



City of
OAKLAND
California

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News from: **Oakland Police Department**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oakland Police Volunteers to Provide Holiday Safety Escorts at West Oakland BART

Oakland, CA — Holiday shoppers using BART will have the luxury of an escort from station to car at three locations on Friday, December 20: the West Oakland, Fruitvale and San Leandro BART stations. Oakland Police officers, joined by volunteers from the Oakland Police Department's Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association (CPAAA) and OPD cadets, continue their tradition of escorting holiday shoppers to their cars at West Oakland BART. And this year, for the first time, the San Leandro Police Department (SLPD) has joined the safety escort program, providing escorts at Bay Fair Station in San Leandro. BART police will be providing safety escorts at all three stations.

Both Oakland and BART police officers will work side-by-side with CPAAA members in an effort to protect holiday shoppers and ensure a positive shopping experience for them. Thanking the CPAAA volunteers, who have been providing holiday safety escorts since 2008, Chief Sean Whent stated, "This is an excellent show of support to police services and the community. Every little bit helps."

If you would like an escort, please look for a uniformed officer, cadet, or volunteer escort. Volunteer escorts can be identified by their yellow safety vests, and will be stationed inside the BART station at an identified table, where riders can request a pedestrian escort to their parked car (within a two to three block radius of the station). At the West Oakland Station, there will also be two designated patrol vehicles to provide rides to those who do not want to walk in the dark.

The safety escort program will be offered this **Friday, December 20, 2013 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Officers will also give out materials with safety travel tips to help empower passengers to better protect themselves while travelling the BART system and within their community.

AS A SAFETY REMINDER:

- **Always be aware of your surroundings. Don't be distracted by cell phones and electronic devices;**
- **Stay in well lit and populated areas;**
- **Be especially alert when entering and exiting your vehicle;**

- **Remember to lock your car door after entering your vehicle; and**
- **If someone or something looks suspicious call the police at (510) 777-3333.**

The CPAAA is coordinating the program for the West Oakland community at no cost to provide an added layer of safety during the holiday season. This is their fifth year of providing this community service. CPAAA is coordinated by the Oakland Police Department, Bureau of Field Operations.

For more information, please contact the Media Relations Office at 510.238.7230 or opdmedia@oaklandnet.com.

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