Happy Holidays!

December is upon us, with all its hustle and bustle to prepare for the holidays. While it is easy to get caught up in the season, I am grateful that our community has made time to actually celebrate together. At the December holiday party, I and local elected officials had the pleasure of enjoying the company of many of our incredible District 5 residents. I was reminded of the great work my office and I have had the opportunity to lead in the last year.

In this edition of our newsletter, I invite you to reflect with us on the policies and initiatives we were able to introduce in 2015. From January to December, we have been able to organize re-entry programs, senior center visits, disaster preparedness, and everything in between. I hope you will take this “moment of reflection” with me and share in the pride I take in our incredible district and county.

Sincerely yours,
Keith Carson
Alameda County, District 5
In the Boardroom I was proud to advocate for the safety and well-being of community members.

Too many residents in our community live in overcrowded and substandard housing or are homeless, and many are still impacted by foreclosures and rising rents. We know that one of the main causes of homelessness is lack of affordable housing. Last year, I proposed the use of former Redevelopment funds to be set aside in the Alameda County Housing Trust Fund for the development of county-wide affordable housing and to support shelter services for homeless people. Community organizations and partners have supported this proposal, and thus far this policy has been instrumental in providing additional resources. We are looking to build on this policy in 2016 to further address this issue.

In light of some public health and safety concerns, I also introduced the Alameda County Safe Consumer Generated Sharps Disposal Ordinance, which was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in November. This ordinance will require pharmaceutical companies which produce medications that must be delivered through syringe, pen needle or lancet to develop a product stewardship program to collect and dispose of the unwanted sharps from consumers safely. The Sharps Ordinance complements another policy, the Alameda County Safe Drug Disposal Ordinance, which specifically addresses how prescription medications are taken back and safely disposed.

In addition, I worked with key stakeholders to develop the parameters for allocating AB 109 Public Safety Realignment funds, which focuses on re-entry programs, for fiscal year 2015-2016, with a re-evaluation at the end of the year. Beginning on July 1, 2015, 50% of Alameda County’s AB 109 funding was aside for community-based organizations independent of the county. These funds complement previously allocated resources for the County’s Transition Center, the Community Capacity Building Fund, and the Innovations in Re-Entry program. Moving forward, independent community organizations focusing on re-entry programs will have greater county support.
Out in the community we’ve connected and collaborated to address important issues.

We kicked off 2015 focusing on the unique challenges of Black men through our Year of the African American Male initiative. In January 2015, the Board of Supervisors and I adopted a resolution proclaiming 2015 as Year of the African American Male. My office created a resource guide to provide a list of service providers and organizations that focus on serving African American males. A key highlight from our year was the health fair we hosted in June at the West Oakland Youth Center. Community organizations and service providers in the areas of mental, dental, and vascular health, youth services and sexual health gave free services and dinner to 150 attendees. I shared our accomplishments with community members at the My Brother’s Keeper Local Action Summit in August 2015, as well as information about county programs geared to serve black men, including Fathers Corps, EMS Corps, and other re-entry programs with community organizations.

Throughout 2015, my office and I stayed active in the community. In March, I collaborated with the Board of Supervisors, Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) and the Asian Community Collaborative (ACC) to present the 10th Annual Lunar New Year celebration. We share this event to highlight the richness of the cultural and ethnic diversity in the Bay Area. Our event featured a variety of cultural performances including: lion dancing, a Kung Fu exhibition, Korean singing, cultural dancing and a magic performance.

We also took a moment to honor incredible women in our district at our Women’s History Month Trailblazer Awards in March. I had the privilege to honor three women who are social justice trailblazers in our community: Fania Davis, the founder and Executive Director of Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth (RJOY); Josie Camacho, an Oakland native, long time labor organizer and current Secretary Treasurer of the Alameda Central Labor Council; and Esperanza Tervalon-Daumont, honored for her work as Executive Director of Oakland Rising, an organization established to mobilize voters in Oakland’s flatland neighborhoods to advance progressive policies on the city and state level.

Throughout the year I have had the pleasure to meet with many of you at our “Coffee with Keith” events. Partnering with elected officials in each city, I gave updates on the state of the county in Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, and Oakland, and heard from the community about their pressing concerns. I also heard community concerns during my senior center and school visits throughout the district. We received valuable feedback during these visits, from young people and our seniors.

...and new opportunities have come to District 5!
Thank you for a great year!

In April 2015 our office hosted the Planning & Caring for Aging Loved Ones Forum, which featured panel discussions and workshops to provide resources and information for relatives and caregivers of older adults. Topics included planning for legal responsibilities, housing, health, medical decisions, and the well-being of aging adults. Dr. David Lindeman of the Center for Technology and Aging and UC Berkeley also spoke about the newest technological advances in health care, monitoring and communication that allow seniors to safely age in place.

We had an opportunity to honor achievements of young people, specifically in media during our East Bay Youth Media Awards in September. The inaugural event recognized some of the Bay Area’s most brilliant creative and innovative young adults in the areas of film and media production. Winners were chosen by their peers and adult supporters. They include Serena Witherspoon, winner of the Indie Award; Hank Rugg, winner of the Rising Star Award; Mikey Prizmich, Luis Flores, Maya Escobar, winners of the Maverick Award; Dashawn Clinton and Demario Lewis, winners of the Innovator Award; and the Media Enterprise Alliance, which received an honorable mention. The evening served as a fund-raising initiative to support local youth media organizations: Youth Radio, Media Enterprise Alliance-KDOL and United Roots.

My office and I had the opportunity to address the potentially devastating impact of natural disasters at our Disaster Preparedness event in October, hosted at Claremont Middle School in Oakland. This event connected people with County and community resources to prepare for the natural, financial, and communal impact of disasters. Over 150 attendees engaged in break out sessions hosted by the Alameda County Sheriff’s Department, the Oakland Fire Department, the Alameda County Fire Department, Bay Area EMT, the United Policyholders, and the Berkeley Fire Department. Dr. Gary Richter also gave a presentation on how to care for pets during and after a disaster.

We had the opportunity to finish the year with our annual Holiday Party in December, which we hosted with Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Assembly Members Rob Bonta and Tony Thurmond, and Mayor Libby Schaaf. People from the community donated toys for the Mayor’s annual book and toy drive and enjoyed some delicious barbecue at Everett & Jones. Thank you all for a wonderful year, and we are looking forward to soaring to new heights in 2016!

For more details about our events, please visit our Newsletter Archive at: http://www.acgov.org/board/district5/newsletters.htm
**County Announcements**

**Homeless Resources**
If you are in need of immediate emergency shelter and housing assistance, please contact:

*The Bay Area Helpline* at 1-800-273-6222 or 211 / www.211.org/ In addition, please visit www.alamedasocialservices.org/public/services/housing_and_homeless/emergency_housing.cfm for more information.

Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless Program (ACHCHP) has been providing health care and case management services to homeless persons throughout Alameda County since 1988. If you are in need of health services, please call 510-532-1930 for information about mobile clinic sites.

**Resources for El Niño**
This winter is predicted to have powerful storms and winds—make sure you are prepared for El Niño when it comes.

If you want to learn more about flood insurance for your home or other ways to prepare for the storm, please visit https://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/preparation_recovery/pr_overview.jsp for more information.

**BOARDS/ COMMISSIONS VACANCIES**

**Assessment Appeals Board** - Vacancy: 2 seats
The Assessment Appeals Board is where a property owner can interact directly with the County to get a hearing on a perceived unjust or inaccurate property tax issue. *Applicants must have 5 years experience as a CPA, attorney, licensed real estate broker, or property appraiser.*

**Consumer Affairs Commission** - Vacancy: 1 seat
The purpose of this commission is to promote and protect the best interests of the consumer public, to encourage the highest standards in the business community and to develop a high level of consumer awareness.

**Fire Advisory Commission** - Vacancy: 1 seat
To encourage and create a forum for citizen input, advice and consultation regarding all fire services programs and activities, and the administration of these programs and activities throughout Alameda County.

**Human Relations Commission** - Vacancy: 1 seat
The mission of this Commission is to preserve human rights and work to foster mutual respect for all people who live or work in Alameda County.

**Measure A Citizens Oversight Committee** - Vacancy: 1 seat
Measure A is the voter-approved 1/2 cent sales tax to fund essential healthcare services in Alameda County. The Citizens Oversight Committee monitors Measure A spending and publishes yearly reports covering the spending for each fiscal year.

**Mental Health Advisory Board** - Vacancy: 1 seat
Perform advisory functions in matters relating to mental health.

For complete listings please visit http://www.acgov.org/bc/
## County Announcements

### Alameda County - Winter Emergency Housing Resources 2015-2016

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<tr>
<th>Program Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Availability Notification</th>
<th>Referral Process</th>
<th>Eligibility</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Seasonal Winter Shelter:</strong></td>
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<td>55 years and over.</td>
<td>First day must check-in by 2 pm for intake only Monday – Friday. 4 pm Wellness meeting attendance and check-in required for returning guests. Must follow rules, including, no violence or abusive language, no illegal drugs, tobacco, or alcohol</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Mary’s Senior Center</td>
<td>925 Brockhurst St/San Pablo Avenue Oakland 923-9600</td>
<td>Call daily between 9am and Noon</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>55 years and over.</td>
<td>6pm – 8am operating hours; light supper, no client storage, Closes by 8am. no alcohol or illegal substances, Referring Agencies: BACS, City Team, EOCP, HCHP, Op. Dignity, VA, St. Vincent’s, Oakland Housing Info Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Vincent de Paul Winter Shelter</td>
<td>675 23rd Street/ San Pablo Avenue Oakland 638-7600</td>
<td>Call 510-638-7600</td>
<td>Must get referral/voucher from a referring agency.</td>
<td>Adults only 18+</td>
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<td>YEAH! Youth Shelter</td>
<td>1744 University Ave., Berkeley 704-9867</td>
<td>Call M-F 510-704-9867</td>
<td>First-come, first-served; referrals are accepted from all agencies and community programs, but no referral is necessary</td>
<td>18-25 y/o Dogs permitted</td>
<td>Open 8 pm – 8am; follow program community guidelines (no violence, threatening behavior, or use of alcohol/substances on property. 10 pm curfew.</td>
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<td><strong>Warming Station Shelter:</strong></td>
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<td>Dorothy Day Storm Shelter</td>
<td>First Congregational Church of Berkeley (2345 Channing Way, Berkeley) enter between Durant and Channing 684-1892</td>
<td>E-mails from JC Orton and notifications where people congregate in Berkeley; to be included on list contact him via email</td>
<td>First-come, First-served; bed tickets distributed an hour before opening time, until shelter is full</td>
<td>Adults; families can stay together if present; “wet” shelter</td>
<td>Open no earlier than 7 pm; some nights may open as late as 11pm; closes at 6:30 am. (It is a calm, warm and dry place with no violence, threatening behavior or use of alcohol/substances on the property). All shelter staff are persons experiencing homelessness.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Berkeley Shelter Hotline</td>
<td>1-866-960-2132 call at noon sharp and 7pm, Year Round for Berkeley Shelter availability and placement</td>
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**County Announcements**
In Memory of Mary King

I commend the Honorable Mary King for her leadership, passion, community engagement, and commitment to improving the quality of life for the residents of Alameda County. Those who are homeless or in need of health care, seniors, and young people will continue to positively benefit from her contributions. We are truly grateful for her leadership.
Get Covered at Alameda County Libraries!

Visit the following library locations for information and enrollment for Covered California and Medi-Cal.

**Albany Library** : 1247 Marin Ave. 510-526-3720

Sundays, 1—4 p.m. 1/3, 1/17

*Enrollment period is November 1-January 31. For enrollment requirements and other information, visit guides.aclibrary.org/health.

For more information about Covered California, please visit: http://www.coveredca.com/ or call 1800-300-1506.

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Fatherhood 101

Join the Board of Supervisors and the Alameda County Fathers Corps for a film screening of “Fatherhood 101,” as we explore the role of fathers in their children’s lives, how we can engage them, and the need for programs and systems to better serve fathers. Afterward, we will host a panel discussion will focus on how to create systems change in Alameda County. This free event will in the Board Chambers, 1221 Oak St, 5th Floor on Jan. 25 from 3-5pm.