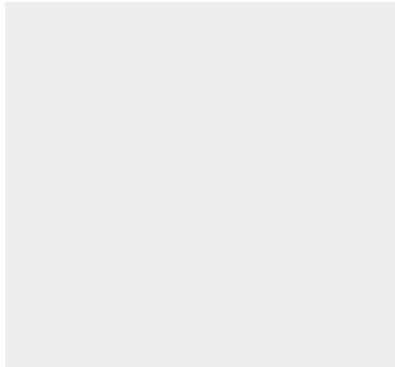


# OAKLAND POST: WEEK OF OCTOBER 16 – 22, 2024

Posted on October 18, 2024 by OAKLAND POST



## Mayor Sheng Thao Delivers State of the City Address, Cites Substantial Investments in Public Safety Technology



By Magaly Muñoz

Oakland Mayor Sheng Thao delivered her State of the City address at a City Council meeting on Tuesday evening, laying out her administration's accomplishments over the last year and outlining how she intends to continue the progress during the rest of her term.

Thao focused on what she said the city has improved in the last year since her previous city address, saying that the change is "nothing short of inspiring."

Her 2023 city address was filled with acknowledgments of her administration's failures, including not securing funding for retail crime prevention, loss of businesses, risk to public welfare and much more, but this year's speech focused on her accomplishments.

There was also no mention of the recall she is facing in a few short weeks or the FBI raid on her home in June.

Thao dedicated the majority of her 2023 speech talking about her priority on public safety. She had fired the former Oakland Police Chief LaRonae Armstrong eight months prior. She then became the face of the rising crime the city was struggling to manage.

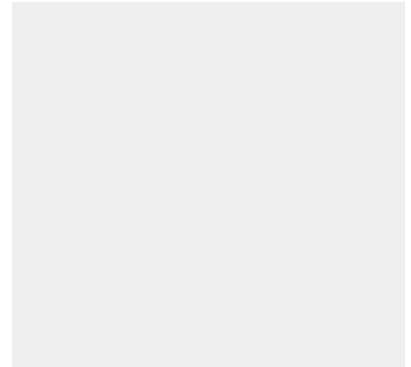
In her speech Tuesday night, she celebrated the hiring of current chief Floyd Mitchell, who joined the department this spring, and the reinvestment into the Ceasefire program to prevent violent crimes.

"I can tell you today that crime is down," Thao said.

Statistics in particular are down nearly 30% from 2023. One hundred and twenty people were

Mayor Sheng Thao delivered her State of the City address at a City Council meeting Tuesday evening when she celebrated all her accomplishments and improvements since her last city address. Photo courtesy of the mayor's office.

# Oakland Post



The printed Weekly Edition of the Oakland Post: Week of October 16 - 22, 2024 The post Oakland Post: Week of October 16 – 22, 2024 first appeared on Post News Group.

**Categories:** [#NNPA BlackPress](#), [Black News](#), [Community](#), [Featured](#), [Featured](#), [National](#), [NNPA](#), [NNPA Newswire](#)

**Tags:** [Activism](#), [Antonio Ray Harvey](#), [Bay Area](#), [Black History](#), [Books](#), [Business](#), [California Black Media](#), [City Government](#), [Commentary](#), [Community](#), [Crime](#), [Digital Issues](#), [Economics](#), [Emil Guillermo](#), [Entertainment](#), [equity](#), [Events](#), [featured](#), [Government](#), [Homeless](#), [Ken Epstein](#), [Lifestyle](#), [Local](#), [Media](#), [National](#), [News](#), [Oakland](#), [Oakland Post](#), [Opinion](#), [Politics](#), [Post News Group](#), [Richmond](#)



# Supervisor Keith Carson, Senator Nancy Skinner, former Assemblymember Sandré Swanson also oppose the recalls

By Ken Epstein

Congresswoman Barbara Lee in a strongly worded statement this week opposed the recalls of both Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price and Oakland Mayor Sheng Thao in campaigns lavishly funded by a handful of out-of-town billionaires and backed by corporate media.

"Whether it's two governors or local elected officials, I've always opposed recalls, and oppose the recalls on our Nov. 5 ballot," wrote Lee.

"They're undemocratic, costly, and chaotic," she said. "They prevent our officials from governing and deplete badly needed resources from our communities."

Lee continued: "The voters – through regular elections, not a few a few billionaires – are the ones with the power to ensure our democratic process remains strong and in place."

"Now is the time to come together and work to address the real and serious issues facing our communities."

**ADAM SCHIFF: FIGHTING FOR**

PAID FOR BY SCHIFF FOR SENATE

Echoing Lee's comments, State Senator Nancy Skinner agreed. "As she does on countless other issues, Barbara Lee speaks for me on recalls as well – past & present. I oppose them on principle.

"Except in rare circumstances of serious misconduct, recalls are undemocratic and a waste of public funds. That's especially true in the case of the Nov. 5 recalls, when the incumbents have only been in office for two years and will be up for reelection just two years from now," Skinner said.



## Trending

### [The Tragic Sports Abuse of Oakland](#)

"Wealthy interests should not be able to circumvent the regular democratic process and pay to put a recall on the ballot. Let's come together and work on the issues facing our communities," she said.

Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson also urged a "no" vote on the two recalls. "When voters elect their representatives, they expect them to be given the time necessary to adjust to their roles and deliver on their responsibilities," he said. "Both of the recall efforts we're seeing now began within a year of the Alameda County District attorney and the Oakland Mayor assuming office.

"It's simply too soon," he said.

Carson added, "It's worth noting that 11 states don't even allow recalls, and in the 39 states that do, malfeasance is generally required for the process to begin."

Sandré R. Swanson, who served in the California State Assembly from 2006-2012, said, "I will never support a recall supported and motivated only by political objectives. I believe this runs counter to the Democratic process and the importance of an election by the people."

Wealthy hedge fund managers and real estate developers have bankrolled the campaigns to unseat both Thao and Price, and many observers expect them to have an outsize influence on local policies and priorities should these campaigns prove successful, and their favored candidates are elected.

Phillip Dreyfuss, who owns a home in Piedmont that is listed as his residence, contributed 4 out of 5 dollars raised by the campaign to oust Thao as of Aug. 1, according to Oaklandside.

Between January and June 2024, a recall group raised \$605,000. "Every single dollar came from Dreyfuss, who is a partner in the San Francisco Farallon Capital Management hedge fund," according to Oaklandside. Contributions helped pay for the company that gathered signatures to place the recall on the ballot.

The campaign against Pamela Price raised \$1.1 million in the first three months of 2024 and over \$3.3 million since the summer of last year, according to an Oaklandside report in May of this year.

Farallon Capital's Dreyfuss, along with "Isaac Abid, a real estate investor for HP Investors," which owns numerous properties in downtown Oakland, established the 'Supporters of Recall Pamela Price' committee, which has raised most of the big dollar contributions for the campaign.

Their committee has also paid the signature-gathering bills for the Save Alameda for Everyone (SAFE) committee, which is the public face of the campaign," the May 8, Oaklandside article said.

Besides the deep pocket funders, the forces lined up to unseat Price and Thao include police unions in Alameda County, who Price says desire to return to the "Good Ole days" when previous district attorneys did not hold them accountable for their actions.

In a press statement released by the Oakland Police Officers Association this week, distributed by public relations operative Sam Singer, the OPOA opposed the sale of the Coliseum, claiming without evidence that the city is heading toward "insolvency" and proposed that hiring fiscal consultants would be a solution.

Singer, who has a long history defending Chevron against environmentalists and the oil pollution impacting indigenous people of the Amazon in Ecuador, currently represents the OPOA.

In a press conference Thursday at Everett and Jones in Jack London Square, Price criticized the "cowardice and opportunism of those who seek to recall rather than solve and fight for second chances."

She said, "The police unions want to control the justice system and the DA's function by blaming the prosecutor for the causes of crime and (long-term) failed policies and failed policing tactics."



## Oakland Post

**There are no comments yet.**