



City of  
**OAKLAND**  
California

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### City of Oakland Issues Permit for Symbolic Teepee on Plaza and Reinforces Ground Rules for Peaceful and Safe Demonstrations

*Oakland, CA* – This afternoon, in response to a request by Occupy Oakland demonstrators to erect a teepee at Frank Ogawa Plaza, the City of Oakland issued a three-day encroachment permit for one symbolic teepee structure and reinforced ground rules essential to maintaining the balance between respecting free speech and maintaining the City's responsibility to protect public health and safety.

The protestors followed the City's laws and procedures to apply for the encroachment permit. Based on the advice of the City Attorney's Office, upon the applicant's request and under the legal premise of the teepee being a symbolic structure which requires the City to consider the teepee as a symbol of free speech, the City issued a three-day encroachment permit with the following conditions:

- Only one symbolic teepee structure is permitted between the hours of 6 am and 10 pm for the duration of the permit (November 29 to December 1).
- It will be taken down by 10 pm each night. Failure to remove the tent will result in removal of the structure by the City.
- The structure is not a lodging space. It will be unoccupied at all times. No one will live or sleep in it.
- No food storage and/or cooking may take place in the teepee or in association with the vigil.
- The teepee and any associated activity cannot impede the pedestrian right of way.
- The vigil cannot obstruct the free enjoyment of the public Plaza by other residents, visitors, or guests of the City of Oakland.

“Frank Ogawa Plaza is equivalent to the town squares of old,” said Mayor Jean Quan. “It is Oakland's center for expressing free speech and will continue to serve that role. I've been consistent in stating that those using the Plaza must abide by our ground rules, and the permit reinforces that.”

Other ground rules for peaceful assembly on public property include:

- No overnight lodging (i.e., camping, tents, teepees, sleeping bags not permitted).
- No fires or open flames (except candles used during the vigil).
- No unauthorized deliveries to Frank Ogawa Plaza.
- No non-permitted structures, including tents, canopies, kitchens, portable bathrooms, hand-washing stations, etc. Unauthorized structures are subject to removal by the City of Oakland.
- No encroachment into the public rights of way (i.e., plaza, sidewalks, benched alcoves, street furniture).
- Nothing may be attached or affixed to any fixture, tree, or structure in Frank Ogawa Plaza.

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- Area must be maintained free and clear of litter, trash, and debris.
- No amplified sound without a permit; sound permits are issued for amplified sound between the hours of 12 and 1 pm, and after 5 pm, Monday through Friday.
- No alcohol consumption.
- No parking along 14<sup>th</sup> Street between Broadway and Clay Street, except where signage allows.

The encroachment permit states that the City reserves the right to revoke the permit and to deny any future permits should the permit terms be violated.

Occupy Oakland demonstrators have been holding their General Assembly meetings at Frank Ogawa Plaza on a regular basis.

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