



City of  
**OAKLAND**  
California

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## News from: Mayor Jean Quan and the Oakland Police Department

### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

August 4, 2014

## **Oakland community to host 625 National Night Out parties on August 5, 2014; Mayor Jean Quan and Chief Sean Whent to visit parties across the City of Oakland**

**Oakland, CA** – Mayor Jean Quan, Police Chief Sean Whent and Fire Chief Teresa Reed will gather with over 130 Police Officers, Fire Fighters, and other City and County employees in Frank Ogawa Plaza on Tuesday, August 5 at 5:30 pm and then fan out to neighborhoods throughout the City of Oakland to visit the near record setting number of 625 block parties taking place around the City.

“National Night Out is an opportunity for people to help improve police-community partnerships and raise crime prevention awareness in their neighborhood by having residents get to know each other through events like barbecues or ice cream socials,” said Jean Quan. It’s these connections that build communities block-by-block. This is important because the best crime prevention tool ever invented is a good neighbor. National Night Out empowers people with a simple yet profound message: When neighbors know each other, neighborhoods are safer.”

Police Chief Sean Whent said, “We would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for getting involved in your community and participating in National Night Out (NNO). Together we have been able to reduce crime to some of the lowest levels in years through our crime prevention and awareness efforts. When neighbors know each other, neighborhoods are safer. We encourage you to remain involved with solving problems and concerns on your block. Your actions contribute to a safer Oakland.”

In 2004, Oakland only hosted 35 National Night Out Block Parties throughout the city. Every year since, the numbers have grown. Parties come in many shapes and sizes with neighbors meeting on their street, in their apartment complex, or at their neighborhood park, church, or library. City staff will pay a visit to many parties and will provide a small gift to hosts.

The City not only encourages neighbors to have a block party, but also to start a Neighborhood Watch Group on their street and to participate in their Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council where they can work in partnership with the City solving problems in their neighborhood.

The Oakland A’s came through with a donation of 1400 baseball tickets – for party hosts to show their appreciation for stepping up and providing leadership on their block. Throughout Oakland, from east to west, north to south, more people than ever before are coming out to make their neighborhood safer and stronger.

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