



Oakland Police Department

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## For Immediate Release

## OAKLAND POLICE HELPING TO MOVE THE COMMUNITY FORWARD

One year ago, under the leadership of Chief Anthony Batts, the Oakland Police Department began working on a plan to make Oakland a safer place by addressing some of the challenges that faced the Department. Over the past twelve months, many changes have taken place and we have worked diligently to implement a series of programs to help achieve our goals.

With increased coordination within the Police Department and intelligence sharing with partner agencies, we have seen a notable drop in crime. Increased transparency – holding open meetings to analyze and report crime patterns, establishing media availability sessions with our Command staff, and holding regular meetings with the community – has led to a shift toward positive relationships and increased public trust. Implementation of innovative and proactive programs that actively reach out to Oakland’s most at-risk-populations and offer alternatives for them is another example of how the Oakland Police Department is helping to move Oakland forward.

Below are some of our most significant accomplishments achieved over the last 12 months.

### Effective Policing

- Overall violent crime is down 14% and homicides are down approximately 25% this year compared to 2009.
- PROS (Police Resource Optimization System) has been implemented to evaluate and determine deployment needs. PROS allocates and optimizes available resources based on demand.
- We have moved officers from Investigations to the street to ensure that there are enough officers on patrol and available to respond to 911 calls.
- We have successfully increased coordination with local, state, and federal partners. The Gang Summit held by OPD, the City of Oakland, and the Department of Justice in August is an example of this kind of partnering.

### Increased Transparency and Public Trust

- The public protests in response to the verdict in the trial of Johannes Mehserle were successfully handled with little property damage and minimal injuries to citizens and

officers. We worked to uphold constitutional rights of free speech and assembly while maintaining public peace and order. We coordinated directly with members of the media to ensure access to the event as it unfolded.

- Use of personal video cameras by officers on patrol has been tested and has been approved by City Council. We are set to fully implement the cameras in patrol by December. Every officer on the street will have one.
- We had our first summer free from “sideshows” in over 20 years. The Safe Oakland Streets Campaign was a proactive coordination between the Police Department, community members and youth leaders to educate the public about the dangers of sideshows and penalties associated with them. A major part of the campaign was a public service announcement made by and for youth, shown on YouTube and on the OPD website.
- We have increased community partnerships and are moving forward with implementation of a department-wide community policing model. We are successfully solving cases with help from Oakland residents.
- Emphasis on training for officers includes an additional 8 hours of firearms training, yearly advanced officer’s school, and search-and-seizure training for effective and legal policing.

### **Innovative Programs**

- The Our Kids Program teaches life skills and provides a positive male role model in the lives of at-risk youth from 13 to 18 years old. Officers volunteer to serve as mentors in this intervention program on their own time.
- The Call-In Program has grown. This collaboration with federal and state partners targets violent offenders and offers them alternatives and services to get their lives on a different track.
- Gang injunctions have been effectively used for years by other agencies to give city streets back to residents. In 2010, OPD and the City Attorney introduced this tool to Oakland. We currently have two identified gangs under an injunction and two areas of Oakland are now marked as “safety zones.”