



Myth Versus Reality

Mayor Libby Schaaf, City Administrator Sabrina Landreth, and Budget Director Katano Kasaine seem to again be presenting unfair and dishonest numbers – politically motivated bullet points that don’t stand up to objective review.

Simply, their numbers in the December 5 “Labor Negotiations – Fiscal Update” are wrong: the game of “Three Card Monte” where the Mayor adjusts her position every time the Union highlights an error or exposes a falsehood with her internal budgeting, will not work.

Budgets are political documents and vital to running the City of Oakland. However, **budgets can be used to misconstrue the facts – and the Mayor’s Office is doing just that.**

The City Council Members, residents of Oakland, and city workers are and should be concerned with how reality meets the fiscal policy and plans of elected officials. See the table below to see myth and reality side by side:

	MYTH (Mayor Libby's Budget Numbers)	REALITY (City of Oakland Workers/Services)	<i>Difference between MYTH and REALITY</i>
Number of Local 21 Workers	1054	886	19%
Cost of a 4% Cost of Living Increase for Local 21 Workers (in GPF)	\$3,108,179	\$2,148,000	45%

Removing the Mayor’s gimmick of budgeting wage increases based on vacant positions reduces the cost of the Union 2-year proposal by \$15.31 million versus the Mayor’s bogus numbers (\$34.25 million to \$18.94 million).

These tactics amount to nothing more than a nod to Wall Street and the rating agency, and a real effort to defund public services by attaching accounting strings to put undue pressure on municipal budgets.

City of Oakland Council Members – don’t be misled by The Mayor’s dishonest numbers. Support the services, the people, and the workers of Oakland with a fair a reasonable contract!