



City of  
**OAKLAND**  
California

## News from: The Office of Mayor Jean Quan and OUSD Superintendent Tony Smith

### NEWS RELEASE

April 26, 2011

#### City, School District and Community Offer Teens Safe Alternatives for Friday/Saturday Nights

OAKLAND, CA—In response to OUSD data which revealed that the majority of school-aged homicides and crime-related shootings occurred on Friday and Saturday nights, Mayor Jean Quan and OUSD Superintendent Tony Smith announced today that the City and School District are launching a Safe Fridays/Safe Saturdays-Oakland program starting April 29 in two high-stressor beats—one in West Oakland and one in East Oakland.

“The need is so important that we are redeploying existing resources immediately to make this happen,” said Mayor Quan, adding that no new public funds are being expended for this initiative.

Local teenagers will be invited to Rainbow Rec Center (East Oakland) and McClymonds High School (West Oakland) for basketball and indoor soccer. The two facilities will remain open until midnight on Friday and Saturdays. Later on, the East Oakland Youth Development Center and 81<sup>st</sup> Avenue Library will also open up for other activities that will attract youth. Other local non-profits and faith-based organizations have expressed interest in participating, as have local businesses that are providing refreshments and other support.

“One of my goals as Mayor was to make youth the center of city policy and to strengthen collaboration with the Oakland Unified School District. Within the first month of taking office, we established monthly joint meetings with City and school district department heads to help improve communication and find ways we could work together. Safe Fridays/Safe Saturdays in Oakland is one of the first projects to come out of those efforts. Even better, we are doing it without spending any new money. It’s a matter of changing schedules and pooling our resources to make a real difference in the lives and safety of Oakland’s youth,” said Mayor Quan.

“A society’s worth is determined, to a large degree, by how it treats its most vulnerable members, particularly its children,” explained OUSD Superintendent Tony Smith. “As a city, we haven’t done very well by this measure. The level of violence and lack of opportunity for kids in many parts of Oakland is simply unacceptable. We have both a moral and a practical obligation to develop conditions that help children achieve. Building partnerships and using resources to keep them off the streets during dangerous hours is a major step in this direction.”

Media Contact:

Susan Piper  
Mayor’s Office  
510-238-7439  
[spiper@oaklandnet.com](mailto:spiper@oaklandnet.com)

or

Troy Flint  
OUSD Communications  
510-879-8482  
[Troy.Flint@ousd.k12.ca.us](mailto:Troy.Flint@ousd.k12.ca.us)

This week’s media briefing  
on the FY 2011-2012  
Budget will be held Friday,  
April 29  
from 1-2 pm in Hearing  
Room 4  
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza  
Oakland, CA

- more-

Later this summer, Youth Movement Records will present an 8-week special event series where professionals from the music industry will talk about the wide range of careers available in the music industry, and then invite youth performers to perform at an open mic for professional feedback and tips. One of these youth performers will be selected to open for the headliner at Oakland's Art & Soul festival in August.

# # #