



Merchant and Business Bulletin

General Strike Planned for Wednesday, November 2, 2011

The City of Oakland is committed to facilitating peaceful expressions of free speech rights and maintaining public health and safety related to the Occupy Oakland demonstrations.

There are many people prepared to exercise their free speech rights in a healthy manner that will not endanger our safety, livelihood or reputation as a city. We are asking for the community to come together, look out for one another, and stay safe.

We will not tolerate destruction or violence. We live here, and we love Oakland.

The City of Oakland has learned that “Occupy Oakland” is planning a General Strike in downtown Oakland on Wednesday, November 2, 2011. Organizers are calling for mass gatherings at 14th Street and Broadway at 9 am, 12 noon and 5 pm. Organizers have indicated that the evening gathering will include a march to the Port of Oakland.

The bulletin is meant to inform and educate, not alarm. We encourage you to share this email with your employees, merchant neighbors, and commercial tenants.

The Oakland Police Department is prepared to respond in the event that the demonstrations and protest become unlawful. As always, the Oakland Police Department is committed to facilitating peaceful forms of expression and free speech rights, and protecting personal safety and property.

City offices and services will remain open on Wednesday, November 2.

Oakland is open for business. We are **not** urging businesses to close on Wednesday. Instead, we advise that you use common sense precautions and convey a sense of calm to your employees and customers.

This is a fluid situation with many organizations participating in various actions in different manners. The City has developed a variety of communications 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.”
- If you don’t have a computer, **call (510) 444-CITY** for information and/or recorded updates.
- You 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 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.

Keeping peace on our streets and protecting Oakland businesses and residents is our top priority. Below are some simple steps you can take.

Simple Steps to Help Keep Oakland Safe

- Stay tuned to your local TV and radio stations for information.
- If possible, park your car in a secure, off-street location.
- Remove or secure trash receptacles.
- Let employees know they have the option to close the business and get to a safe location.
- Be sure your business is well lit. Good lighting increases visibility—and also increases the effectiveness of any closed circuit TV system.
- If you have a closed circuit TV system, be sure it is in good working order and is turned on. Save recordings of documented criminal activity.
- Make sure your building has good quality locks on the doors and windows. Deadbolt locks are a must for exterior doors.
- All exterior doors with a gap exposing the door jam should be covered with a steel plate to prevent the door from being pried open.
- Leave the cash drawer empty and open after business hours.