



PRESS RELEASE
July 14, 2009

**MAYOR DELLUMS ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP TO PROVIDE FREE INTERNET
AND COMPUTER ACCESS FOR OAKLAND**

*Oakland Parks and Recreation and Oakland Technology Exchange West to Provide
Internet Access in all Recreation Centers*

OAKLAND –Mayor Ron Dellums today announced a partnership between Oakland Technology Exchange West (OTX West) and the City of Oakland ensuring free access to computers and the Internet at every Recreation center in Oakland. The mayor made the announcement with the Director of Parks and Recreation, Audree Jones-Taylor and representatives from Oakland Technology Exchange.

“This partnership will give every Oakland resident, from school children to senior citizens, the opportunity to utilize the benefits of a computer,” said Mayor Dellums. “We want all community members to be well-informed and to have access to the latest technology, so that they can enjoy global communication and have a place to work on skills that help them in the job market. I would like to thank the Oakland Technology Exchange West, city staff, and other partners for making this day possible.”

Computer access begins immediately at recreation centers in every area of the city. Internet access is available at most centers and will soon be available at all the recreation centers. Despite such economic uncertainty, this collaboration was able to provide this service to Oakland residents by utilizing remaining funds from a previous state literacy technology fund and receiving assistance from Google and other key partners organizations.

Bruce Buckelew from Oakland Technology Exchange was a member of one of the Mayor-initiated Community Taskforces on Education, which made the recommendation to bridge the “digital divide” in Oakland. Their work was responsible for the recommendation to provide not only access to computers and the Internet, but to provide education and technical support to all Oakland residents who need it. Today’s announcement marks a significant step towards that goal.

OTX West is dedicated to eliminating the digital divide in Oakland, California. They seek to enhance educational opportunities and increase the accessibility of technology to low-income members of our community. OTX West recognizes the need for people of all socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds to gain access to the digital word by owning a home computer and acquiring technological knowledge and skills in steps toward individual self-sufficiency and empowerment.

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For more information on Mayor Ron Dellums and the City of Oakland, please visit and bookmark the following Web accounts:

 : <http://www.youtube.com/ronalddellums>

 : <http://www.facebook.com> "Mayor Ronald V. Dellums"

 : <http://web.me.com/mayorrondellums>


CITY OF OAKLAND: <http://www.mayorrondellums.org>

 : <http://www.twitter.com> "Ron Dellums"