



City of
OAKLAND
California

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This week's media briefing
will be held on
Thursday, June 9 at 1 pm
in the Mayor's Conference
Room on the 3rd Floor of
City Hall
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza
Oakland, CA 94612

News from: **The Office of Mayor Jean Quan**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 2, 2011

**Mayor Quan Asks Local Business
to Hire Oakland Youth This Summer**

OAKLAND, CA—With more than 1000 teens applying for jobs through the Mayor's Summer Jobs Program, Oakland Mayor Jean Quan called upon local businesses to consider hiring an Oakland teen or donating \$1000 to allow another Oakland business to do so this summer.

During her weekly media briefing Thursday, Mayor Quan noted that with federal cutbacks to the national Mayor's Summer Jobs Program, the City has fewer openings in its annual program this year, yet demand is high.

"Now, more than ever, Oakland teens need opportunities to learn about the work place. Not only does it orient them to the world of work and give them an opportunity to earn a stipend, but more importantly it gives them safe summer alternatives and can open up a whole new world of possibilities. Jobs are among the best violence prevention tools we have," she said.

She noted that she had hoped to raise funds to supplement the federal program. Last year, the City provided summer jobs to 1200 students using federal Mayor's Summer Jobs Program funds, federal stimulus funds, and private donations. This year, her fund raising efforts are shouldering the entire program, which, at the moment, has only 200 openings for the 1000 applicants.

Oakland youth aged 14 and older are eligible for the Mayor's Summer Jobs Program, which pays \$8 an hour for 120 hours during the summer. Students are placed in positions with local government, nonprofits, corporations and small businesses where they learn work place basics as well as explore potential careers.

Representatives from Alameda County also shared their plans for a Summer Jobs Program that will serve 500 Oakland youth who are in foster care or on probation.

"One of our key goals is improving outcomes for youth who are transitioning to adulthood. Understanding the workplace is one important part of that. Through this program, we'll be helping 800-plus youth, county-wide, get that exposure," explained Daniel Kaplan, Interim Co-Director of Alameda County Social Services.

"The Probation Department is excited to offer not just a summer job, but hope, employment experience, and opportunity for 800 youth in the county, including 500 in the City of Oakland," said David Muhammad, Chief Probation Officer.

Businesses interested in hiring a summer youth or contributing to the Mayor's Summer Jobs Program should call (510) 238-3588.

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