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News from: City of Oakland & Alameda County District Attorney's Office

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On-Scene Operations Concluded for 31st Avenue Fire; Investigations Continue

OAKLAND, CA –Today, the City of Oakland Fire Department, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office (DA's Office), and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) gathered with representatives from the Red Cross to discuss the conclusion of the on-scene operations for the 31st Avenue fire that broke out on December 2, 2016. The group also outlined the continued work to support victims' families, those displaced by the fire and potential witnesses.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, or ATF, and the Oakland Fire Department have concluded the on-scene investigation for the 31st Avenue Fire. Throughout the District Attorney's Office's criminal investigation and the Oakland Fire Department's scene investigation, ATF has assisted by providing their fire expertise and assisting with witness interviews. All of the scene information has been gathered and analysis of the information will continue. The Oakland Fire Department will prepare the final report of the scene investigation. ATF and Oakland Fire Department's findings will be submitted to the District Attorney's Office in support of their ongoing criminal investigation.

"ATF will continue to support the Fire Department with processing the data from the scene for the final report," said Special Agent in Charge Jill Snyder. "ATF will also continue to assist the District Attorney's Office and the Oakland Fire Department with interviewing witnesses for the investigation."

"I want to thank ATF for their support of our investigation, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, as well as the other first responders who provided mutual aid support during the recovery effort," said Oakland Fire Chief Teresa Deloach Reed. "I also want to acknowledge the outstanding work of Oakland's firefighters in managing this tragedy and the offer our deepest thanks to the Red Cross for their support at the scene and continued engagement with displaced residents, and the victims' families. We will continue to work closely with the District Attorney's Office as the investigations continue."

The Alameda County District Attorney's Office explained that its criminal investigation is ongoing. The District Attorney's office continues to ask any witnesses with information about the fire or the warehouse to come forward to assist with the investigation. She also shared information with the public about how those impacted by the fire could access victim witness support available through the DA's Office.

The District Attorney's Office thanked the Red Cross for its ongoing support of victims, their families and those displaced by the fire. Members of the Red Cross team provided information on where those impacted by the fire could continue to access support being provided by the agency.

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