

# The Brooks Blotter

*A summary of news & events from the Office of Council Member Dasley Brooks*

**Council Maintains Current Campaign Contribution Limits** – At Tuesday night's Council meeting the Council voted down a proposal by Councilmember Ignacio de la Fuente to increase the amount individuals and Political Action Committees could contribute to political campaigns. De la Fuente's proposal would have allowed the amount individuals could contribute to be raised from \$700 to \$1000; and the amount Political Action Committees could contribute would have been raised from \$1300 to \$1600.

**Bus Rapid Transit Environmental Impact Study** -- A. C. Transit is moving into its next phase on the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. The project to be studied is planned to travel between Berkeley, Oakland and San Leandro. Federal funding guidelines require AC Transit to include in the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIS/R) a project scope that is preferred for study by the City of Oakland. This preferred design option identifies the Project route and stations as it travels through the City, primarily on Telegraph Avenue and International Boulevard. In the technical terminology of the Federal Transit Administration, this choice is called the "Locally Preferred Alternative". The Council approved to have a broad number of issues studied in the Environmental Impact Report.

**Pulte Home Developers and Rebuilding Together Oakland partner with Councilperson Brooks** -- Approximately 3 years ago I had the City purchase the building next door to Rainbow Recreation Center. The purpose of the purchase was to create a teen center. While we were able to purchase the building we were unable to make the necessary improvements because the City had no Capital Improvement Funds. In early March I partnered with Pulte Home Developers to build a culinary kitchen, recording studio, video studio, and two bathrooms at the Teen Center Site. They also have made renovations to the facade of the building. Pulte is DONATING THEIR SERVICES AND SECURED A NUMBER OF DONATIONS FROM THE BUILDING TRADES AND MATERIALS VENDORS. As a result of the generosity of Pulte we will be able to open phase one of the Rainbow Teen Center by the end of May of this year. I hope you will come by and see the major improvement this project is making in this part of the District.

**100's of Oakland kids attend Easter Extravaganza/Schools Out Resource Fair** – I sponsored my annual Easter Egg Hunt and Schools Out Resource Fair on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. We served almost 500 children at the Hunt. There were 3 candy hunts based on age and carnival rides. In addition we had over 30 organizations that provide after school and

summer camp programs. Parents were able to sign their children up for the respective programs on the spot. See Channel 5's coverage at <http://cbs5.com/>.

**Food Bags Distributed at Arroyo Viejo Park** -- Council Member Brooks' office in partnership with the Community Development Block Grant program distributes food bags to community members in need of assistance the 3rd Friday of each month from 4 to 7 pm at Arroyo Viejo Park located at 7701 Krause Street. If you, or someone you know, need assistance please come out to the Park or call my office at (510) 238-7006.

**CORE City-wide Emergency Exercise -- Saturday, April 24.** Individuals and organized neighborhood groups will have an opportunity to come together and practice responding to a disaster in our community. In 2010, the scenario will be based on a 7.0 magnitude earthquake on the Hayward Fault, centered in North Oakland. The event will focus on deactivating Neighborhood Incident Command Centers and safely evacuating residents. A range of simulated incidents will occur in neighborhoods throughout the city to which CORE Groups will need to respond. If you are not part of a CORE group or have not yet gone through **CORE**, call **238-6351** to see if you can serve as an observer at a nearby event.

**National Night Out (NNO) Forum. Oakland City Hall, Hearing Room 4 -- Wednesday, April 28, 8:30-10am.** An opportunity for Merchants Associations to network, build relationships and promote safety on your respective commercial corridor (perhaps start a phone tree or get everyone on twitter). Make this the time you update your contacts each year (re-connect). Use the NNO event planning to build momentum and enthusiasm towards reviving or creating a merchants association.

**Be Sugar Savvy Training Workshop -- Wednesday, April 28, 1-3pm.** The Bay Area Nutrition & Physical Activity Collaborative (BANPAC) of the Alameda County Nutrition Services kicks-off "Rethink Your Drink Soda Free" summer with a meeting at the Elihu Harris State Building, 1515 Clay Street. Register at [www.banpac.org](http://www.banpac.org) and click on "Registration is Open! Be sure to check the 1 pm Be Sugar Savvy Training box.

**City Council Special Budget Meeting -- Thursday, April 29<sup>TH</sup>** in the Council Chambers at 5:30pm. The Council will meet to address shortfalls to the General Purpose Fund for Fiscal Year 2010/2011. **The Council will make final decisions at this meeting.** To view the Budget meeting Agenda go to; <http://clerkwebsvr1.oaklandnet.com/> .

### **\$200 - \$500 Grants Available from the Public Works Small Grants Program Application**

The City of Oakland's Public Works Agency Keep Oakland Beautiful (KOB) announces the availability of small grants in a pilot program designed to encourage local citizens and community groups to clean and beautify Oakland. These grants are designed to foster local solutions and community improvements. The grants will range from \$200 - \$500 and will be distributed from funds raised by KOB. There are two funding cycles: summer (**deadline is April 30**) and winter (deadline is September 30). For more information and

for a Small Grant Application visit: <http://www.oaklandpw.com/> . Examples of successful grants could include the makeover of a park or the beautification of a section of a neighborhood or a community area. Grants will be awarded to individuals or groups that demonstrate creativity and/or community renewal. Evidence of sustainability of the project after the grant funding terminates is also a criteria.

**Assembly Member Sandre Swanson named Chairman of the Assembly Labor Committee.** Assembly Member Sandré Swanson returns as Chair of the Assembly Labor Committee. Last year he refused to vote for extraneous cuts to senior, health and school programs and consequently, lost his chairmanship of the Committee. This year, with the election of a new Speaker, Assembly Member Swanson regained this important Chairmanship. Congratulations Chairman Swanson!

***New Foreclosure Programs Announced:***

**Washington Post - Obama readies steps to fight foreclosures, particularly for unemployed** - The Obama administration plans to overhaul how it is tackling the foreclosure crisis, in part by requiring lenders to temporarily slash or eliminate monthly mortgage payments for many borrowers who are unemployed, senior officials said Thursday. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

**NY Times - U.S. Plans Big Expansion in Effort to Aid Homeowners** - The Obama administration on Friday will announce broad new initiatives to help troubled homeowners, potentially refinancing several million of them into fresh government-backed mortgages with lower payments. <http://www.nytimes.com/>

**OUSD/City of Oakland Joint Use Agreement Survey --** The City of Oakland and the Oakland Unified School District are working on establishing a joint use agreement for our respective facilities. One remaining aspect of the agreement is the use of school buildings, fields, and playgrounds. We are surveying the community to determine the level of public interest in using these school facilities. Please help us with this survey by answering the questions below. Please complete and return the Survey no later than April 30, 2010. You may fax the completed Survey to (510) 986-2650, or email it to [dbrooks@oaklandnet.com](mailto:dbrooks@oaklandnet.com); or mail it to: Desley Brooks, City Hall, 1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, CA 94612.

1. Do you live or work near a school?
2. If so, please provide the School's name or street name? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Would you like the school to be available for use:  
\_\_\_\_\_ Early evenings

\_\_\_\_\_ Nights

\_\_\_\_\_ Weekend Days

\_\_\_\_\_ Weekend Nights

\_\_\_\_\_ Other

4. State the specific times you would use the school/facility. \_\_\_\_\_

5. What day(s) of the week? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What would be the purpose of your use:

\_\_\_\_\_ Meeting

\_\_\_\_\_ Playground

\_\_\_\_\_ Field

\_\_\_\_\_ Other

7. Are you seeking to use the school for personal use? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Are you seeking to use the school on behalf of an organization? \_\_\_\_\_

9. If your answer to #7 was yes, please name the organization.

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Is your organization a nonprofit 501(c)(3)? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Does your organization have insurance? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Would you use the school facility if a fee were charged? \_\_\_\_\_

13. What's the maximum amount you would be willing to pay? \_\_\_\_\_

14. Have you previously used school grounds on nights or weekends? \_\_\_\_\_

15. If your answer to 14 was yes, was the use authorized? \_\_\_\_\_

16. If school buildings were kept open later to serve as community centers would you use them for that purpose? \_\_\_\_\_

17. What services/resources would you like to see at these school community centers? \_\_\_\_\_  
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18. Is there anything else you want to tell us on this subject?  
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Thank you for taking the time to answer this Survey. Your responses will help shape our policy discussions.