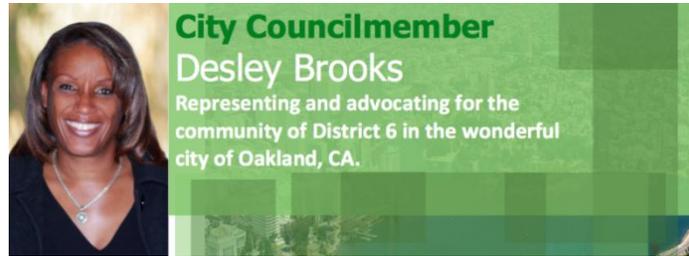


# DISTRICT 6 NEWSLETTER

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October 2014 Vol.1

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## Preparedness and mindfulness; The Call of the Day

This month our city is commemorating and solemnly reflecting on the great tragedy of the Earthquake of 89, also known as the Loma Prieta Earthquake. So many lives were affected by just seconds of a quake that seemed to go on forever for many of us. I encourage us not from a space of fear, but rather a space of self love and protection of our loved ones and families to be prepared for natural disasters- particularly earthquake and fire related tragedies, as we are vulnerable to both of those here in Northern California.

I've also published a checklist guide that you will find in this edition of my newsletter to help residents safeguard their homes against burglary. As a city official I can tell you that my colleagues and I are always working diligently to curb theft and other forms of crime in the city. I call on residents to do their part as well by taking preventative measures to keep your home and loved ones safe. Together, we will continue to make Oakland an even safer and more comfortable city than it already is.

Warmest Regards,

City Councilmember Desley Brooks  
Representing District 6

# DISTRICT 6 NEWSLETTER

I encourage everyone to take initiative in preventing home break ins and burglaries. I understand that being burglarized is a violating experience that can not only cause loss of valuables, but also impact our feeling of safety and comfort in our homes. So I'm offering a downloadable checklist to help families keep their homes and belonging safe from intruders and theft. Below is a preview and link to download the full list.

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This checklist was designed to help you make a security survey of your own home. The first purpose of a home security inspection is to identify features in your home or daily routines of your family which might make your home an easy target for a burglar. The security inspection should begin at your front door, include an inspection of all your doors and windows, locks, lights and landscaping. Each question on the checklist which you answer with an "x" or a check mark in the second column indicates a security weakness or hazard which requires your attention.

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## DOORS

1	Are all outside doors in the house of metal or solid wood construction?	Yes ___ No ___
2	Are door frames strong enough and tight enough to prevent forcing or spreading?	Yes ___ No ___
3	Are door hinges protected from removal from the outside?	Yes ___ No ___
4	Are there windows in any door or within 40 inches of the locks?	Yes ___ No ___
5	Are all door locks adequate and in good repair?	Yes ___ No ___
6	Are strikes and strike plates adequate and properly installed?	Yes ___ No ___
7	Can the locking mechanism be reached through a mail slot, delivery port or pet entrance at the door?	Yes ___ No ___
8	Is there a screen or storm door with an adequate lock?	Yes ___ No ___
9	Are all entrances lighted with at least a 40 watt light?	Yes ___ No ___
10	Can front entrances be observed from the street or public area?	Yes ___ No ___

# DISTRICT 6 NEWSLETTER

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Thank you Pastor Joe Smith and the Good Hope Church Community for the great Car Show and Community Block Party on Avenal between Foothill and Bancroft on September 27th. Good food, good music, jumper for kids and classic cars. What a gift to District 6!

# DISTRICT 6 NEWSLETTER



Sometimes with all the hustle and bustle of our daily lives we miss out on the opportunity to connect and build with our neighbors. However, bonding and building connections with the families and households around you not only enriches your own neighborhood experience, but increases safety and helps strengthen our positive community culture.

## *District 6 Resident Approaching 20 Year Tenure as Principal at a Stellar School*



It is 8AM at St. Leo School, which is nestled quietly on Howe Street in the Piedmont district of Oakland. Car doors fling open and mini van doors slide open slow as young people ranging from 4-15 years old walk, run, slump, and hop out onto the sidewalk and head into the school. They are a vibrant blur of early morning organized chaos, dressed in uniform blue, all taking different paces and strides to the same destination.

Ensuring they stay on the path to that destination is Sonya Simril, the school's Principal of 19 years. Poised, bold, and humorous- she guides the school with a loving and firm hand. She stands stylishly dressed and calm in the middle of all the running around that presets the day. "Good morning little one's!", she waves playfully at a group of 2nd graders walking by while simultaneously throwing a cold glare at two 8th graders that are in that pre-teen sort of way walking to close for her comfort. The "Alright now..." she offers them is all it takes for them to add an extra foot of distance between them.

# DISTRICT 6 NEWSLETTER

There's a synergy here at St. Leo.

A common knowledge among everyone that helps bring the school to life everyday, and you can feel it in the conversations and casual comradery amongst the faculty.

St. Leo is an award winning institution with one of the most diverse student bodies in the city including in comparison to the public school system in Oakland. Not just racial diversity either. The students that make up St. Leo come from homes representing a mosaic of financial, ethnic, family structure, education, and language backgrounds.

Throughout the year students take trips and excursions that apply real life experience to their education. Annual trips to the Shakespeare Festival in Oregon and to Washington, DC are staples for 7th and 8th graders.

We sat down with Mrs. Simril (as she is known by St. Leo students, faculty and families) to talk about education, living in District 6, and what the key factors to informing our young people are today.

Q: After all these years, what would you say you've learned is the most important part to supporting students

Simril: It is important that students feel valued as people and not designated to a lower rung beneath adults. This gives them a self confidence that makes them most susceptible to learning. Finding the balance between that and them showing proper respect for their teachers and other adults is the line we try to walk. Mainly, we are building these children to become leaders. That is our aim.

Q: Whenever we hear about schools in Oakland the focus is normally on public schools. Considering that St. Leo is private, what would you say are the biggest misconception about private schools and the students that attend?

Simril: The biggest misconception about private schools are that the students all come from upper middle class families. That couldn't be any further from the truth! We have such a diverse range of students here reflecting even more diverse families and communities. There are students here that live in public housing and students that come from families with high incomes. But the pride of St. Leo is that if you were to walk around our campus and observe our young people, you couldn't tell the difference. Our students are a unified group and thrive on an equal level.

Q: How long have you lived in District 6?

Simril: Almost 10 years now.

Q: What do you like about living in District 6?

Simril: You know, in my neighborhood we have a real sense of community. We truly lookout for each other and help wherever we can. I also enjoy how central we are to everything.

To learn more about St. Leo School visit <http://www.stleothegreat.org/>



Saint Leo School was founded in 1948

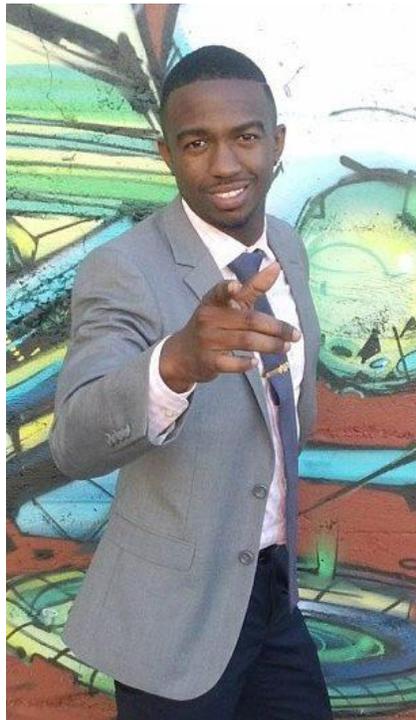
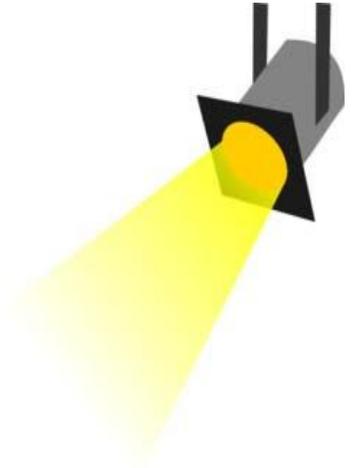


If you or someone you know lives in District 6 and would like to be interviewed and featured in our newsletter send an email to [dbrooks@oaklandnet.com](mailto:dbrooks@oaklandnet.com)

# DISTRICT 6 NEWSLETTER

## *Spotlight on Excellence*

Celebrating people doing  
great things in our city



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**One of Oakland's Young Sons Returns With a  
Plan for Good**

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# DISTRICT 6 NEWSLETTER

Oakland has long been the birth place of innovative organizations, social justice movements, and accomplished individuals dedicated to their community's equity. Twenty- one year old Tevah El Emmet is part of the fabric of a rejuvenating generation carrying on that legacy with added innovation. By overcoming obstacles and taking advantage of opportunities, Oakland's own Tevah El Emmet has just completed a summer associateship with the Greenlining Institute after graduating from George Mason University with a degree in advertising and a minor in entrepreneurship studies. Armed with this knowledge he plans to metamorphasize the way the general public and organizations benefiting society communicate:

"I work to have civic engagement and cultural understanding become a part of Hip-Hop and pop cultures."I've always watched the amazing advertising campaigns created by companies that don't have an interest in supporting the communities that they collect money from, yet have no problem exploiting the culture for maximum sales. Many fortune 500 companies have major outreach success in the communities which non profits aim to support. What do these large companies know that community groups and foundations don't? First off, they understand the importance and impact of targeted communications. Secondly, they extensively research the desires on the hearts and minds of the people they aim to inspire. Lastly they meet the audience where they are at and communicate in easy to understand language as opposed to many activist groups that may use trade jargon or high level academic language."

Tevah uses an emerging business model called social entrepreneurship that focuses around enterprise with a social impact. "I love being back in Oakland now that I've graduated. It allows me to give back to those organizations that taught me about social justice as I grew up." By creating outreach strategies to maximize an organization or company's impact he is not only giving back to NGOs and Start Ups but the communities they serve. On top of what Tevah does with organizations he plans to continue his work by creating social media campaigns that highlight social injustice, and encourage the Hip-Hop and pop culture to better their cultural understanding and become more civically engaged.

Follow Tevah El Emmet on Twitter @Tevah\_ee



# DISTRICT 6 NEWSLETTER



I highly encourage Oakland residents to be informed on the issues being discussed on your behalf at City Hall.

You can always visit the city's website and view upcoming agenda items.

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City Hall. You can always visit the city's website and view upcoming agenda items.



## Medicinal Marijuana Codes

Last week the Rules and Legislation Committee recommended amending municipal codes related to

Medical Cannabis Dispensary Permits. Suggested changes would increase The

Total Number Of Dispensary Permits From 8 to 12 and make changes to distance requirement.

# DISTRICT 6 NEWSLETTER

## Unaccompanied Children Funding for Legal Support



The Finance and Management Committee on Tuesday, October 14, 2014 will propose the following:

Adopt A Resolution Authorizing A Grant In An Amount Up To \$577,231.00 To Centro Legal De La Raza To Be Used To Provide Legal Services To Central American Unaccompanied Children (UAC) In Oakland That Have Fled To The United States To Escape Violent And Other Oppressive Conditions In Their Countries, And Authorizing The City Administrator To Appropriate And /Or Identify Funds For The Grant.

## Ordinance to Evict Due to Unlawful Activity



City Council received a recommendation from the City Attorney to adopt an ordinance amending the Nuisance Eviction Ordinance (O.M.C. Section 8.23) To: 1) Include Prostitution Related Crimes, Gambling And Illegal Possession Of Ammunition As Grounds To Require A Landlord To Bring An Eviction Action Against A Nuisance Tenant, 2) To Revise Definitions Relating To Drug Nuisance And Weapons, And 3) Authorize The City Attorney, In Addition To The City Administrator, To Issue Notices To Owners To Bring Nuisance Eviction Actions.

This item will be addressed at the October 21, 2014 City Council Meeting at City Hall, 5:30PM

**For information, news, and events in District 6 and Oakland wide "Like" me on Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Desley-Brooks/135189713236208>

