



December 7, 2021

**Statement of Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Oakland,
regarding police funding**

"As Catholics, we are compelled by our faith to serve the common good. As we see a tragic and historic rise in the number of homicides in Oakland and other communities in our diocese, as well as an increase in crime, it is necessary for our city and county governments to hear our cries and make our streets and communities safe places again.

I am grateful to the Oakland City Council members who have voted to restore funding and staffing to the Oakland police department and to the reopening of the police academies. I join with religious and civic leaders, including Bishop Bob Jackson of Acts Full Gospel, in calling for the Oakland City Council to make public safety a priority.

Sorrowfully, I must ask: How many more citizens must be shot and killed before funding is restored to our police department?"

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Oakland includes approximately half a million Catholics living in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

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