



City of
OAKLAND
California

Media Contact:

Gail McMillon
City of Oakland
Oakland Parks & Recreation
T. 510-238-3186
F. 510-238-2397
or
Dana Riley
City of Oakland
Oakland Parks & Recreation
T. 510-238-6495
F. 510-238-4999
driley@oaklandnet.com



News from: **Oakland Parks & Recreation**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Oakland Announces 2016 Mother of the Year
63rd Annual Award Ceremony Honors
CamishaFatimah Gentry**

Oakland, CA – Oakland Parks & Recreation is pleased to announce that **CamishaFatimah Gentry** has been selected as **Oakland’s 2016 Mother of the Year**. Mother of three teenage daughters, Ms. Gentry is a peace ambassador with expertise in peace building, conflict resolution and restorative strategies for change.

Ms. Gentry is a consultant who coaches, trains and supports people in restorative and peace building practices. She works with individuals, government and non-profit organizations. Ms. Gentry has counseled and trained Oakland educators and community activists. She has worked for Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth (RJOY) as a School Coordinator, playing an instrumental part in RJOY’s mission to institute restorative justice practices in the Oakland Unified School District. Ms. Gentry has coached and/or trained more than 1,000 youth and more than 300 adults in restorative justice.

“CamishaFatimah’s presence literally lights up a room,” stated Jennae Wallach, who initiated her nomination. “When she speaks, everyone stands a bit taller and takes deeper breaths. She is a stand for young people and adults learning to speak up for themselves, and for others, and to address conflict through powerful, positive, peaceful means. I have witnessed her love and courage embolden others to heal and transform themselves.”

The honoree will be recognized during the **Oakland Mother of the Year Award Ceremony**, at **10:30 a.m.**, on **Saturday, May 7, 2016**. The ceremony will be held at the Morcom Rose Garden located at 700 Jean Street, off Grand Avenue, Oakland, CA. The public is welcome to attend. Parking is limited.

Oakland’s Mother of the Year Award is a project of Oakland Parks & Recreation 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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