ongoing. The City is partnering with community organizations and local businesses and expanding public education. OPW Staff receives monthly reports from WM that document monthly bulky pickup and drop off usage with a breakout between single family and multifamily participation. This report is and will continue to be used to track changes in utilization of bulky services as new outreach and education initiatives are deployed. See, e.g.:

			FREE BULKY WASTE REMOVAL  For ALL Oakland Households Homeowners and Renters TO SCHEDULE: 1-888-WM-BULKY  OaklandRecycles.com/Bulky
<i>Recommendation 26-4: Within 120 days, the City of Oakland (City Council) should amend city policy on the use of Automated License Plate Reader data to allow such data to be shared with the Public Works Department for Illegal</i>	The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but the process to authorize it has begun. This item requires action by both the Privacy Advisory Commission and by the City Council. The first step for this action, Privacy Advisory Commission approval, was given on June 4, 2026.	City Council	This item is scheduled to come to the Oakland Public Safety Committee on July 14, 2026, and would thereafter go to the City Council, with final action expected before September 30, 2026.

<i>dumping enforcement, subject to appropriate safeguards.</i>			
<i>Recommendation 26-5: Within 120 days, the City of Oakland must provide Environmental Enforcement Officers with handheld technology, like the technology that the city's parking enforcement officers currently use.</i>	The recommendation is authorized and funded, and implementation has commenced with the ordering of the most appropriate device(s) for the usage needs of the Environmental Enforcement Unit. Oakland's Illegal Dumping Expenditures Action Plan allocated money for this work. Coordination between OPW and Finance has already begun to enhance the connection with citation data to enable improved citation issuance and collections.	Oakland Public Works	The handheld devices are funded in the Illegal Dumping Expenditures Action Plan, adopted May 19, 2026. Full setup and deployment to all relevant personnel is expected to be completed before December 31, 2026.
<i>Recommendation 26-6: Provide and reinforce training to employees in OPW KOCB so they do not prematurely and improperly close illegal dumping cleanup work orders before all waste has been removed from a location.</i>	The implementation of this recommendation has begun and will continue. The City identified challenges both with the premature closure of some work orders when an area has not been fully cleaned, yet the work order is closed, and areas that are fully cleaned but not correctly closed out. Training has begun and will continue. The City believes two systems will significantly improve this issue. First, consistent aerial imagery will help to open and close work orders based on actual, timely conditions on the street. Second, OPW is deploying tablets to abatement staff to verify work order closures.	Oakland Public Works	Funding for technology to help remedy this issue was approved in Oakland's Illegal Dumping Expenditures Action Plan on May 19, 2026 and expanded by the Crankstart Foundation grant, announced on June 11, 2026. By December 31, 2026, OPW will regularly use a) aerial imagery to help accurately open/close work orders and b) tablets or other handheld devices to assist in verifying work order closures.
<i>Recommendation 26-7: Within 90 days, the City of Oakland should designate a single official or point</i>	The recommendation has already been implemented consistent with the Oakland City Charter. Most of the eradication,	Oakland Public Works	Completed.

<i>person to manage and coordinate all illegal dumping efforts.</i>	enforcement, and education efforts are led by Oakland Public Works and the Public Works Director is the point person or single official responsible for managing and coordinating these efforts. Per the City's Charter, the City Administrator is the single official holding overall management authority for all City operations. The Mayor's Office and City Administrator's Office including the Project Manager, have an important role in advancing the work around illegal dumping, too, especially regarding education and outreach, participation with regional and state illegal dumping leadership groups, drafting legislation, and enhancing cross-departmental coordination to strengthen enforcement.		
<i>Recommendation 26-8: Through ongoing negotiations with Waste Management, the City of Oakland must complete amendments to its franchise agreement that will help fight illegal dumping, including:</i> <i>Changing the rate structure to make larger garbage containers more affordable</i> <i>Enabling increased and easier use of the free bulky waste pickup and drop-off services, such as additional pick-ups and drop-offs</i>	The recommendation is being pursued in part through ongoing negotiations with Waste Management and in part through other approaches to the same goals. The City agrees that improving access to convenient, affordable, and legal disposal options can help reduce illegal dumping. Many of the concepts identified in this recommendation are already under discussion as part of ongoing negotiations with Waste Management. However, some may be implemented through operational or administrative changes, not franchise amendments. The City cannot unilaterally change rate structure or other terms; it	Oakland Public Works	Ongoing

<i>Allowing disposal of more waste, and</i> <i>Reducing the time between scheduling appointments and pickups for bulky waste disposal.</i>	would take agreement from the franchise holder. In addition, the City is pursuing complementary strategies outside of the franchise agreement. For example, with funding from the Crankstart Foundation, Oakland will pilot a program that provides larger garbage containers at no additional cost to households in neighborhoods with high levels of illegal dumping to evaluate whether increased disposal capacity reduces dumping on surrounding streets. While negotiations with Waste Management remain an important opportunity to improve disposal services, the City's comprehensive illegal dumping strategy does not depend on those negotiations.		
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FINDINGS

Grand Jury Finding	City's Response	Explanation
Finding 26-1: Illegal dumping of trash has been a massive problem in the City of Oakland for many years.	Agree	
Finding 26-2: In recent years, the City of Oakland has collected about 20 million pounds of illegally dumped waste annually.	Agree	
Finding 26-3: Illegal dumping in the City of Oakland is a multi-faceted problem, with several causes and several different actions necessary to tackle different parts of the problem.	Agree	This is reflected in the City of Oakland's strategy and Illegal Dumping Expenditures Action Plan, which includes education, eradication, and enforcement of illegal dumping. The multi-faceted approach can be found in the Illegal Dumping Expenditures Action Plan at: https://oakland.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=7989762&GUID=3A7C0038-B049-42E0-8C1D-75FB01F98D57
Finding 26-4: Among the causes of illegal dumping, the City of Oakland's rates for residential garbage containers have spurred illegal dumping of excess trash, as customers choose smaller containers that cost less, rather than a sufficient size for the amount of waste they generate.	Partially Disagree	While the City generally believes this to be true, Oakland is undertaking a study, with support from the Crankstart Foundation, to evaluate the impact of providing larger garbage containers to residents in neighborhoods impacted by dumping at no additional cost.
Finding 26-5: The City of Oakland has thousands of businesses without mandatory	Partially Disagree	The current number of businesses lacking mandatory garbage service is estimated to be 1079, (according to information provided by Waste Management) but we are not certain. OPW has been working with identified businesses to bring them

garbage service, resulting in illegal dumping of their waste.		into compliance and has drafted an Ordinance to better remedy this issue by providing for stronger enforcement. An ordinance to strengthen enforcement to help remedy this issue has already been drafted by OPW, and is expected to come to Council by September 30, 2026.
Finding 26-6: Over the years, the City of Oakland has tried different approaches to fighting illegal dumping, with various programs using different names	Agree	
Finding 26-7: Eradication, or cleaning up illegally dumped waste, alone is not a solution; it must be combined with education about proper disposal and strong enforcement of laws against dumping.	Agree	Oakland's Illegal Dumping Expenditures Action Plan (adopted May 19, 2026) includes all three of the components identified in this Finding: education, eradication, and enforcement.
Finding 26-8: While the City of Oakland has made some particular enforcement efforts against illegal dumping, such as having Environmental Enforcement Officers and using cameras, its overall illegal dumping enforcement has been inadequate.	Partially Disagree	This has been true previously, but with the Mayor, City Council, and Crankstart's investment, the City is significantly increasing its enforcement efforts. On May 5, 2026 the City Council passed the Illegal Dumping Enforcement Ordinance to increase penalties and strengthen enforcement against illegal dumping violators. On May 19, 2026, the City's Illegal Dumping Expenditures Action Plan passed, which includes enforcement cameras, personnel time, technology to more effectively issue and collect citations, and authorized the City to seek grant funding to expand illegal dumping programs. On June 11, 2026, the Mayor and Crankstart announced a \$9.2 million program, which includes partnering with OPD, Alameda County, and OPW to strengthen enforcement of illegal dumping, and expanding the enforcement camera system.

		On June 12, 2026 the City Council passed the 2026-2027 budget, which added both enforcement personnel and additional capacity to eradicate via improved equipment and more staff support.
Finding 26-9: Although the City of Oakland's ordinances provide for civil and even criminal penalties for illegal dumping, the amount of civil penalties has been too low to deter or effectively punish illegal dumping.	Partially Disagree	This has been true previously, but Oakland in May 2026 became the first City in the County to adopt amendments, inspired by the Alameda County Model Ordinance recommendation to increase penalties for illegal dumping, and prohibit transporting waste in a vehicle without a license platte. Now Oakland has some of the highest penalties. The Illegal Dumping Enforcement Ordinance, was co-authored by Mayor Barbara Lee and Councilmember Zac Unger and passed by the City Council, April 14 and May 5, 2026. https://oakland.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=7947032&GUID=FE8756DB-E9C7-4048-8F95-3539268CA0B0
Finding 26-10: Current state law does not allow the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to withhold vehicle registration renewals for vehicles used in illegal dumping if the owners have any delinquent illegal dumping fines.	Partially Disagree	The City of Oakland, together with State Senator Jesse Arreguin, is sponsoring legislation to help resolve this issue.
Finding 26-11: Currently, the City of Oakland cannot use delinquent illegal dumping fines imposed under its local ordinance to prevent the DMV from renewing a vehicle registration.	Agree	The City of Oakland is working with its State Legislators to resolve this issue.
Finding 26-12: The City of Oakland has implemented cameras around the city to catch people engaged in illegal	Agree	In addition, Oakland is expanding the illegal dumping enforcement camera system, with funding from the City's Illegal Dumping Expenditures Action Plan, and from the Crankstart Foundation.

dumping, and the city council recently allowed Community Safety (CS) camera footage to be used for illegal dumping enforcement.		
Finding 26-13: The City of Oakland has prohibited the Oakland Police Department from sharing Automated License Plate Reader data with the Public Works Department for illegal dumping enforcement.	Partially Disagree	This has been true previously, but the Privacy Advisory Commission (PAC) approved the use of ALPR's for illegal dumping enforcement on June 4, 2026: https://www.oaklandca.gov/Public-Meetings/Privacy-Advisory-Commission/2026/06-04-26-PAC This item is scheduled to come to the Oakland Public Safety Committee on July 14, 2026.
Finding 26-14: In the past several years, the City of Oakland has not made any referrals to the Alameda County District Attorney's office for criminal prosecution of illegal dumping.	Agree	OPW is making referrals to OPD currently, OPD is initiating investigations based on those referrals, and the City is expanding coordination with the County on illegal dumping, including with the District Attorney. The recent Crankstart Foundation funding award adds resources to support these efforts. See coverage at: https://oaklandside.org/2026/06/11/illegal-dumping-crankstart-foundation-grant-oakland/
Finding 26-15: The City of Oakland's Environmental Enforcement Officers lack sufficient technology for their enforcement and citation efforts involving illegal dumping.	Partially Disagree	Funding for the hand-held electronic devices to enhance the issuance and collection of citations was included in Oakland's Illegal Dumping Expenditures Action Plan, adopted May 19, 2026. Oakland Public Works personnel are implementing handheld electronic devices for Environmental Enforcement Officers. The tablets have begun to arrive and be setup, along with associated software and training. The full implementation for all relevant personnel should be complete no later than December 31, 2026.
Finding 26-16: The City of Oakland recovers a low percentage of civil penalties imposed on illegal dumping offenders through administrative citations.	Agree	This has been true, in large part, due to the need for a connected, comprehensive tracking system for citations, so they are uploaded consistently, and in a manner that provides the needed information for staff in the Finance department to be able to obtain collections. This is enabled through the acquisition of software and technology (tablets) for entering citations, as has been approved in Oakland's Illegal Dumping Expenditures Action Plan, and is underway.

Finding 26-17: The City of Oakland's free programs for bulky waste disposal have been underutilized for various reasons, such as lack of awareness, scheduling, and language hurdles, making it difficult for residents to use them.	Agree	Oakland's plan includes enhanced community education about the free bulky services, especially for underserved communities, renters, and in multiple languages. This work has already launched, and is a funded item in the Illegal Dumping Expenditures Action Plan . This effort is being further expanded with support of the Crankstart Foundation.
Finding 26-18: The City of Oakland does not regulate private junk haulers, except those handling construction and demolition debris.	Partially Disagree	The City of Oakland has produced and posted a list of licensed haulers at the local level, which can be found at: https://www.oaklandca.gov/My-Household/Waste-and-Recycling/Illegal-Dumping-Services-for-Oakland/Licensed-Junk-Haulers The City is also working in coalition throughout the region and the State to advocate for a broader hauler regulatory system, due to the fact that illicit haulers often cross city lines.
Finding 26-19: The City of Oakland's crews in its Keep Oakland Clean and Beautiful division, who are responsible for illegal dumping cleanup, also conduct work clearing homeless encampments.	Agree	
Finding 26-20: The City of Oakland's OAK311 system allows the public to inform the city where illegal dumping problems occur.	Agree	The Oak311 system does intake service requests from the public. It does not contain a comprehensive and detailed accounting of all abandoned trash, along with type of waste and exact location, nor does it always confirm when a site is cleaned. Those capabilities will be provided by the aerial imagery which the City has approved and funded.

Finding 26-21: The City of Oakland (Keep Oakland Clean and Beautiful) has prematurely closed illegal dumping work orders before all types of waste had been removed from a location.	Agree	This has been true previously, but by December 31, 2026, OPW will regularly use a) aerial imagery to help accurately open/close work orders and b) tablets or other handheld devices to assist in verifying work order closures.
Finding 26-22: The City of Oakland (Keep Oakland Clean and Beautiful) has provided training to its employees on the proper closure of work orders, but needs to reinforce that training.	Agree	Additional training and procedures are a component of the work to strengthen the handling and proper closure of work orders. This is also being accompanied by investments in technology, devices and software, and additional personnel time, to further enhance these systems.
Finding 26-23: The City of Oakland's Keep Oakland Clean and Beautiful crews have had their illegal dumping cleanup work slowed by vehicles and equipment not being in working condition.	Agree	The City's plan recognizes the need for working vehicles for cleanup crews. Funding for Lightning Loader vehicles was approved by the City Council on May 19 th , 2026, and those vehicles are being ordered. In addition, the City applied for and received an EPA grant to purchase vehicles for OPW, and City funding via the Illegal Dumping Expenditures Action Plan and the adopted budget will bring in more funds for KOCB vehicles.
Finding 26-24: The City of Oakland does not have a single point person responsible for overseeing and coordinating its illegal dumping efforts.	Partially Disagree	Most of the eradication, enforcement, and education efforts are led by Oakland Public Works and the Public Works Director is the point person responsible for managing and coordinating these efforts. The City Administrator is ultimately the single point person responsible for managing all City operations. The Mayor's Office and City Administrator, including the Project Manager, have an important role in advancing the work around illegal dumping, too, especially regarding education and outreach, participation with regional and state illegal dumping leadership groups, cross departmental coordination on enforcement.