



**News from**  
Office of the Mayor

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CONTACT: Paul Rose  
(510) 238.7914  
(510) 388.6721

Email: pwrose@oaklandnet.com

### **MAYOR DELLUMS CALLS FOR 803 POLICE BY YEAR END**

*State of City Speech Details Public Safety, Economic Development, Health and Education Efforts*

**OAKLAND** – In his first State of the City address, Mayor Ronald V. Dellums laid out specific steps his administration will pursue during his next year in office.

Aimed at furthering first year efforts in making Oakland a “Model City”, Mayor Dellums addressed his top priority of public safety, as well as housing, economic development, health and education issues.

“As we look ahead to 2008 and beyond, we all recognize that this is a special moment in our city and the only way to turn the corner of change is by working together. The foundation we’ve secured will allow us to move closer to bringing peace to our streets, provide more and better jobs for our residents and help our kids succeed in their youth, so Oakland can succeed in its future,” said Mayor Dellums.

Some specific projects and proposals outlined in the Monday evening speech include:

#### **Making Our Neighborhoods Safer by Hiring More Police**

“There is no issue more important than bringing peace to the streets of Oakland,” said Mayor Dellums. “I call on the Council and the entire city to join with us in making a commitment to reach the current authorized strength of 803 police officers by the end of the year -- no matter what it takes.”

To ensure success, the Mayor will be asking the Council for support in new recruitment and retention strategies, including:

- **Increasing the number of recruits going through the Police Academy**  
If necessary, the city will run concurrent academies and increase college and military recruitment.
- **Increase Success Rates at the Police Academy**  
With support from Peralta Colleges, develop a new, intensive pre-academy program to ready potential applicants for success in the academy. Conduct a review of hiring and training priorities to augment opportunities for more applicants to succeed.
- **More Police on the Street**  
Provide additional incentives for senior officers to serve as field trainers, so new recruits can get on the street faster. Also, working to get more department jobs open to civilians so more officers can get onto the streets.
- **Expanding Recruitment Programs**  
Expanding internship, cadet, and explorer programs to bring more Oaklanders, onto the police force, and working with Peralta Colleges on a “police recruitment month.”

- **Reviewing Future Policing Needs**

Reviewing the city’s current authorized strength to determine future policing needs and to sustain our staffing levels.

### **Tackling the Root Causes of Violence**

“We must solve the root causes of crime and violence and recognize that this cannot be done by police alone. This is a public health crisis. We must address the economic disparity and community instability facing so many residents,” said Mayor Dellums.

The mayor will bring Oakland together to resolve this public health crisis, by bringing more jobs to at-risk youth:

- **Bringing more jobs to at-risk youth and ex-offenders**

Significantly expand the number of job placements available to our at-risk community members and launching an initiative to pull together all city agencies to unify Oakland’s existing job training and placement programs.

- **Getting guns off the street**

The city will intensify our efforts to stop the proliferation of guns. Working with the Oakland Police Department to stop gun trafficking, crack down on illegal gun dealers, and build a local buy-back program to encourage people to turn in their weapons.

- **Building “Safe and Strong Communities”**

The city is launching three new “Public Safety Districts,” aligned with the new police service areas. The design is for city departments to assign staff consistently focused on crime reduction strategies in the three city regions and collaborate with the neighborhood councils.

### **Economic Development – A Comprehensive Approach**

Economic development consists of bringing businesses to Oakland, providing quality jobs, and having an effective housing strategy.

“Oakland needs and deserves an economic development strategy that clearly sets goals and targets for economic growth and sets out a plan for meeting those targets,” said Mayor Dellums.

Key components include:

- Continuing our efforts to conform General Plan land use with zoning regulations to encourage development;
- Working to attract investments to key opportunity sites to help revitalize entire neighborhoods and modernize Oakland’s under-utilized industrial lands;
- Building on our work with Oakland Partnership, Chambers of Commerce, financial institutions, and non-profit organizations to help small and large businesses to grow and flourish in the City of Oakland; and
- Aligning workforce development with the needs of Oakland’s key and emerging industries, so that more Oakland residents can participate in job training and high-wage employment.

“On housing development, I believe the City must support and encourage continued investment in housing in all areas to revitalize neighborhoods, provide mixed income communities, and ensure that current Oakland residents share in the benefits of new development,” said Mayor Dellums.

Immediate steps include:

- Encouraging development of new market rate housing by providing clear policies and guidelines that establish predictability for private developers;
- Adopting an inclusionary zoning ordinance to ensure that private development yields community benefits in the form of affordable housing;
- Modifying the condo conversion ordinance to create opportunities for tenant purchase and affordable homeownership for moderate-income households, while protecting the rental housing stock from conversion to condominiums that Oaklanders can't afford; and
- Expanding the city's first-time homebuyers program with special emphasis on providing housing for Oakland first responders, including police, fire, nurses, and teachers.
- Protecting renters from displacement by closing loopholes in the Rent Adjustment Ordinance and including strong tenant protection measures in the Condominium Conversion Ordinance.

### **Health and Education for Oakland's Families**

There is incontrovertible evidence that an unhealthy child cannot perform to his/her academic potential. Too many of Oakland's school children are hindered by preventable health afflictions. Ultimately, poor school performance often stems from the same social, economic and personal problems that cause poor health: poverty, socioeconomic inequality, and violence.

"How well Oakland educates and takes care of its children plays an important role in our future. The economic prosperity of any city is inextricably tied to the success of its school system and failing to maximize the potential of our students will exact an increasingly large economic toll on Oakland," said Mayor Dellums. The mayor's efforts include:

- **Promoting An Integrated School Services Initiative**  
Working with partners at the School District and the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, and will provide wrap around services, including after school programs, school-based health center support, and family support services to 2,000 individuals at a half-dozen middle school sites.
- **Building School-Based Health Centers**  
The city has partnered with the Oakland Unified School District, Alameda County and Kaiser Permanente, and collaborated on what promises to be the single largest expansion of school-based health centers, in any school district.
- **Developing Clinics at Peralta Community Colleges**  
This partnership will replicate the school-based health center approach at Peralta's sites. These clinics would be Health Portals with open access doubling as employment and training programs for health professionals.

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