



City of  
**OAKLAND**  
California

## News from: **the City of Oakland**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 19, 2015

### **Statement about noise complaints against churches**

from Karen Boyd, Communications Director, City of Oakland, City Administrator's Office

*Oakland, CA* – The City of Oakland celebrates and embraces the many expressions of art, music, dance and community which bring depth, dynamism and vibrancy to this very special, multi-cultural city, and we recognize that houses of worship are an intrinsic and vital dimension of Oakland. We are committed to preserving our heritage and the vital legacy of creative expression in our beautiful city.

We want to correct inaccuracies circulating in the media and the community about alleged noise citations at Oakland churches. The City of Oakland has not fined the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church as a public nuisance, nor do we plan to, as the concerns about noise appear to be resolved at this time.

A bit of background: on August 31, 2015, the City sent the church a courtesy notice in response to reports of excessive noise between the hours of 9 pm and 7 am, the time defined as quiet hours in Oakland's Municipal Code. The complaint came from a resident who had lived near the church for more than 10 years, and had never before had issues with noise until last year; allegedly the noise was occurring late into the evening, reportedly up to 2 am. The City's courtesy notice was poorly worded, and staff is looking at revising such notices to better convey our intent, which is to communicate openly with property owners about any complaints we receive so that issues may be resolved without further action from the City. All other complaints of this nature have been resolved without any imposition of fines or penalties.