

News from: Department of Human Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 7, 2016

Oakland Friday Summer Nights Launch July 8 *Weekly events work to change community norms around violence*



City of
OAKLAND
California

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Oakland, CA – The Friday Summer Nights Program kicks off its 2016 series on July 8, with events in both East Oakland and West Oakland. These free, public events feature food, games, entertainment and raffles for all ages with the goal of changing community norms around violence through community engagement and empowerment. The East Oakland Peace at the Park Program location is Willie Wilkins Park, 1100 98th Avenue, while the West Oakland Friday Night Live Program takes place on Brockhurst Street, between San Pablo Avenue and Market Street. Weekly events will run from 6 to 8:30 p.m. and continue until August 12, 2016.

For the past six summers, Oakland Unite’s Messengers4Change has hosted the six-week-long program in targeted hotspots in East Oakland. In 2011, Messengers4Change piloted the first Friday Summer Nights in the Park at Willie Wilkins Park in East Oakland. The success of that program led to the expansion of the program into West Oakland in partnership with the City-County Neighborhood Initiative project. This year these programs will continue to support residents who are taking a stand against violence.

The Friday Summer Nights Program is modeled after the Los Angeles’ Summer Night Lights Program, and are connected to broader Oakland Unite efforts focused on violence reduction, including shooting and homicide intervention and response. Both the Los Angeles and Oakland program efforts are intended to disrupt violence by offering programming and extended park hours in neighborhoods with high rates of violence, during the peak hours when violence occurs. In addition to music, food and other fun activities, Oakland Unite Street Outreach Workers from two agencies – Youth ALIVE and Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (B.O.S.S.) – attend the events as intervention specialists to engage with young people and offer conflict mediation and peace-making support. As in Los Angeles, the Oakland events involve law enforcement and a broad cross-section of community members in order to build trust and strengthen relationships. The programs also include a diverse mix of community-based organizations and resource providers.

The East Oakland Peace at the Park Program and the West Oakland Friday Night Live Program are funded by Oakland Unite, and a federal grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Become a Messenger4Change and make a difference in your community. To learn more, visit <http://oaklandunite.org/messengers4change/>.

For more information about these events, visit www.OaklandUnite.org

For specific information about the Friday Summer Nights Programs, contact Jennifer Argueta at JArgueta@oaklandnet.com.

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