



Oakland Police Department

Anthony W. Batts  
Chief of Police

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**For Immediate Release**

## **G.R.E.A.T. Program Graduation**

**Oakland (Ca)** –The G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training) Program is a gang and violence prevention program that provides school-based, officer-led classroom instruction and various learning activities. Provided by the Oakland Police Department's Youth and Family Services Division, G.R.E.A.T. is designed for fourth to sixth grade students. The program is designed to prevent violence while also developing a positive bond with law enforcement during the student's early years.

G.R.E.A.T. helps youth avoid gang membership, prevent violence and criminal activity, and develop a positive relationship with law enforcement. Officers teaching the curriculum are specially trained and have a wide range of experience in criminal behavior and the recognition of gang members. Officers also serve as role models to students. The Oakland Police Department currently has 14 G.R.E.A.T. officers and would like to double that over the next year.

On October 22, 2010, 60 fifth grade students from Melrose Elementary School will graduate from the Gang Resistance Education and Training Program. The students received six weeks of instruction from Officer Anthony Castro of the Support Operations Division's Traffic Operations Section.

**Date:** Friday, October 22, 2010

**Time:** 11:15 a.m.

**Who:** Assistant Chief Howard Jordan  
Officer Anthony Castro

**Where:** Bridges Academy/Melrose Elementary, 1325 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Oakland

For more information, please contact the Media Relations Office at 510.238.7230 or [opdmedia@oaklandnet.com](mailto:opdmedia@oaklandnet.com).

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