

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 8, 2017

**Malia Lusia Latu Saulala to be named 2017 Mother of the Year by City of Oakland during 64th Annual Ceremony**

*Oakland, CA* – Oakland Parks & Recreation is pleased to announce that **Malia Lusia Latu Saulala** has been selected as **Oakland’s 2017 Mother of the Year**. Mrs. Saulala is a mother of five children (two sons and three daughters), six adopted children and two more children with her beloved late husband.

Mrs. Saulala is an active member of the Maxwell Park Neighborhood Council and has been engaged in her community since 1978 providing outstanding leadership and dedication while addressing and raising awareness on living conditions, safety concerns, available programs and community services that help and serve youth, seniors and adults. Over the years, Mrs. Saulala has been a true advocate to more than 20,000 youth, ages 3 to 11 years old, by volunteering with Boy Scouts of America, her church and neighboring schools to assist with school work, teaching Bible studies and providing life enrichment and support.

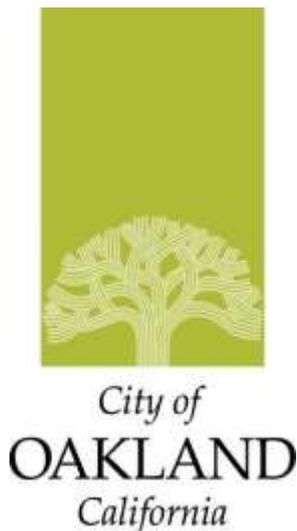
One of Mrs. Saulala’s life goals has been to assist and support young people in the classroom so that “No Child is Left Behind,” that all students, at an early age, have the opportunity of education. Over the last ten years, Mrs. Saulala also provided assistance to more than 2,000 adults and seniors. Mrs. Saulala completed the Oakland Police Citizen Academy in 2014 and volunteers with the Oakland Police Department (OPD) in various capacities such as the OPD Open House, Toy Drive for Kids and Thanksgiving Give-away.

“Malia is very dedicated,” stated Sharon Rhone, who initiated her nomination. “She gives her all and whenever she is asked to do something, she does it without hesitation.”

The honoree will be recognized during the **Oakland Mother of the Year Award Ceremony**, at **10:30 a.m.**, on **Saturday, May 13, 2017**. The ceremony will be held at the Morcom Rose Garden located at 700 Jean Street, off Grand Avenue, Oakland, CA, 94610. The public is welcome to attend. Parking is limited.

Oakland’s Mother of the Year Award is a project of Oakland Parks & Recreation and was initiated in 1954 to publicly honor an Oakland citizen whose contributions to the community symbolize the finest traditions of motherhood. Past honorees have included hard-working, dedicated community servants whose volunteerism has been exemplary.

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**Media Contact:**

Dana Riley  
Oakland Parks & Recreation  
510-238-6495  
driley@oaklandnet.com

Gail McMillon  
510-238-3186  
gmcmillon@oaklandnet.com

