



City of
OAKLAND
California

Media Contacts:

Sgt. Chris Bolton
Oakland Police
Department
510-238-3131

cbolton@oaklandnet.com

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News from: **Oakland Police Department**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 21, 2012

Oakland Police Department Operation “Motor Santa”

This morning marked the Annual Oakland Police Department “Motor Santa” Operation.

Approximately 50 families with children were met by Santa (riding a police motorcycle rather than the usual sleigh) along the streets of Oakland during the morning hours. Smiles and good cheer were had by all, and toys were given to children aged 12 and below. Santa’s route took him along City streets from East Oakland to Children’s Hospital where children were delighted and surprised by his “presence.”

The Department’s Traffic Division funds the toy give away with donations from its motorcycle drill team, and is an example of the many ways Oakland police officers donate and contribute above and beyond their daily service.

The tradition of a traffic officer Santa riding his motorcycle through the City of Oakland and passing out toys is now in its sixth year. “This is one way we give back to the community,” stated Captain Darren Allison, the Commander of the Traffic Division.”

The best moment recounted by all involved was when, by chance, Santa encountered a child who had written a letter to Santa the night before. The Child was on his way to deliver it with mom when Santa was spotted along the way. The letter was safely delivered, and a gift was promptly received.

“It’s something our officers look forward to each year” stated Chief Howard Jordan. “The children of Oakland – especially those at Children’s Hospital - have a special place in the hearts of the men and women of the OPD,” he continued. “This was evidenced by the over \$37,000 fundraising result at the hospital this past March. We were happy to end the year with them as well.”

For more information, please contact Sgt. Chris Bolton, OPD Media Relations Unit.

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