



## News from **City of Oakland**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 10, 2011

### **Status Report on Frank Ogawa Plaza Encampment**

*Oakland, CA* —Because today a mandatory work furlough day due to budget cuts, City Hall is closed and services other than police and fire emergency services are closed. The City continues to ask the encampment to select an official group to meet with the Mayor and City staff to discuss a peaceful resolution to the encampment at Frank Ogawa Plaza.

The following is a brief update concerning activities at Frank Ogawa Plaza:

#### **Lack of electricity on the Plaza:**

- Sometime after business on Monday, 3 to 5 electrical breakers tripped on the 14<sup>th</sup> Street and interior plaza upper bench areas.
- Continued use of extension cords draped from other light poles risks additional overload to the electrical circuits.
- Staff has not been able to go and check the light poles to see what tripped the breakers so they were not reset.

#### **Lack of water on the Plaza:**

- One of the City's two domestic water pump, which ensure sufficient water pressure to the upper floors (15) of City Hall, has failed and is under repair. At the present time, the building is only running on the single secondary pump. We hope to have a replacement primary pump installed by the end of next week.
- We are not using the external bibs for pressure washing to reduce the load on the single pump. Additionally, the hose bibs on the exterior of the building were designed for the City to use for pressure washing around the building and for the florist to get water for the Kiosk flower shop. The encampment has blocked accessibility to these bibs, which require a special key to prevent unauthorized use.

#### **Vehicles Parking on Plaza, Sidewalks and Right of Way:**

- Fire engines, paramedics and other first responders need to have adequate access to the buildings and the interior of Frank Ogawa Plaza in an emergency. Cars and other vehicles parked on the Plaza, sidewalks and Right of Way have been asked to move and warned that they will be ticketed.
- Media are asked to park along 14<sup>th</sup> Street when at City Hall. Please avoid parking in front of the bus stop—AC Transit will ticket. Because space is limited, we encourage media outlets who may have more than one vehicle covering the

**Media Contact:**  
Sue Piper  
spiper@oaklandnet.com

activities on the Plaza or at City Hall to coordinate so that there is space for other reporters.

**Public Works/Infrastructure Issues:**

- Clean-up of graffiti and vandalism has been suspended due to today's mandatory work furlough and tomorrow's Veteran's Day holiday.
- Daily power washing of Plaza and grounds has been suspended due to today's mandatory work furlough and tomorrow's Veteran's Day holiday.

**Homeless Outreach:**

- For the third week in a row, DHS has set up homeless services outreach from Operation Dignity on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30 pm to 6pm.
- The County Health Department provided primary health care to 6 people yesterday.
- The County crisis team is scheduled to visit the site Thursday, November 17 and Monday, November 21.
- In all we have provided shelter services (to those who voluntarily agreed) to about 16 men at City Team shelter at 7th and Washington. The service includes shelter and food.
- The winter shelter will open on November 15, 2011.

The City of Oakland is asking the public to come forward with video or any other type of evidence they may have in their possession that shows vandalism or other destruction of property on the morning of November 3. Police continue to compile charges against those arrested for illegal acts, and the City is preparing to take appropriate legal action. Video and other evidence can be submitted to Sgt. Inez Ramirez in the Oakland Police Department Identification Section at (510) 238-3268.

The public is reminded that if they feel they have been a victim of or have witnessed police misconduct they may file a complaint with either the Internal Affairs Division of the Oakland Police Department at (510) 238-3161 or with the [Citizens Police Review Board](#) at (510) 238-3159.

###