



News from: Office of Mayor Libby Schaaf

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oakland Secures nearly \$1.9 Million in federal grant funding for public safety staffing

Oakland, CA – Today, Mayor Libby Schaaf announced that the City of Oakland has secured a nearly \$1.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS).

“Making Oakland the safe community it deserves to be is my top priority,” said Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf. “The federal COPS Office grant of nearly \$ 1.9 million awarded to Oakland will enable us to continue building a modern, progressive police force with the staffing resources to equitably serve all Oaklanders.”

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Oakland’s grant of \$1.875 million will allow the City to continue its efforts to modernize and fully staff the Oakland Police Department in keeping with Mayor Schaaf’s goal of reaching a force of 800 sworn officers by the end of her term. Mayor’s Schaaf’s recent budget proposal approved by the City County in June 2015 has already authorized 40 additional sworn officers bringing the City’s current total to 762.

The City of Oakland has been working to adopt and implement the practices and policies outlined in the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing. The Oakland Police Department has been recognized by the Department of Justice for its embrace of the Task Force recommendations.

COPS Director Ron Davis was in Oakland on September 3, 2015 to present on the findings of the Task Force report and participate in a panel discussion as part of Mayor Schaaf’s Safe Oakland Speaker Series. During the event, he commended the Oakland Police Department adopting data retention and review policies and practices, as well as the adoption of a number of innovative training programs created and taught with community support.

As a result of these efforts, instances of use of force by the Oakland Police Department dropped 70% over the last 4 years and complaints against officers also dropped 60% since 2012.

Under Mayor Schaaf’s leadership the City of Oakland has also committed to attracting more Oakland residents to serve the community as police officers. To that end, Mayor Schaaf has partnered with Merritt College to provide courses that will prepare students to meet the requirements for the Oakland Police Academy.

This new COPS grant will allow Oakland to continue adopting the recommendations, promoting effective crime reduction, and building the public trust that will allow the Oakland Police Department to better serve all Oaklanders.

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