



City of  
**OAKLAND**  
California

**Media Contact:**

Sean Maher  
Office of the Mayor  
510-238-7439

[smaher@oaklandnet.com](mailto:smaher@oaklandnet.com)

Johnna Watson  
Public Information Officer  
Oakland Police Department  
510-238-7230

[opdmedia@oaklandnet.com](mailto:opdmedia@oaklandnet.com)

News from: **City of Oakland, Mayor's Office**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 31, 2014

**Violence continues declining in Oakland**

**Oakland, CA** – For the second consecutive year Oakland has seen significant drops to its violent crime rates. We experienced the lowest number of murders since the year 2000.

Significant declines in crime occurred from 2012 to 2013 and we saw further declines in 2014. The year to date crime statistics reflected in the Oakland PD weekly report through Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014 indicate the following:

- Murders declined by 10 percent.
- Shootings declined by 13 percent.
- Robberies declined by 31 percent.
- Home burglaries declined by 29 percent.
- Auto thefts declined by 7 percent.
- Evaluating the crimes the FBI categorizes as “violent” (murder and non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery and aggravated assault), Oakland’s violent crime rate went down approximately 18 percent from 2013 to 2014.

“I am proud of the work Oakland has done to become a safer city over the last few years,” Mayor Jean Quan said. “We have worked to build a larger, more diverse and more accountable police force that works collaboratively with the community. We also worked to create more jobs in the neighborhoods with the most need. By treating crime holistically and working with our neighborhoods, Oakland can continue to reduce crime.”

Quan credited programs like Ceasefire for strengthening police-community partnerships to focus on the most violent individuals and groups. She also believes the City’s nation-leading efforts to employ body cameras, increased training, and officers’ commitment to community policing has led to our reductions in complaints against officers and use-of-force incidents.

Quan added, “I’m thankful to Chief Sean Whent, his command staff, and our rank-and-file officers, for their hard work this year and their commitment to true partnerships with our community. I’m also thankful to our service providers for their work to lift up our neighborhoods, and to our residents for helping us take on the most challenging issues and come together to make Oakland safer.”

“These figures are encouraging signs, but we have much more work to do,” Police Chief Sean Whent said. “Crime statistics tell one piece of our story but every act of violence impacts the lives of many. Violent crime reduction is our number one priority. We have also made significant progress with compliance with the Negotiated Settlement Agreement proving that reform efforts and effective police not only go hand in hand but are essential to community trust building. Policing is most effective when the police and communities work collaboratively and with trust and mutual respect”.

# # #