



City of  
**OAKLAND**  
California

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## News from: City of Oakland

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## City of Oakland Provides Update on Placement of Residents Displaced by 2551 San Pablo Avenue Fire

OAKLAND, CA – The City of Oakland is working with all of the displaced residents – those who have been using the temporary shelter, those who were able to be placed in alternative short-term housing and those who were able to make other arrangements – to find longer-term interim and/or permanent housing.

Oakland's affordable housing shortage is making this a challenge. The difficulty of meeting this challenge has been compounded by the many barriers a great deal of these displaced residents faced prior to the fire.

Over the past week since the fire broke out on March 27, 2017, the City of Oakland and Alameda County have been able to provide temporary housing for individuals with special circumstances such as fragile health conditions, mental or physical disabilities and mothers with small children. As of Monday, April 3, 2017, 11 people required overnight lodging at the temporary West Oakland Shelter, down from 71 people on the first night of operation.

The temporary shelter was never intended to serve as a long-term option for these residents and it will be closed Wednesday, April 5, 2017 so that the building can be put back into normal use. The City of Oakland is working with the residents to make alternative arrangements for their shelter. This includes a range of options based on the specific health needs, family composition and ability to meet eligibility criteria of public and private housing providers in the area who have been identified or volunteered to assist. As an example, in some instances families who qualify have been moved into other facilities, in other cases, beds reserved for fire victims have been offered in already existing permanent shelters.

A daytime assistance center which will operate with extended hours is opening today to continue providing case management and ongoing assistance to meet the many needs these residents have as a result of their prior circumstances and the fire. The comprehensive one-stop assistance center is set up at 270 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza and is open from 10am to 7pm. Individuals needing assistance are being contacted to arrange specific appointment times as this site is not a drop-in center.

Property owners are legally required to provide relocation assistance to lease holders in the event of displacement. This assistance is offered on a unit-by-unit basis, not by individual resident. The City of Oakland recognizes that there are atypical circumstances surrounding tenancy for many of the residents at 2551 San Pablo Avenue and is working with residents to determine whether they have legal standing to qualify for this assistance.

The City of Oakland is grateful to The Red Cross, Alameda County, and the Salvation Army which have been invaluable partners along with several local and regional non-profits, faith-based organizations and housing service providers in supporting these residents as they try to rebuild their lives.

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