



News from: City of Oakland

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 30, 2012

Assemblymember Swanson appointed Deputy Mayor of Oakland

Oakland, CA – Mayor Jean Quan (Oakland California) announced today the appointment of Assemblymember Sandré R. Swanson as Deputy Mayor in her Administration.

Swanson's first day on staff will be Monday, Dec. 3.

"Sandre will add years of high-level administrative and public policy experience to City Hall, and will make an invaluable member of our team," Quan said. "This is an important and exciting appointment as we continue to move our city forward and improve the quality of life for everyone in Oakland."

Swanson is a veteran in East Bay politics who served as Chief of Staff for both Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-Oakland) and then-Congressman Ron Dellums. Swanson said he looks forward to the new job, naming public safety and job creation as among his top priorities.

"I'm excited to join the Mayor's administration. I think I can make a significant contribution, and I look forward to working with her to implement her strategies for moving the City forward," Swanson said.

The position Swanson will fill had been vacant throughout 2012 following the resignation of former Deputy Mayor Lewis Cohen on Jan. 1, 2012.

Swanson has served in the California State Assembly for the past six years and is termed out of the Assembly at the end of November.

He was elected a member of the California Assembly in November of 2006 and his very first bill in December of that year required the State of California, who had given the Oakland schools an emergency loan, to return local control for Oakland schools to the elected school board. Mr. Swanson said at the time, "Education truly is our greatest example of democracy and parents in Oakland should be able to hold a local school board accountable for the education of our children."

As a member of the Assembly Mr. Swanson served as Chair of the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee. He briefly lost his Chair of that Committee when he refused to support Assembly Leadership and vote for a budget compromise that capped future spending on programs for seniors, the disabled and the poor. He regained his Chairmanship a year later and earned a reputation as a strongly principled legislator.

Working with Mayor Quan and the Alameda County District Attorney's office, Swanson passed several landmark pieces of legislation to combat human trafficking of California youths. Several of these laws have won national acclaim.

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Swanson and Mayor Quan worked together on passing into law the Seismic Safety Financing Act (AB184, signed by Governor Brown on June 20, 2011) that provides a financing option to homeowners who wish to make seismic improvements to their homes, removing much of the upfront expense.

Swanson and Mayor Quan also worked together to improve the development of the Port of Oakland.

In addition to serving as Chair of the Labor and Employment Committee Mr. Swanson was the Chair of the Select Committee on State School Financial takeovers, and the Select Committee on the Status of Boys and Men of Color in California. Other key legislative committees, included: Member of Assembly Budget Committee, Budget Subcommittee 2 on Education Finance and the Committee on Utilities and Commerce.

Swanson also served as past chair of many important civic committees. He served as Chair of the Alameda County Retirement Board, which manages the multi-billion dollar pension fund for Alameda County employees; Chair of the City of Oakland Civil Service Commission, which supervises employment rules and conduct for the city of Oakland; and Chair of the Oakland Base Reuse and Redevelopment Authority which was in charge of military base reuse planning for the City of Oakland.

Before his election to the Assembly, Swanson served five years as Congresswoman Barbara Lee's Chief of Staff after working for twenty-five years as the District Director and Senior Policy Advisor to former Congressman Ron Dellums.

In addition to being the Campaign Chair for Mayor Quan's historic election, Mr. Swanson was campaign manager for Judge Lionel Wilson's successful campaign to become Oakland's first African-American Mayor in 1977.

Swanson is a native of Oakland, married to wife Anita. They have four children and five grandchildren.

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