

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sep 14, 2021

Neighbors Together Oakland announces “We Deserve Better” alliance with Oakland Compassion Project, Tiny Logic and the Urban Park Cleanup to demand city accountability.

Oakland, CA-- Grassroots non-profit groups, Neighbors Together Oakland (NTO) have joined with Oakland Compassion Project (OCP), Tiny Logic, and the Urban Park Cleanup (UPC) to form a “We Deserve Better” alliance, aimed at City accountability for it’s gross mishandling of Oakland’s homeless encampment crisis and failure to follow its Encampment Management Policy (EMP). They will announce the alliance at a press conference at West Oakland’s Bottoms Up Community Garden on September 23rd at 11am.

NTO took legal action in August, demanding an Alameda County Superior Court Judge force the City to implement the EMP. Since then, NTO executive director Seneca Scott has been meeting with stakeholders to gain support for City accountability. “The EMP was unanimously passed by the City Council, who then refused to implement it in good faith. NTO believes the EMP provides a workable framework for solutions to the most intense issues surrounding homelessness and we are thrilled to gain more support from other organizations to demand its implementation”, says Scott.

UPC provides direct services to the Oakland community by cleaning the trash that threatens the health and safety of community members, building community between the unhoused and housed community members. “We must stop the culture of displacing the unhoused without offering them the resources they need to get better. There must be a model implemented that focuses on substance abuse and mental health first. We need to improve our case management system so that clients are not left confused by the lack of responsiveness from the people being paid to help them. We deserve better” says UPC executive director Vincent Ray Williams III

Melissa Bookin, the Executive Director of the OCP adds, “The only way we are going to find real solutions to the growing epidemic of homelessness in Oakland, solutions that work for all Oaklanders, is to work together and pool our resources. The key to solving this problem is to stop fighting each other and work together through solution-driven collaboration. We can do this if we all work together as one collective, one community.” The OCP is a nonprofit dedicated to restoring dignity to Oakland’s unhoused residents via mutual aid, advocacy and case management.

The ‘We Deserve Better’ alliance welcomes all Oakland neighbors and organizations to join us at the 9/23 press conference to demand City accountability around implementing its

Encampment Management Policy as well as more on what these organizations are doing on the ground to help Oakland neighbors work together to solve homelessness.

For more information about NTO, visit [www.neighborstogetheroakland.org](http://www.neighborstogetheroakland.org) or contact the group at [info@neighborstogetheroakland.org](mailto:info@neighborstogetheroakland.org).

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For more information about UPC, please visit [www.urbanparkcleanup.org](http://www.urbanparkcleanup.org) or contact Vincent Ray Williams III, [urbanparkcleanup@gmail.com](mailto:urbanparkcleanup@gmail.com)

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For more information about OCP, please email Melissa Bookin, [melissa@oaklandcompassionproject.org](mailto:melissa@oaklandcompassionproject.org)

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<https://oaklandside.org/2020/12/18/i-could-no-longer-avoid-the-problem-how-one-oaklander-organized-community-cleanups/>

<https://piedmontexedra.com/2021/01/one-mans-compassionate-crusade-to-keep-homeless-camps-free-of-trash>

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2021/08/18/lawsuit-demands-oakland-crack-down-on-homeless-camps/>