

News from: **Oakland Parks and Recreation**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Oakland Announces 2015 Mother of the Year  
62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Award Ceremony Honors Marilyn  
Washington Harris**

**Oakland, CA** – Oakland Parks and Recreation is pleased to announce that **Marilyn Washington Harris** has been selected as **Oakland’s 2015 Mother of the Year**. The Oakland mother of four is the founder of the nonprofit Khadafy Washington Foundation for Non-Violence, which has served more than 20,000 family members and friends affected by violence. The non-profit provides immediate and sustained support to the families of homicide victims through help, hope and healing.

The creation of the foundation began in 2000 when Marilyn had a vision of using billboards with the caption, "Do You Know Who Killed Me?" after the death of her only son, Khadafy Washington. "Ms. Marilyn has as big a heart as anyone I have ever known," said Anne Marks, Executive Director of Youth ALIVE! "I can think of no better mother to represent Oakland than one who, in memory of her son, has been a comfort to so many after the trauma and grief of losing their sons and daughters. While she made sure that her son’s name would live on through the Khadafy Washington Project, it is gratifying to know that her name will live on as well, in a garden of roses."

"Marilyn is a truly extraordinary Oaklander," stated Oakland City Council President Lynette Gibson McElhaney who provided a letter of support. "It is so fitting that we award her with this recognition. Her maternal nature, genuine spirit and passion to end violence in our city are remarkable."

Marilyn has started another organization, My Baby Matters 2, which is an expansion of the Khadafy Washington Foundation for Non-Violence. This organization provides education, exercise and community involvement for people of all ages.

The honoree will be recognized during the **Oakland Mother of the Year Award Ceremony, 10:30 a.m., on Saturday, May 9, 2015** at the Morcom Rose Garden, 700 Jean Street, Oakland, CA.

Oakland’s Mother of the Year Award is a project of the Oakland Parks and Recreation Department and was initiated in 1954 to publicly honor an Oakland citizen whose contributions to the community symbolize the finest traditions of motherhood. Past honorees have included hard-working, dedicated community servants whose volunteerism has been exemplary.

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City of  
**OAKLAND**  
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