



City of  
**OAKLAND**  
California

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## News from: Emergency Operations Center

### MEDIA ADVISORY

November 2, 2011

#### 5:15 pm Update on Downtown Demonstrations Associated with "General Strike"

*Oakland, CA*—At 5:15 pm this afternoon at the Emergency Operations Center, Mayor Jean Quan, City Administrator Deanna Santana, Oakland Police Chief Howard Jordan, and Omar Benjamin, Executive Director of the Port of Oakland, conducted a media briefing to provide updates on the demonstrations in downtown Oakland associated with Occupy Oakland and the General Strike.

"We've been out looking at some of the damage created by a very small group of protestors in what has been a peaceful demonstration by thousands of people," said Mayor Quan. "I want to thank all of those who have worked to prevent vandalism. Right now, we're focusing on finishing the day peacefully and we are doing everything we can do to maintain safety."

"Oakland has an opportunity tonight to show the country and the world what peaceful expression can look like," said City Administrator Santana. "The world is watching."

"We ask that the marchers allow Port workers safe passage home," said Port Executive Director Benjamin. "Please allow your fellow 99% to get home safely to their families."

The following is a summary of the situation status as of 5:15 pm.

#### **Oakland Police Department Operations**

- The crowd at Frank Ogawa Plaza and the surrounding streets has grown all day as various groups of protesters converged. We estimate the crowd at about 4,500. We anticipate that the crowd will continue to grow through the evening.
- So far the protests this afternoon have been largely peaceful, with isolated incidents of vandalism, graffiti, and smashed windows. Approximately five businesses have been vandalized, mostly banks and Whole Foods.
- We are continuously monitoring the situation.
- We appreciate that there have been a series of efforts by protesters in the crowd to keep things peaceful and to prevent others from committing acts of vandalism and violence.
- No arrests have been made.
- The Oakland Police Department has identified a small group of individuals who appear intent on provoking a confrontation with police and vandalizing property. OPD is focused on preventing illegal activity while affording the majority their rights to assemble and march.
- Chief Jordan commended peaceful individuals who have taken action to

thwart violence and keep the demonstrations peaceful and safe.

- We have a report of a citizen injured from a rock thrown through a window.
- There have been no reports of officers injured.
- The Oakland Police Department continues to facilitate the march.
- The California Highway Patrol is assisting by facilitating the march and monitoring the freeway onramps to ensure the protesters do not disrupt freeway traffic.

### **Traffic Impacts**

- All day, traffic and transportation have been periodically disrupted in the area around 14<sup>th</sup> and Broadway. We anticipate that this will worsen with the influx of more protesters.
- We anticipate that blockages and traffic disruptions will occur throughout the evening in downtown Oakland.
- AC Transit is re-routing buses downtown along Broadway between 12<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> streets. Buses are being re-routed on to Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. Check [www.ACTransit.org](http://www.ACTransit.org) for latest updates.
- BART is operating normally with no delays at this time. Check [www.BART.gov](http://www.BART.gov) for latest updates.
- Traffic and transit conditions could change rapidly. The City advises downtown employers, employees and residents to visit 511.org or call 511 for up-to-date transit information.
- For additional public information or referrals, call 211.

### **City Services**

- In order to minimize additional traffic impacts in the area around 14<sup>th</sup> and Broadway, this afternoon at about 3:30 pm, the City Administrator authorized City employees working in the downtown office buildings surrounding Frank Ogawa Plaza and in the Police Administration Building to leave early. Those offices are now closed for business.
- Tomorrow will be a regular work day, and the City will be open during regular business hours.

### **Business Impacts**

- The City also let downtown businesses and merchants know of our decision to release employees early so that they could plan accordingly.
- Mayor Quan stated that the downtown business community has faced economic hardship during the recession and recent demonstrations, and she urged people to show their support of our local merchants, restaurants and establishments, particularly downtown.
- The City has established a liaison to work with the banks and we will send regular updates to the business and merchant community throughout the day.

### **Port of Oakland Operations**

- Operations are effectively shut down in the maritime area of the Port of Oakland.
- We continue to ask that everyone remain calm, respectful, and safe.

- Specifically, we ask that the marchers allow Port workers safe passage home. Please allow your fellow 99% to get home safely to their families.
- Maritime area operations will resume when it is safe and secure to do so.
- Protesters are reminded that it is a federal offense to enter the Port of Oakland.

**The next media briefing will occur at 9 pm at the Emergency Operations Center, 1605 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way.**

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