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MAYOR DELLUMS' GREEN JOBS CORPS TRAINING PROGRAM APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Proposed Program Provides Job Training for Young Adults in Green-Collar Industry

Oakland – July 31, 2008 – Mayor Ron Dellums' Green Jobs Corp training initiative was approved by the Public Works Committee last week, allowing the City of Oakland to implement this program in the Fall. The Oakland Green Jobs Corps (OGJC) will provide job training to prepare young adults in the city for green-collar careers and will have a special focus on providing “pathways out of poverty” by recruiting and training people with barriers to employment to become gainfully employed.

“One of the root causes of crime and violence is poverty and an associated lack of quality employment opportunities. This Green Jobs Corps training program will allow us to train young people, provide new opportunities and expand the entry points into the 21st century workforce that will create new sources of work, wealth and health to our residents,” said Mayor Dellums. “I am very proud that this program, which was also championed by members of the City Council, gives us a strategy to deal with the old business of poverty and unemployment, while addressing the global issues related to climate change.”

Public Works Committee Chair, Councilmember Nancy J. Nadel (District 3) notes, “Providing our young people with a road to a sustainable future brings hope and personal investment to the community.”

The Ella Baker Center and other members of the Public Works Committee, including Councilmembers Patricia Kernighan and Henry Chang helped to make this program possible.

The program will engage young adults who otherwise may not have an opportunity to acquire the skills needed to earn a real living wage through the emerging Green Energy sector. The mayor believes that we can keep youth off the streets by providing them with more quality job opportunities. Young people will learn to install energy efficiency features and renewable energy systems, as well as to do other work related to increasing energy efficiency in Oakland.

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The initiative will authorize the city to allocate \$250,000 to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Laney College/Cypress Mandela Training Center to operate the OGJC training program through January 2010. Early this year, Mayor Dellums requested funds from the federal government to help bolster the program. Working with Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), such funding (\$300,000) for this initiative passed a subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Appropriations committee. In an effort to sustain the Job Corps, Mayor Dellums will be working with Laney College and Cypress Mandela to raise additional funding to ensure the success and lasting community impact of this program.

The program will create meaningful job opportunities, such as solar panel installation, energy-efficiency construction and retrofits, and work related to bio-fuels, such as car and truck maintenance, production, and fuel-station jobs. The program will simultaneously help create long-term capacity for green economic development by partnering with dozens of small and medium-size green businesses in Oakland and help train a qualified workforce to support these businesses.

Additional Background on the Greening of Oakland:

- In December 2007, The mayors of Berkeley, Oakland, Richmond and Emeryville joined forces with UC Berkeley Chancellor Birgeneau and LBNL director Steve Chu for the Dec. 3 launch of the East Bay Green Corridor Partnership - aimed at "establishing our region as one of the world's leading centers" of environmental innovation, alternative-energy research, and green business and industry.
- Consistent with his vision for a sustainable Model City, Mayor Dellums announced in October 2007 that the City of Oakland received a City Solar Award from the NorCall Solar Energy Association for ranking #1 in the "Large Cities" category for "Most Total Watts Installed."
- The City of Oakland won the Environmental Protection Agency's First Place National Storm Water Management Program Excellence Award.

Background on providing more jobs in Oakland:

- Mayor Dellums has hosted several job fairs since being in office, allowing employers in need of capable individuals and potential employees to come together and create opportunities that may not have existed.
- The mayor has created thousands of jobs for youth as part of his Summer Jobs Program.
- Mayor Dellums has hired a re-entry specialist to work with individuals who were formerly incarcerated to help this community find jobs within the city.
- In forming the Oakland Partnership, the mayor has made a commitment to provide 10,000 jobs within the next five years for Oakland residents.

