

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA ADVISORY

EVENT DATE: Monday, March 18, 2019

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SUPERVISOR CHAN COMMEMORATES LAUNCH OF OAKLAND SAFE CAR PARKING PROGRAM

Faith-Based Initiative Will Provide Homeless Residents with Secure Overnight Parking on Church Property

Oakland, CA – On March 18th, Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan will join leaders from Oakland’s faith community and City government at Williams Chapel Baptist Church to commemorate the grand opening of the Interfaith Council of Alameda County (ICAC) Safe Car Park Program. The initiative, which will be operated by the ICAC, will provide homeless Oakland residents with secure overnight car parking on faith-based property.

In response to the continued homeless crisis in Oakland, ICAC created a program structure that will allow for four safe parking sites at Oakland churches. The program will serve individuals who live in their cars, are employed or attending college or are seeking employment, and are the registered owners of their vehicles. Registered individuals, married couples, and families are allowed to park on-site for 90 days with extensions permitted on a case-by-case basis.

Williams Chapel Baptist Church will be the first site to open during Phase One of the program, followed in mid-April by West Side Missionary Baptist Church, Corinthians Baptist Church, and Mount Zion Baptist Church. Each site will feature an on-site security guard, portable toilets, handwashing stations, drinking water, and security cameras. ICAC will also provide homeless navigation wrap-around services during the day that will include case management, job development, and employment training.

WHAT: Safe Car Park Program Press Event

WHO: Wilma Chan – Alameda County Supervisor, District 3
Rev. Ken Chambers – President, Interfaith Council of Alameda County
Dr. Kenneth Anderson – Senior Pastor, Williams Chapel Baptist Church
Rebecca Kaplan – Oakland City Councilmember, At-Large
Nikki Fortunato Bas – Oakland City Councilmember, District 2

WHEN: Monday, March 18, 2019
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

WHERE: Williams Chapel Baptist Church
1410 10th Avenue, Oakland, CA 94606

“I am grateful to our community partners like ICAC and Williams Chapel Baptist Church who are willing to stand alongside us to create solutions to Oakland’s homelessness crisis,” Supervisor Chan said. “This

program will provide a secure, productive environment for vulnerable Oakland residents seeking to improve their lives and the lives of their families.”

Last year, Supervisor Chan committed \$50,000 from her office fund to ensure the launch and operation of the Williams Chapel Baptist Church site. The overall program is expected to be primarily funded by a combination of County and City dollars, which will allow for on-site program coordinators, maintenance staff, training and resource deployment, navigation referrals to Alameda County health services, and parking lot rental fees.

“We thank Supervisor Chan for providing the resources necessary to kick off the Safe Car Park Program at Williams Chapel Baptist Church; Mayor Libby Schaaf and City Council President Rebecca Kaplan for the resolution committing grant funds; Oakland Human Services for administering resources; and the San Francisco Foundation for the startup grant,” said Rev. Ken Chambers, ICAC Founder and President. “We are also thankful for the leadership of the ICAC Board, Elected Council and supporting members, and a special thanks to Dr. Kenneth Anderson for hosting the first of our four sites.”

The ICAC program comes at a time when City, County, and community leaders are seeking to leverage existing resources to address homelessness in Oakland. As of 2017, almost 50% of Alameda County’s homeless population is estimated to reside in Oakland, with seven out of every ten homeless citizens being unsheltered. Approximately 68% of Oakland’s homeless population are African-American.

“I want to thank the Interfaith Council of Alameda County for their leadership in engaging in Oakland’s homelessness crisis,” said Rebecca Kaplan, Oakland City Council President. “Williams Chapel Baptist Church is one of four safe car parks that have been established for our unhoused residents to have a place to park overnight without fear of being towed or disturbed. I appreciate the collaboration with our faith based congregations to help provide more humane strategies to help the homeless, and I look forward to the success of this program and continuing to expand additional efforts.”

The Safe Car Park Program is the latest community-based effort hosted by Williams Chapel Baptist Church. Located in Oakland’s San Antonio district at the corner of 10th Avenue and International Boulevard, the historic church will celebrate its 80th birthday later this year.

“We are honored to be a part of such a revolutionary endeavor to help those that are less fortunate by providing safe parking on holy grounds here at the Chapel,” said Dr. Kenneth Anderson, Senior Pastor of Williams Chapel Baptist Church. “In the words of Jesus, he said ‘when I was hungry did you feed me, when I was naked did you clothe me, when I was thirsty did you give me something to drink.’”

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About Supervisor Wilma Chan

Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan represents District 3, which includes the cities of Alameda, San Leandro, parts of Oakland including Chinatown, Jack London, Fruitvale and San Antonio neighborhoods, and the unincorporated community of San Lorenzo. She is currently Chair of the Health Committee, Founder and Co-Chair of ALL IN Alameda County, and a member of the County’s Personnel/Administration/Legislation Committee, Budget Workgroup, Unincorporated Services Committee, and the Ad Hoc Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights. For more on Supervisor Chan’s accomplishments and initiatives, please visit www.acgov.gov/board/district3 or connect on Facebook with “Supervisor Wilma Chan.”