



City of
OAKLAND
California

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News from: Emergency Operations Center

MEDIA ADVISORY

November 14, 2011, 4:45 am

OPD Enforces "Notice of Violations and Demand to Cease Violations" in Frank Ogawa Plaza

Oakland, CA – In the past few days, the City's efforts to encourage homeless to go to local shelters and protestors to voluntarily leave the encampment has reduced the number of demonstrators staying at the camp. However, a number of protestors who refuse to leave voluntarily still remain. This morning at 4:30 am, the Oakland Police Department began enforcing the "Notice of Violations and Demand to Cease Violations" issued on Friday, November 11, to the remaining people lodging in Frank Ogawa Plaza (Plaza) related to the Occupy Oakland demonstration. Our goal has always been to minimize harm to people, property and the City's reputation.

Securing an adequate level of mutual aid has also been a primary goal, especially considering the regional impact that the Occupy demonstrations have had on local law enforcement agencies and competing requests throughout Alameda County for mutual aid support. The City of Oakland deeply appreciates the support of Alameda County Sheriff Gregory Ahern for coordinating the request for mutual aid services and, additionally, is thankful to the mutual aid partners that availed themselves to support the City with this enforcement action. Mutual aid plays a very important in public safety services, and the City is grateful for the high level of support that it has received over the past weeks.

As expressed over the past weeks, the City remains committed to respecting free speech as well as maintaining the City's responsibility to protect public health and safety. Peaceful assembly will continue to be allowed in the Plaza when practical, but no lodging will be permitted and all tents will be cleared. There may be some disruption to the Plaza during the time that it takes to clean it up and, upon reopening, any individual that decides to enter the Plaza will do so at their own risk given that the City cannot ensure that all biohazards will have been cleared. The City of Oakland's goal is to clean it up to facilitate free assembly in the Plaza as soon as practical.

Media Briefing Scheduled for 7:00 am

Officials will be available for a media briefing this morning at 7 am.

What: Media Briefing
When: Today, Monday, November 14 at 7:00 am
Where: Emergency Operations Center
Who: Mayor Jean Quan
City Councilmembers
City Administrator Deanna J. Santana
Oakland Police Chief Howard Jordan

City officials will conduct a walk-through of Frank Ogawa Plaza this morning to assess the condition of the Plaza and downtown following the enforcement activities related to the Occupy Oakland demonstration.

TRANSPORTATION: Please monitor 511.org and/or local news agencies for road closures and traffic/transportation impacts.

BUSINESS: Through television news media, on-line communication, and direct outreach, the City anticipates releasing information to downtown employers by 6:30 am to allow for each business to assess the current conditions and consider whether delaying start of the work day is warranted--based on individual business assessments and decision-making processes.

CITY OF OAKLAND: City of Oakland employees that work in Frank Ogawa Plaza will be instructed to report to work beginning at 10 am. The City of Oakland will be providing reduced services today and encourages the public to only come to Frank Ogawa Plaza if time-sensitive, absolutely essential services are needed. Otherwise, the City of Oakland anticipates being fully open for business on November 15, 2011.

WINTER SHELTER: The City of Oakland has also taken action to open the Winter Shelter at the Army Base today, Monday, November 14, a day earlier than originally announced. The City encourages the homeless population to utilize these services.

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