



Oakland Police Department

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### For Immediate Release

## OAKLAND POLICE PREPARES FOR MEHSERLE VERDICT

Oakland (Ca) – On June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010, the trial started for former BART officer, Johannes Mehserle, for the death of Oscar Grant. The tragic event was felt deeply within the community and was followed by protests which attracted agitators and professional rioters who caused civil unrest, violence and vandalism. We anticipate protests following the reading of the verdict and have heard of possible outside agitation in an attempt to turn the peaceful movement into acts of civil unrest. The Oakland Police Department has taken the following steps to prepare for any possible civil unrest: training officers, shifting resources and identifying mutual aid options.

When the Oakland Police Department proceeds to “Tactical Alert”, the Media Relation’s Office will operate out of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located at 1605 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland, Ca. The EOC is equipped with a press room on the ground level and, if time permits, we will be conducting daily press briefings. Continue to email [opdmedia@oaklandnet.com](mailto:opdmedia@oaklandnet.com) for all media requests. In the next few days, we will be attempting to dedicate a telephone line strictly for the media. The media has a dedicated staging/ parking area in the 500 block of 19<sup>th</sup> Street. The lot is surrounded by security fencing and there will be adequate signage. The lot will be available on Tuesday, July 6, 2010.

A few media outlets have expressed concern about media safety. Below are tips to help ensure safe coverage during any unrest:

- ✓ Wear identifiable clothes (i.e. vest with the words “press” or “media”)
- ✓ Have press or agency identification on your person
- ✓ Be aware of your surroundings at all times
- ✓ If any issues arise with Oakland Police officers, please call dispatch at 510.777.3211 or an on-duty PIO (there will be 24-hour coverage)

In preparation of this event the Oakland Police Department Media Relations Office has done the following:

- ✓ Reviewed the media relations policy with every member of the Oakland Police Department
- ✓ Line-up training with all field personnel
- ✓ 24-hour coverage in the Media Relations Office
- ✓ Updated information on the Oakland city website
- ✓ New Twitter page: [oaklandpoliceca](https://twitter.com/oaklandpoliceca)

We will notify the media when the Oakland Police Department changes to tactical alert. Any questions or comments please call 510.238.7230 or email: [opdmedia@oaklandnet.com](mailto:opdmedia@oaklandnet.com).