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**Office of the Mayor**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**EFFORT TO FIGHT CRIME GETS COUNCIL “OK”**

*Mayor Applauds Council’s Support of Coordinated Street Outreach in High Crime Areas*

**OAKLAND** – Efforts to prevent and lessen violence in Oakland took a major step forward last night with the City Council’s endorsement of Mayor Ron Dellums’ coordinated street outreach strategy. The council passed a resolution authorizing the Department of Human Services to request proposals for hiring street outreach workers in high crime areas in a manner designed to prevent the escalation of tension that often leads to violence.

“We need to intensify our efforts to fight crime and reduce violence in our city,” said Mayor Dellums. “This investment will move Oakland forward as it enables us to provide safer and more secure neighborhoods for all our residents.”

National best practices in violence prevention recommend street-based outreach in hot spot areas as an important strategy to help prevent street violence in urban communities. This strategy calls on community members who are familiar with neighborhoods most impacted by violence and skilled at conflict mediation, intervention, and mentorship to walk the streets and connect with youth and adults involved in street life.

The resolution makes \$575,000 available on an expedited basis (\$375,000 of which will come from Measure Y – Reserve Funds) to support a qualifying proposal that brings on street outreach workers to carry out the following tasks:

- Create a public safety presence of credible civilians in hot spots;
- Build and use relationships with “hot spots” residents, including “street leaders,” to actively promote positive life choices that build healthy communities;
- Connect “high risk” individuals and their families to resources that provide opportunities for productive lives, including career and education services;
- Increase community cohesion through rallying community response following violence, ensuring linkage to support services and hosting community events aimed at fostering non-violence.

Given that Oakland and community agencies have also long recognized the importance of job training for formerly incarcerated individuals as a central component of violence prevention, the Mayor’s office has also directed the Department of Human Services to issue an additional \$200,000 Request for Proposals for re-entry job training services.

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