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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL ROB BONTA TO SPEAK ABOUT CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, ACTION AND HOPE THIS ELECTION YEAR AS PART OF THE BARBARA LEE AND ELIHU HARRIS LECTURE SERIES**

**FEBRUARY 8, AT BEEBE MEMORIAL CATHEDRAL IN OAKLAND**

Oakland, CA, January 23, 2024-California Attorney General Rob Bonta will speak as part of the Barbara Lee and Elihu Harris Lecture Series Thursday, February 8, at 7 pm at Beebe Memorial Cathedral, 3900 Telegraph Avenue in Oakland. The Attorney General will address the Lecture Series topic prompted by Dr. King in his final published work: Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community? Bonta will speak about taking on organized retail crime that results in millions of dollars of losses to businesses and threatens the safety of thousands of families. He will also address the housing crisis and enforcing California's equitable housing laws and creating more safe and affordable housing. Bonta asserts that there is much we can and must do to confront the economic, political and social dangers that confront us. There is no admission to the lecture, and advance reservations are encouraged by calling the Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center at (510) 434-3988. For more information, visit [www.mlkfreedomcenter.org](http://www.mlkfreedomcenter.org) .

As the Attorney General of California, Rob Bonta is the first person of Filipino descent and the second Asian-American to occupy the position. His passion for justice and fairness was instilled in him by his parents, who served on the frontlines of some of America's most important social justice movements. Instilling in him the lessons they learned from the United Farm Workers and the civil rights movement, Bonta's parents lit a fire inside him to fight against injustice — to stand up for those who are taken advantage of or harmed. It's why he decided to become a lawyer — to help right historic wrongs and fight for people who have been harmed. He worked his way through college and graduated with honors from Yale University and attended Yale Law School.

As a State Assemblymember prior to being named Attorney General, Bonta enacted nation-leading reforms to inject more justice and fairness into government and institutions. As the People's Attorney, he sees seeking accountability from those who abuse their power and harm others as one of the most important functions of the job. In elected office, he has taken on powerful interests and advanced systemic change — pursuing corporate accountability, standing up for workers, punishing big polluters, and fighting racial injustice. He has been a national leader

in the fight to transform the criminal justice system, banning private prisons and detention facilities in California, as well as pushing to eliminate cash bail in the state. He has led statewide fights for racial, economic, and environmental justice and worked to further the rights of immigrant families, renters and working Californians.

### **About the Barbara Lee and Elihu Harris Lecture Series and the Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center**

The Barbara Lee and Elihu Harris Lecture Series, co-produced by the Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center and Peralta Community College District, promotes an ample exchange of ideas to help inspire and move forward new leadership and servanthship. Lectures are organized by the youth and staff at the Freedom Center, with a focus on promoting ideas and actions rooted in principles of nonviolence, and lessons from some of our nation's most significant civil rights struggles.

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### **CALENDAR EDITOR PLEASE LIST:**

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WHAT: Barbara Lee and Elihu Harris Lecture Series

WHEN: Thursday, February 8, at 7 pm

WHERE: Beebe Memorial Cathedral, 3900 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, CA 94109

TICKETS/INFO: Admission free, reservations encouraged by calling 510-434-3988

[www.mlkfreedomcenter.org](http://www.mlkfreedomcenter.org)