



City of
OAKLAND
California

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News from: The City of Oakland

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 20, 2011, 10 am

Oakland Police Department Peacefully Removes Encampment on 19th Street and Telegraph Avenue

Oakland, CA — At approximately 8 am this morning, Oakland Police issued its first order to the crowd to clear the parcel at 19th Street and Telegraph Avenue, where Occupy Oakland had established an encampment overnight. Over a period of about 20 minutes, protestors dismantled tents and peacefully dispersed. As of the time of this release, there have been no arrests, no reported injuries, and minimal vandalism.

“Oakland, not unlike many cities across the country, supports upholding free speech and peaceful forms of expression, but the cost of the encampments is growing and putting a strain on our already fragile resources – police, public works, and other City staff,” said Mayor Jean Quan. “We will continue to be vigilant and ensure that public safety remains our first priority and that our downtown businesses are protected from vandalism. We will not tolerate lodging on public property, whether in parks or open space; it is illegal.”

“Yesterday afternoon the City of Oakland facilitated peaceful demonstrations. It is difficult to strike a balance between respecting freedom of speech and public safety in this type of situation,” said Mayor Quan. “Throughout yesterday’s events, there were no arrests and minimal reported incidents of vandalism or violence. I want to thank the men and women of the Oakland Police Department, who put their lives on the line everyday, for their commitment and service.”

“The actions this morning were necessary and underline my commitment to move Oakland forward. We remain open and available to meet with protestors.”

Crews from the City of Oakland’s Public Works Agency are in route to clean up the parcel and park.

The following street is closed to accommodate clean up of the parcel and park:

- Telegraph Avenue between West Grand and 19th Street
- 19th Street between Broadway and San Pablo Avenue

Background

Yesterday afternoon, a peaceful demonstration of approximately 700 people marched from Frank Ogawa Plaza to Lakeview Elementary School. The Oakland Police Department maintained low visibility while facilitating the march and providing traffic control.

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Shortly thereafter, the perimeter fence on a parcel owned by the Oakland Redevelopment Agency was breached, and the Oakland Police Department deployed additional officers to protect neighboring buildings.

At 9 pm, the crowd in Henry J. Kaiser Memorial Park and the adjacent vacant parcel was estimated at 75 people. There were approximately 20 tents in the parcel and one large canopy in the park.

During the march and evening demonstration, the City of Oakland and the Oakland Police Department maintained low visibility while facilitating the march and providing traffic control. Throughout the night, the Oakland Police Department monitored the situation while maintaining a low visibility, non-confrontational presence.

This morning at approximately 6 am, the Oakland Police Department received a call regarding a shooting in the 600 block of William Street. It is unclear whether the shooting is related to the nearby encampment.

The parcel owned by the Oakland Redevelopment Agency, referred to as Parcel 4, is slated for housing and retail. In the interim, following community engagement in 2010, the City of Oakland's Public Art Program secured a \$200,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to create a space for rotating art installations and community cultural events.

As always, the City of Oakland and the Oakland Police Department is committed to facilitating peaceful forms of expression and free speech rights while protecting personal safety and property.

The City's position remains that lodging will not be permitted.

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