ATTENTION
OCCUPY OAKLAND DEMONSTRATORS
Date: October 19, 2011, 2:00 pm

The City of Oakland is committed to facilitating peaceful forms of expression and free speech rights, and protecting personal safety and property.

The City of Oakland has been communicating with you about the various public health and safety issues we have observed or that have been reported to us. In an effort to maintain ongoing communication about the City’s primary concerns about public health, safety, and crowd control related to the demonstration, additional effort is required to address these concerns and complaints:

⇒ Fire Safety
  ▪ Propane or butane canisters and tanks are not being appropriately stored/disposed of, which poses a safety risk. Empty canisters and tanks must be removed and properly disposed of.
  ▪ Stacks of wood located throughout the camp also represent a fire hazard and must be removed.
  ▪ Fire extinguishers must be installed near the cooking areas.
  ▪ Communication regarding additional fire safety issues that may be identified following a fire inspection today may be forthcoming.

⇒ Cooking
  ▪ Food must be properly stored to minimize the attraction of rats. We are concerned that food and open food containers are exacerbating an existing rat problem which must be addressed to protect public health in and around the Plaza and downtown.

⇒ Soil Deliveries
  ▪ We have observed boxes of dirt being carted in to the Plaza area.
  ▪ Deliveries of soil or items other than water or food are not permitted.

⇒ Trespassing in City Buildings
  ▪ This morning an individual was caught inside a utility room in a City building pilfering through City property. City Hall restrooms and offices are open to the public during normal business hours, but trespassing or removal of City property is illegal.

⇒ Graffiti and Vandalism
  ▪ City crews are cleaning up graffiti and repairing damage to the Plaza on a daily basis.
  ▪ The Plaza is a publicly programmed space and needs to be maintained free of vandalism and graffiti for others that use it.
  ▪ Help us stop vandalism before it occurs and clean it up when it is spotted.

⇒ Public Urination
  ▪ Do not urinate on public facilities, property or outside port-a-potties.

⇒ Amplified Sound/Music
  ▪ The City continues to receive complaints about noise levels in the Plaza.
  ▪ Sound permits are required for amplified sound in the Plaza. These may be obtained by contacting Arturo Sanchez at (510) 238-7542 or asanchez@oaklandnet.com.
  ▪ Sound permits will only be granted for the hours between 12 and 1 pm, or after 5 pm.
Dogs
- Dogs are not permitted in the Plaza or City parks and must be removed.

The City has also heard complaints about sexual harassment, fighting, public drinking, intoxication, drug use and sex in public. These behaviors are raising the City’s concern about the health and well-being of demonstration participants, visitors, employees, and the surrounding community alike.

We continue to ask your assistance and cooperation in ensuring that you address these issues and accommodate the needs and rights of all users of the Plaza. Please be mindful that this Plaza is used by the public, employees, and schools. We require these courtesies to peacefully coexist.

Violence will not be Tolerated

Yesterday afternoon, the City distributed a flyer informing demonstrators that the Oakland Police Department would be facilitating a march at 5pm that started at 14th and Broadway; the intent of the flyer was to assure demonstrators that OPD was not assembling to take action against the Plaza protestors.

Some Occupy Oakland demonstrators responded to the flyer with hostility and threats of violence and riots. In addition, we have received complaints about threatening, intimidating, hostile behavior towards the public, City employees, and members of the news media.

The City of Oakland is committed to facilitating peaceful expressions of free speech rights. However, we will not tolerate riots, vandalism, destruction of property, attempted riots, or violence towards the public, employees, the media or the police. These actions would threaten public health and safety, and would compromise the current accommodations enjoyed by demonstrators.

Public Programming in Frank Ogawa Plaza this Week

As we have discussed, the Plaza is used by many public groups and gatherings. We expect the following programming to occur in the plaza this week:

**Thursday October 20, 2011 4 pm.** There will be a United Policyholders event in front of City Hall and inside on the Rotunda building. Please respect these groups’ right to access both areas.

**Friday, October 21, 2011 2:30 pm.** There is a private wedding scheduled in the Amphitheater area of the Plaza;, please respect this ceremony.

Remember, you must not prohibit, impede, or in any other way obstruct the use of the plaza by these groups as they have the same right to access this plaza as you do. Thank you for your cooperation.

Communications on City Web Site

We recognize that the participants in the Occupy Oakland demonstration fluctuate; to facilitate ongoing access to the rules and regulations surrounding use of the Plaza, we have set up a section on the City’s home page (www.oaklandnet.com) where we will post these notices for reference.

Thank you for doing your part to ensure that Frank Ogawa Plaza is a safe and healthy place for everyone in our community to enjoy.