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## **MAYOR DELLUMS DISCUSSES OAKLAND'S STIMULUS STRATEGY DURING REP. BARBARA LEE'S BUS TOUR**

*Mayor Releases Most Recent Stimulus Figures and Outlines His Public Works/Infrastructure Strategy*

**OAKLAND** – Mayor Ron Dellums joined Congresswoman Barbara Lee (CA-09) at a press conference to highlight local stimulus/American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding. The press conference preceded a bus tour hosted by Congresswoman Lee that visited key projects in District 9, including Oakland, Castro Valley, Berkeley, and Emeryville. What follows is a transcript of some of the mayor's remarks at this event:

### Oakland's Stimulus Strategy & Funds:

**MAYOR DELLUMS:** "Jobs are the byproduct of a community, or a society's commitment, to solve other problems. If you focus on a specific issue and the byproduct will be employment. Based on that idea, the city of Oakland has stepped forward. I'd like to say to Congresswoman Lee that when we presented Oakland's approach in Washington D.C. it was well received. What we said was: we are not here with our hands out to simply accept one-time money to solve a one-time problem. We want to take on a larger challenge and that challenge is to engage in a problem solving effort to bring people in this community together in a collaborative, coordinated, communicative way to develop a long-term problem solving strategy. So to that extent we said to the federal officials: invest in Oakland and you will have sustainable solutions that you can extend beyond our borders. This has resonated extremely well and the funds are coming in. Where the City of Oakland served as the lead or partner agency, we have received \$87.9 million in ARRA grants; where the City of Oakland has provided support and/or the grant is part of our overall collaborative efforts, we have received more than \$105 million; and we've been able to leverage another \$70 million in non-ARRA funds as part of our overall collaborative efforts. So we are going down the road in this regard and I think in a very exciting way."

### Public Works Focused Infrastructure Program:

**MAYOR DELLUMS:** "I would like to finally offer an idea about the next step. And I believe this idea is a triple win. Organize a major effort to broaden the definition of infrastructure and go forward with an infrastructure program framed in the context of public works. Give the local community the flexibility to focus on sewer systems, water systems, seismic retrofit, or energy efficiency. To do that we will have three wins. Number 1, it would be the largest jobs producing program in modern history with its corresponding economic development. While we are building a beautiful edifice in Oakland on a hundred year-old infrastructure, it would frighten you to go under the streets to see Oakland's outdated foundation. So, we need to deal with this. Every mayor in America understands it. You would have a major political base because all mayors know a) what's under the streets and b) they know they don't have the public works dollars to do

it. Number 2, it would have environmental integrity. Oakland, San Jose, other cities are being asked to absorb greater growth by virtue of the challenges of climate protection. I get it, we all understand it, because it makes sense. Fuel efficiency, transportation efficiency, smart planning and sustainability drives that forward. But question: how does Oakland go from 400,000 to 500,000 to 600,000 people as part of the challenge of global warming, sitting on top a hundred year-old deteriorating infrastructure? So, if we are going to go forward with environmental integrity, we need to go forward based on a solid foundation. The third win is public safety. What did we learn from Katrina and what have we learned, most recently, from Haiti? When a catastrophe hits, and it hits in the context of deteriorating infrastructure, it adds to the death, the suffering, the sorrow, the pain and the tears. Here we are in a place that sits atop several earthquake faults - it's a disaster waiting to happen. So, for all three of these reasons, a public works focused infrastructure program makes sense, because infrastructure is not just bridges and roads, it's what the cities of America are built upon."

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