OAKLAND NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH STEERING COMMITTEE

250 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Suite 6303
Oakland, CA 94612
November 24, 2009

Ms. XXXXXXXX
XXXXX Maxwell Avenue
Oakland, CA 94601
Dear Ms. XXXXX:

On behalf of the Neighborhood Watch Steering Committee, I am sending you this letter to express my regret about what happened at the meeting of the Neighborhood Watch Steering Committee and Oakland Police Officer's Association (OPOA) on Thursday, November 5, 2009. At this meeting, the OPOA announced their endorsement of a candidate for Mayor of Oakland and allowed the candidate to speak at the meeting. This action on the part of the OPOA had not been discussed or agreed to as part of the meeting agenda, and neither the Neighborhood Watch Steering Committee nor City staff knew about it or had control over what occurred.

Although this unfortunate event occurred, I strongly encourage you not to allow it to detract from our goal of collaborating with the OPOA to fight crime in Oakland. There is much to be gained by having neighborhood crime prevention groups work in partnership with the OPOA, and there is much work to do. Let’s focus on that goal, and together we can continue to make a difference.

I have the assurance of the OPOA leadership that political subject-matter will not be presented at future collaborations.

Sincerely,
NICHOLAS J. VIGILANTE
Nicholas J. Vigilante
Chairperson, Oakland Neighborhood Watch Steering Committee