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MAYOR DELLUMS: 30 MORE OFFICERS JOIN POLICE FORCE
Overnight Violence Reinforces Need for a Fully Staffed Police Force

OAKLAND – The Oakland Police Department welcomed 30 new officers onto the force today, bringing the total to 778 officers – another step closer to Mayor Ron Dellums’ commitment of reaching 803 by the end of the year. This positive step comes as the city gathers information on two murders this morning.

“I’m proud of the men and women who will be graduating from the Police Academy and joining our police force to protect and serve the residents of this city,” said Mayor Dellums. “We made a commitment to fully staff our police force and we will meet that goal without question by the end of the year. The police recruitment plan we put forth demonstrates what can be done when the City of Oakland comes together and makes a commitment towards a common goal.”

The total of 778 officers is the highest OPD has been staffed since Measure Y passed in 2004. During the mayor’s State of the City address at the beginning of this year, he made a commitment to reach the city’s authorized police force strength of 803 officers. Mayor Dellums said we would do it “this year -- no matter what it takes”. The mayor directed city staff to come together across various departments to make sure this goal was realized. After presenting a plan that used existing Measure Y funds for the recruitment of police officers, the mayor presented the proposal to the City Council which approved the use of up to \$7.7 million for this purpose. The mayor and Police Chief Wayne Tucker both acknowledge that we will reach our goal before the end of the year and save the city money in the process.

Early this morning, OPD announced that two people were murdered and an officer was involved in a fatal shooting. Mayor Dellums said in response:

“At this point, the facts about these homicides are limited, which makes it even more important for people with information to come forward. When a life is taken away, our community is diminished and we cannot allow ourselves to become victims of fear. In times like these I urge community members to stand together in a significant showing of strength and unity. Failure in this struggle is not an option. We must stay committed to the idea that we can overcome crime and violence in our communities and that peace and security can be achieved. I am working tirelessly to ensure that the success of my comprehensive public safety strategy is realized. We must get to the root causes of violence by holding true to a plan that incorporates a multi-level strategy of prevention, intervention, enforcement and sustainability, including fully staffing our police force, creating more and better jobs, and providing more opportunities for our youth. I am saddened by this violence, but I remain committed to bringing peace to our streets.”

The mayor strongly encourages anyone who may have information about any incidents to contact the Oakland Police Department Homicide Unit at (510) 238.3821.

Some other key components of the mayor's comprehensive public safety strategy:

- Recently, the mayor deployed **20 outreach workers** to the streets who are addressing street level violence by connecting high risk individuals with opportunities to get out of street life.
- As police staff increases, the mayor is working to efficiently incorporate them into the new **Geographic Accountability Model**, which is a step towards community policing, because it allows officers to cover one beat so they can get to know that neighborhood and stop violence before it happens.
- The mayor pushed a proposal through the City Council which would increase the number of **police officers beyond 803**. Oakland has a multi-million dollar deficit and the only way to provide more officers in a responsible way is through a parcel tax. This proposal will go onto the November ballot. For more information, go to www.mayorrondellums.org.
- Forming a partnership with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to allow **California Highway Patrol Officers** to assist OPD in fighting crime.
- Addressing the **root causes of crime and violence** by providing more and better jobs, more youth services and a better education. Since September 2007, Mayor Dellums has sponsored and co-sponsored six community job fairs and job readiness workshops.

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