

## **District 3 End of Year Report - 2011**

Councilmember Nancy Nadel

**District 3** is a wonderful district with some of the most beautiful people, buildings, and parks in town. However, there are still far too many homicides, too many children not focused on school, too many people inadequately housed and fed, and too many properties blighted and empty. It is tragic that the poverty of cities and individuals is on the rise. The financial collapse worldwide has been heartbreaking in many ways not the least of which is seeing some of the development progress we made, slipping away.

Despite that, we have great staff at your service in my office: **Carletta Starks** and **Teresa Jackson** (Xiaojing Wang is no longer with us due to budget cuts, but was an integral part of our office from March 2010 to August 2011). We will not be daunted by difficult times. In addition to all the regular meetings and office management we do, we have many initiatives in the council office and several have reached key milestones:

The **25<sup>th</sup> Street Mini Park** which had been closed and fenced for too long is now completed, and a sneak preview and grand rededication held on Saturday, November 12, 2011, was extremely well attended by the community. After all the certifications are complete, the park will be officially open to the public by the first of the year.

The **West Oakland Teen Center (Teen Center)**, 3233 Market Street, is fully funded thanks to Proposition 84, West Oakland Project Area Committee (WOPAC), the Community Development Block Grant Committee, and council Pay-Go funds. The specifications for the Teen Center went out to bid on November 16, 2011. Bids are due by January 16, 2012, and another community meeting to update the community and begin the discussion on programming is scheduled for February 16, 2012.

Because we need services for our youth, when the **Campbell Village Teen Center**, 800 Willow Street, closed in August 2011 due to budget cuts, I advocated for **Oakland Housing Authority (OHA)** to take over and re-open the center. Thanks to OHA, the Center is now open and available to the community. For more information about hours, programs, etc., please contact Constance Cole, Service Coordinator, at (510) 832-9804. Program service providers with strong administrative as well as program skills are really needed to apply for Oakland and foundation funds to serve the youth in this area outside the housing authority property. Programs that develop culturally aware youth, verbal communication skills, peacemaking skills, and job skills are all very much needed.

We applied for Proposition 84 funds for **Durant Park (Park)**, 29<sup>th</sup> St. and Martin Luther King, Jr., Way, for the second time in two years. The Park received two visits from State staff, and we will know by March 2012 if the Park will receive the funding it needs for improvements.

The **Lakeview Dog Park** is moving forward. **Emily Rosenberg of ODOG** is working with City of Oakland (City) staff to submit an application to the Planning Commission within the next couple of months.

The **Measure DD Lake Projects** are moving along, including the Lakeshore Avenue traffic improvements, and the landscaping looks beautiful.

The **7<sup>th</sup> St. Streetscape Project** is just about complete after some bumps in coordinating with the BART seismic strengthening project in the same area. See [www.insidebayarea.com/news/ci\\_19579830](http://www.insidebayarea.com/news/ci_19579830) for an article about the **Blues Walk of Fame**, an important part of this project that was partially funded with council office flexible funds.

After four years, the **Chester Street Project** was approved at the December 20, 2011 Council meeting. This is an unused little pocket park on Chester St. between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in West Oakland near the BART Station that will be transformed into market rate housing. The project will be used as a construction training project for West Oakland residents and will be managed by **Bruce Cox**, a contractor and West Oakland construction skills trainer.

**Repaving of West Grand** was completed this year. Unfortunately, repaving is needed in many areas in District 3 and throughout the City. Please continue to call in problem areas to the **Public Works Call Center** at (510) 615-5566 or e-mail [pwacallcenter@oaklandnet.com](mailto:pwacallcenter@oaklandnet.com).

We held a workshop with **CALTRANS** to develop new ideas for uses of their under-freeway airspace in West Oakland. The goal is to keep the areas free of blight while providing entrepreneurial opportunities.

**Gregory Hunter** from **Redevelopment** has promised us a **West Oakland Tough on Blight** campaign if the Governor and state legislature does not take our redevelopment funding.

Because public safety is such a high priority, I worked hard to get **Measure BB** passed so we could get our **Problem Solving Officers** back and continue our violence prevention programs. For me, public safety is achieved not only by police enforcement but by programs that build people, economic development and create housing stability.

With respect to building people and violence prevention funds, we had a very successful **Restorative Justice (RJ)** project at **Cole Middle School**, and the University of California evaluation of the program was just published with flying colors – a very successful program. I am pleased to be working with my colleague on the **Oakland Unified School District Board (OUSD)**, **Jumoke Hinton Hodge**, to broaden the use of RJ in the schools as well as in the justice system. I think the newly hired Probation Chief, **David Muhammad**, will be supportive of that effort. New grant funds were

recently awarded to a non-profit that will be able to divert 100 youth offenders per year to a RJ process rather than incarceration, for three years.

Many of you were as surprised as I to have Cole School transformed to the OUSD police headquarters after such a successful RJ effort there. However, OUSD former Chief of Police Pete Sarna, on his own initiative, last summer created a youth program for the neighborhood youngsters. Our office helped him build a play structure there with a private donation from **KaBOOM**. We also worked with former Chief Sarna on the tragic problem of **Youth Homicides** in Oakland, the victims of which are almost exclusively African American males. This is an issue that needs further study.

The **Oakland Police Department** has lost officers through retirement and budget cuts; however, we received federal funding for a new academy. We still need to work on new potential partnerships with Laney College for officer training, not just in the basics but beyond so that they learn how to deescalate problems, and how to make people in the neighborhoods feel like they care about making us safe. The City also needs to be sure that officers have the reliable equipment they need to do their job. I will continue to advocate for those needs.

Carletta Starks attends most of the **Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council** and other meetings in District 3, and reports back the issues and trends of concern. We bring that information to our **Service Delivery System** team to address persistent problems that need multi-department assistance to make a difference. We also started an “**Eyes on the Street**” list of volunteers to address illegal dumping issues. Volunteers commit to calling in dumping at specific locations near them and to take pictures if they catch someone in the act. Please call our office at (510) 238-7032 to be sure Carletta has your contact information and the location you will be monitoring for illegal dumping.

When Mayor Quan was on the council, we worked together on finding funding to repair “**Soft Story Structures**” that are particularly vulnerable to earthquakes. We are still looking for funding support. **Affordable Housing Associates** was able to rehab a building at Fairmount and Pearl for affordable units that was also a soft story structure. We are pleased that it is now safe, serves as an example of how to rehab and provides new affordable units in our district.

Councilmember Brunner and I have been facilitating workshops on **Community Benefits for the Oakland Army Base (OAB)**. Councilmember Brunner is addressing Jobs. Our office is working on Contracting, Environmental Issues and other Community Requests. We will have our final workshop on Thursday, January 12, 2012. Watch for Carletta’s announcements for future meetings. Also visit [www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/CityCouncil/o/District3/District3/TownHalls/index.htm](http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/CityCouncil/o/District3/District3/TownHalls/index.htm) for information and notes from the OAB town hall and workshops.

I host an **Adult Literacy Task Force** that was initially started to expand services but soon after we began, services began to be cut by the City and by OUSD. Currently, OUSD cut all of its adult education courses. The City’s **Second Start Program** is still in

effect through the library and is moving from West Oakland to the Main Library this month. Volunteers are always needed to assist students, and students are strongly encouraged to join. We understand how hard it is to learn reading as an adult and we commend the courage it takes for all those who have begun.

Many of our adults struggling with reading never finished high school for many reasons, one of which is often relevancy to the workplace. We are exploring replicating a high school model just begun in Chicago to prepare people for the manufacturing industry from line work to equipment design and engineering to company management. The school in Chicago is called **Austin Polytech**.

In addition, we continue to work closely with **McClymonds High School** where so many of our West Oakland young adults excel in academics and sports (the Football team won the Silver Bowl for the second straight year!). District 3 is represented on the **McClymonds Youth and Family Center Advisory Committee**, and we have helped find supplies for summer school and obtain food donations for the after school programs.

Community members, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and I worked with **Custom Alloy Scrap Sales (CASS)** and **California Waste Solutions (CalWaste)** to improve their facilities in West Oakland in the short term, and to help them move to the OAB in the long term where they will create a state of the art recycling facility. This move to the OAB was approved at the December 20, 2011 Council meeting. Relocation of these two facilities will free up their industrial locations in West Oakland for business uses that are not so high impact because they border near residents.

Economic Development staff is working on attracting business to the **Mandela Parkway Corridor**. An infrastructure study has already been completed, and we are hoping to see more music venues, retail shops, and restaurants in this area.

There is a lot in the news lately about **Food Access** and the City is working on updating its policy and plans. West Oakland has always struggled to get and keep a grocery store. We have funded **Mandela Foods** with redevelopment money. **FoodsCo** is trying to purchase property in West Oakland in the West Grand and Filbert area. They hope to build a store within the year if all goes well with real estate transactions. We are establishing an **Interim Policy for Mobile Food Vans** until the final policy next year and we are also revising our Urban Agriculture Zoning Policy.

If you've noticed how much cleaner it is at the upper end of Wood Street, thanks go to the **West Oakland Commerce Association** working in concert with Public Works to get the railroad to clean up the many tons of garbage that was behind their fences. Businesses, the Port, and residents are also working on a tree planting beautification project.

We have recently begun work on the **West Oakland Specific Plan**, and the participation of the West Oakland community is critical to the success of this plan. To date, there have been two community workshops which were well attended, and another workshop is

planned for Tuesday, January 31, 2012. For more information on the plan, please visit [www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/CEDA/o/PlanningZoning/OAK028334](http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/CEDA/o/PlanningZoning/OAK028334) or [www.bit.ly/p9YU8z](http://www.bit.ly/p9YU8z) or call Ulla Jonsson at (510) 238-3322.

Other efforts in our district include:

- The **Broadway/Valdez District Specific Plan** (see [www.oaklandnet.com/bvdsp](http://www.oaklandnet.com/bvdsp)) to build on the synergy of uptown dining and entertainment success;
- The **Lake Merritt Specific Plan**, in conjunction with District Two (see [www.business2oakland.com/lakemerrittsap](http://www.business2oakland.com/lakemerrittsap)); and,
- We are exploring the possibility of a “**Quiet Zone**” in the **Jack London** Area. The cost is prohibitive at this time since it requires installation of new safety measures at each intersection but we are doing whatever preparation work we can prior to finding funds. We really appreciate the active neighbors in this area who also held a charette on establishing a “**Webster Street Green**”.

**Art Murrur**, on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, between Broadway and Telegraph, has grown and contributed to the creation of **First Fridays** in the area of Grand to 34<sup>th</sup> on Telegraph. These events bring a lot of activity and sales for vendors in the area, and provide entertainment for the entire Oakland community. An organizer is needed to coordinate and manage this event, and has yet to be identified.

Other incredibly organized and active neighborhoods are:

- The **Old Oakland Neighbors** who worked hard to get their improvements into Jefferson Park which had a ribbon cutting of the off leash dog park in 2010.
- The **San Pablo Corridor** all the way through West Oakland is now organized thanks to Alex Miller-Cole, St. Vincent De Paul, St. Mary’s, EBALDC, EBCRP and Healthy Oakland. They coordinate regular efforts to clean up the little triangle park at 32<sup>nd</sup> and San Pablo, and have also been awarded a Neighborhood Project Initiative (NPI) grant from WOPAC to help revitalize this area. Tanya Holland, the proprietor of the very successful **Brown Sugar Restaurant** on 25<sup>th</sup> and Mandela Parkway, recently opened **B Sides BBQ** at 3303 San Pablo Avenue, bringing in scrumptious food and contributing to the revitalization of this area.
- The **Adams Point Action Council** (APAC), who meets regularly, advocates for and participates in improvements to the community, and works together to resolve safety and other issues.

The free **Broadway Shuttle Downtown** will have longer hours soon and, we are always looking for more grants to expand that service.

Thanks to everyone for all their work. District 3 is where it’s happening, and it will keep improving as long as we all work together.

Looking forward to 2012!