



City of
OAKLAND
California

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News from: Emergency Operations Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City and Port of Oakland are Prepared for Today's March & Rally Planned at Port and Downtown

The City and Port of Oakland held a media briefing at 6:45 a.m. today.

“One week ago the Port of Oakland sent a message to all of our stakeholders throughout this region to Keep Our Port Open. This was in response to the call to disrupt our Port once again. We said it then, and we'll say it now – closing the Port is a bad idea,” said Port of Oakland Executive Director Omar Benjamin.

The Port is connected to over 73,000 jobs in the region and more than 800,000 across the country. These are not just numbers. These are good jobs held by real working people and working families. Disrupting the Port hurts them. It will also hurt our community at a time when unemployment is high and the economy is weak.

The Port of Oakland is a public agency led by volunteer public servants appointed by our elected officials. It is our responsibility to keep our Port open and fully operational. That's why our goal today is to minimize disruptions to workers and working families that depend on the Port of Oakland. We will do so in a way that places paramount importance on everyone's safety and security, and which is respectful of everyone's First Amendment Rights.

“We have activated the Port's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and have integrated our work with the City's EOC. We are in close contact with our terminal operators, shipping companies, labor partners, and community. We will be providing updates throughout the day,” said Benjamin.

“In my 11 months in office, I have worked to bring jobs and investment to the Port of Oakland,” said Mayor Jean Quan. “Thousands of people work at the Port of Oakland every day. Thousands more in agriculture and other industries also depend on the Port of Oakland for their daily wages. We urge the demonstrators to respect the rights of the 99% working at the Port and to keep their protests peaceful.”

The Longshoreman's Union and other unions have publicly stated that they do not support a Port disruption.

We want the Oakland business community and the general public to be aware of these activities. As always, the City of Oakland is committed to facilitating peaceful forms of expression and free speech rights while providing personal safety and protecting property.

Traffic in downtown and West Oakland may be intermittently displaced as the marches and rallies are facilitated; however, OPD's goal is to prevent the interruption of Port operations.

To date, the City of Oakland has absorbed significant expenses totaling about \$2.4 million as it relates to encampments, rallies and protests. Additionally, these actions have negatively impacted our business community and residents.

The City of Oakland reminds demonstrators that, while peaceful forms of expression and free speech rights will be facilitated, acts of violence, property destruction and overnight lodging will not be tolerated.

The City has developed a variety of communication channels to keep the business community and the public informed of developments as they occur. This may include street closures or impacts to public transit. We encourage you to use the following:

- We will post regular information updates on our web site: **www.oaklandnet.com**.
- To receive alerts by email or wireless device, **subscribe to our email/text updates system** by entering your email address in the "Email Updates" section on the City's home page, www.oaklandnet.com. If you would like to receive wireless alerts via mobile phone, be sure to check the "Send Wireless Alerts to this address" box and enter your mobile number and carrier. Once you've saved your subscriber preferences, be sure to select "Emergency Alerts for Merchants" or "Emergency Alerts for Residents."
- If you don't have a computer, call **211** for information and/or updates.
- Business owners may also contact the City of Oakland's **Business Assistance Center** at (510) 238-7952 or visit www.OaklandBAC.com for support and additional information.
- To report any tips or suspicious activity, call the Oakland Police Department's non-emergency line at **(510) 777-3333**.
- For driving and transit information, including any detours, call **511** or visit www.511.org. For BART information, call (510) 465-2278 or visit www.bart.gov. You can also sign up for mobile service alerts at www.bart.gov/news/alerts.

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