



News from: **Office of the Mayor**

**Press Release:**

September 17, 2013

**Congresswoman Lee, Mayor Quan announce federal funding for new police officers**

**OAKLAND** – A new federal grant will bring 10 additional police officers to Oakland neighborhoods, the latest in a series of new investments to rebuild the Oakland Police Department.

The new grant is the third awarded to Oakland from the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) office. A grant of \$4.5 million will fund 10 officers for three years and is the highest COPS award to any city in California. The second highest award will go to the Alameda County Sheriff's Office.

“This is a great day for the people of Oakland, who deserve and need a stronger police force,” Oakland Mayor Jean Quan said. “This growth is part of a comprehensive strategy to rebuild the Oakland Police Department and we’re seeing it pay off: with this grant, with the series of new officer academies we’re funding and with our additional efforts to grow the force.”

In a press conference led by Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-Oakland), Quan thanked President Barack Obama, Attorney General Eric Holder, Associate Attorney General Tony West, Acting COPS Director Joshua Ederheimer and Congresswoman Lee for their partnership and commitment to the safety of the people of Oakland.

She also thanked the brave men and women of the Oakland Police Department who work hard every day to keep the people of Oakland safe.

Associate Attorney General Tony West, an Oakland resident, noted that Oakland's was the largest grant award in the nation.

Including this grant, COPS funding will have funded 76 Oakland officers over three individual grant awards since 2009.

“The Oakland Police Department is thankful for the grant funds given to us by the federal government,” Interim Police Chief Sean Whent said. “Public safety is my top priority and this allows us to grow our department and continue to provide service to our community and reduce crime.”

The next big step in growing the police force happens Friday, when the City's second officer academy this year will graduate. A previous academy – the first class in more than four years – graduated in March.

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