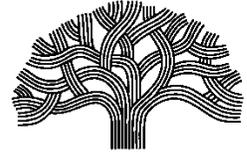


CITY OF OAKLAND



1 FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA · 3RD FLOOR · OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612

Office of the Mayor
Jean Quan
Mayor

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November 24, 2014

Dear Oakland Community,

The recent events in Ferguson, Missouri, have touched us all. We anticipate that regardless of the verdict reached by the Missouri grand jury, demonstrations could occur in Oakland.

The City of Oakland is committed to facilitating peaceful expressions and demonstrations. Although we don't anticipate problems to occur, keeping peace on our streets and protecting the safety of Oakland residents and businesses is our top priority and we will be prepared.

Currently, we are aware that several groups have called to gather downtown at Frank H. Ogawa Plaza today beginning between 5 and 7 p.m.

We are providing this information to raise awareness about these events, not to alarm, and so that you may plan ahead. Note that traffic in downtown could be intermittently displaced as demonstrations occur. OPD will facilitate traffic to ensure pedestrian and vehicular safety. If traffic and/or transit impacts occur, employers, employees, and residents are advised to visit www.511.org or call 511 for up-to-date transition information.

Additionally, Healing Centers are being offered as safe alternative venues to engage in productive dialogue and healing around any emotions brought out by the Ferguson verdict. The Healing Centers will be located in West, Central and East Oakland. They will be open this evening and tomorrow from 4 to 8 pm. Light refreshments will be provided. The Healing Centers are supported by the Department of Human Services' Oakland Unite program, in partnership with community-based organizations throughout Oakland. Their locations will be:

- East Oakland: **Youth UpRising**, 8711 MacArthur Boulevard, (510) 777-1163
- Central Oakland: **Youth Employment Partnership**, 2300 International Blvd, (510) 533-3447
- West Oakland: **Healthy Communities/Healthy Oakland: 2 sites**
 - 2580 San Pablo Ave
 - Liberty Hall, 1485 8th Street

The Oakland Police Department has significantly improved the ways it handles demonstrations in our city. In 2011 I asked for an outside evaluation of the department's crowd management policies that resulted in a top-to-bottom retraining of the police force and improved OPD practices to keep our residents, our businesses and our officers safe while facilitating free expression. At the same time the department has neared full compliance with our court-ordered reforms, dramatically reduced use-of-force incidents and required officers to wear chest-mounted body cameras on their uniforms. We have successfully facilitated more than 70 demonstrations this year throughout Oakland, and we know that with continued cooperation from our community and the high level of professionalism of our officers, we will continue doing so.

Our hearts are with Mike Brown's family and with every Oakland family touched by violence. I am grateful for the work we have done together to make Oakland a safer place and to heal our collective wounds. We still have much to do, but I am confident that we will continue making this important progress with compassion and peaceful determination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jean Quan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Mayor Jean Quan