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Lauren Golden and the Neighborhood Excellence Initiative Review Committee
The Bank of American Charitable Foundation
555 California Street, Floor 6
San Francisco, CA 90104

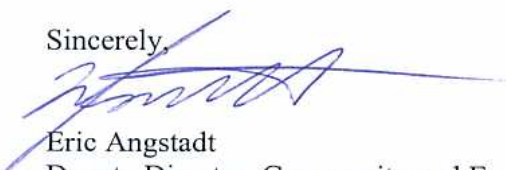
The City of Oakland is happy to submit this letter of support for Walk Oakland Bike Oakland's (WOBO) grant application to the Bank of America Charitable Foundation's Neighborhood Excellence program. Following the lead of many great cities around the world, Oakland is interested in bringing new dynamicism to our city streets. Oakland's Community and Economic Development Agency, WOBO and a number of organizations have begun communicating about how to create a "Sunday Parkway" event in our city modeled after the "Ciclovía" that originated in Bogota, Columbia as a day to promote free, health and community oriented events.

What is Sunday Parkway? - 30 years after the first program, the Ciclovía concept has spread around the world from Tokyo, Japan to Kiev, Ukraine, across the Bay in San Francisco. Now we're looking forward to making this great, free event happen in Oakland. Sunday Parkway will be free to all participants. Some will enjoy the car-free routes by strolling, skating, cycling, or just people-watching. Others will participate in free group events such as tai chi, yoga, aerobics and other activities. These group events will be spaced out along the route. Participants will enjoy this unique opportunity to safely enjoy the streets and explore new neighborhoods. Local businesses will also benefit from increased pedestrian and bicycle traffic along commercial corridors.

How will it work? - Sunday Parkway will be held from 7 am to 2 pm on Sundays, which is the time during the week with minimal auto traffic. Pilot dates will be selected to avoid overlap with other large events with traffic impacts such as Oakland Raiders and A's games and street fairs. Additionally, the routes will be a 'soft closures' with cross traffic allowed at a limited number of points along the route and auto access for residents and businesses located within the closed route. The routes will change every weekend and focus on providing open space in neighborhoods that lack such space currently.

How will WOBO and the City of Oakland work together? - The City of Oakland will provide barricades, stages and other necessary infrastructure elements as well as police for security at key intersections and crews to deliver the barricades. WOBO is working with an array of Oakland organizations to coordinate activities along the routes, recruit volunteers to help set up and maintain street closures, which will make the street closures more cost-effective. Funding from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation will be used to fund a part-time, WOBO Sunday Parkway organizer position and defray City of Oakland costs related to the events.

Sincerely,



Eric Angstadt
Deputy Director, Community and Economic Development