

News from: **City of Oakland, Mayor's Office**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3, 2014

Mayor Quan names Henry Gardner Oakland City Administrator; Fred Blackwell to aid transition

Oakland, CA – Mayor Jean Quan announced Wednesday she will name Henry Gardner as City Administrator, effective mid-June, after a transition period with Fred Blackwell, who will be leaving to head the philanthropic San Francisco Foundation.

An immensely talented, nationally recognized former Oakland City Manager, Gardner will return to the city government in May and begin transitioning to serve as City Administrator in June, allowing for some cooperative overlap before Blackwell departs.

“Mr. Gardner and I won’t miss a beat, and I’m honored to have him join my Administration,” Quan said. “We’re building on our successes and taking on our next big goals, including new economic development projects and our housing initiative to build Oakland’s next 10,000 units with a strong mix of market rate, workforce and affordable housing. We’re on track with our sports teams and the work we’re doing to secure new stadiums. And on Friday we’re graduating the largest academy of new police officers in Oakland history, as part of our ongoing work to rebuild the force.”

“Mr. Gardner is widely known as a brilliant, kind and effective leader, a consummate professional who served Oakland well during his tenure as city manager,” Quan added. “He will serve through the beginning of next year, and he has my total faith to provide effective, experienced, seamless leadership.”

Mr. Gardner served as Oakland City Manager from 1981 through 1993, and was named Most Valuable City Manager in the Nation in 1990 by City and State Magazine. His subsequent role as executive director of the Association of Bay Area Governments was similarly distinguished. He headed Mayor Quan’s transition team when she took office.

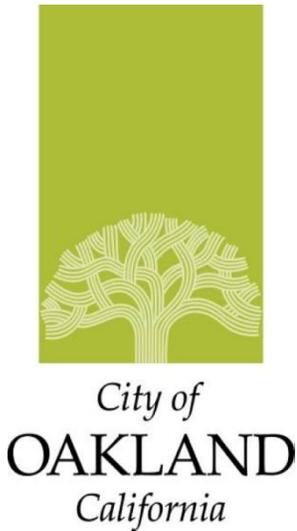
“I’ve respected Mayor Quan for years and it’s my faith in her vision for Oakland that brought me back to City Hall,” Gardner said. “I am so happy to be returning to serve the people of this beautiful City and build on our momentum. This is a time of great opportunity and growth for Oakland and I’m excited for the chance to contribute to it.”

In their remaining time as direct colleagues, Mayor Quan and Mr. Blackwell plan to complete the national search for a permanent police chief and work with the City Council to pass a mid-cycle revision to the City’s budget. Blackwell has also committed to aiding negotiations for the Coliseum City development to ensure they reach fruition.

“Mayor Quan has provided strong vision and leadership for Oakland and I’m proud of what we accomplished together. I love Oakland deeply and while this decision was incredibly difficult, I am confident the city is in great hands with Mayor Quan and Mr. Gardner,” Blackwell said. “As I take on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, I also hope to continue serving Oakland as part of the San Francisco Foundation’s important mission.”

“I want to thank Fred for his service to Oakland,” Mayor Quan said. “Together we helped major and long-dormant projects roar to life, and Mr. Gardner and I will continue driving forward to transform our city, improve public safety and create thousands of jobs for our residents.”

#



Media Contact:

Sean Maher
Office of the Mayor
510-238-7439
smaher@oaklandnet.com

Karen Boyd
Office of the City
Administrator
510-238-6365
kboyd@oaklandnet.com