

The Brooks Blotter

A summary of news & events from the Office of Council Member Desley Brooks

Councilperson Desley Brooks and Sports Agent Aaron Goodwin Host a Holiday Party For 100 Deserving Youth

Deadline to submit Nominations is Wed. Dec. 11th! Councilperson Desley Brooks and Sports Agent Aaron Goodwin are looking for 100 young people to join us for an afternoon of joy, laughter, fun, and Holiday Cheer at our 6th Annual Holiday Party. Each party goer will receive a \$50 gift card; there will be plenty of food and activities; visits by special guest; and a great time for all.

Here are the requirements to nominate a child:

1. The child must be between the ages of 7 and 15.
2. This offer is limited to children who reside in Oakland and attend an Oakland school.
3. Although there are no income restrictions, preference will be given to children whose parents are experiencing economic challenges.
4. If you are a parent, guardian, teacher, friend, mentor, relative, coach or Oakland resident please write a letter explaining why your child nominee should be selected to participate in this experience. The nominating letters should contain the name, address, phone number and age of the nominee and of a parent or guardian.
5. **All documentation must be received no later than 5:00 pm on December 11, 2013.**

Only complete submissions will be reviewed. You must submit: (1) a letter explaining why the child is special/deserving, (2) proof of residency; and (3) proof of attendance at an Oakland school to:

**Hon. Desley Brooks
City Hall
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza
Oakland, CA 94612**

or fax this information to **(510) 986-2650**; you may also email the information to:
dbrooks@oaklandnet.com.

A total of 100 children will receive a letter or email notifying them of their selection. Children who are selected to participate in the Holiday Party must attend the event (along with a Parent or Guardian) on **December 21, 2013**, in order to receive a \$50 gift card (NO EXCEPTIONS). No calls please.

Update on Council Redistricting Maps

On Tuesday, November 19, the Oakland City Council held the first reading/public hearing of an ordinance to adopt new City Council and Oakland Unified School District boundaries. The Council voted 7-0 to advance Map #26 as the preferred boundaries. To view map #26, you can visit www.oaklandnet.com/redistricting. The second reading and final passage of the ordinance is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 10th Council meeting beginning at 5:30pm at City Hall, Council Chambers**. The Oakland City Charter mandates the review of City Council District boundaries every 10 years to equalize each district's population according to U.S. Census data. To view the reports, resolution and video of the Oakland City Council meeting on June 4 where the Council established the criteria to be used, please visit <http://bit.ly/103avDM>. In July and September, a series of seven Redistricting Town Hall Meetings were held throughout Oakland. For more information on Oakland's redistricting process including a map of current Council Districts, relevant legislation, upcoming Council meeting dates and more, please visit www.oaklandnet.com/redistricting.

AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT ON DISPLAY AT YOUTH UPRISING

In honor of World AIDS Day and HIV/AIDS Awareness, Youth UpRising will be displaying sections of the AIDS Memorial Quilt. The quilt, a celebration of the lives of people who lived with AIDS, will be available for guided public viewings, which include an educational workshop on the following days: **December 6-** 11:00AM, 2:00PM, 4:00PM; **December 9 -** 2:00PM, 4:00PM; **December 11-** 11:00AM, 2:00PM, 4:00PM. **If you would like to attend a viewing, please RSVP to** with Lisa Evans, Queers & Allies Initiative Coordinator, at (510)777.9909 x138 or aevans@youthuprising.org, **at least 24hrs in advance** and include contact name; contact email and phone number; organization, group, or school name; and anticipated number of people in your group.

College Opportunities for City of Oakland Employees and their family at Patten University/ UniversityNow

I am pleased to announce that the City has extended its relationship with Patten University to offer City of Oakland employees and their family members the opportunity to earn a regionally accredited college degree at little to no cost! This agreement will be in place until June 1, 2015. Interested employees can visit www.patten.edu/partners/oakland.html for more info as well as schedule an appointment to speak with an Enrollment Advisor directly on this site. If you are a City employee, this is an exciting opportunity for you to further your education and advance your career, as well as help a family member complete a degree, without the need to take on student loan debt! For more details about the broader, city-wide implications of this initiative visit: <http://bit.ly/ihe-cw>. The City of Oakland and Patten University will host a series of events for employees and their family members to learn more about the degree programs offered at Patten. The following is the final date for Fall 2013: **December 12, 2013 - Public Works Health Fair (7101 Edgewater)**.

Monthly Food Distribution At Arroyo Park

Council Member Brooks' office in partnership with the Community Development Block Grant program continue to distribute food bags to community members in need of assistance the 3rd Friday of each month (except for November) from 4pm to 7 pm at Arroyo Viejo Park located at 7701 Krause Avenue. If you, or someone you know need assistance during these difficult economic times, please come out to Arroyo Park. (You must bring proof of Oakland residency). Remember it's every third Friday of each month.

Congresswoman Barbara Lee is hosting a FREE immigration and citizenship workshop

The event will take place on Saturday, December 14, 2013 at 10am, at St. Anthony's School Gym located at 1500 E. 15th St. Oakland, CA 94606. Participants will be able to take advantage of the following: application assistance for citizenship and resources for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), information about temporary immigration relief measures for Filipino Nationals, and resources and referrals for non-profit legal services and attorneys. Multilingual assistance will be available. For more information: **LeeCa.Events@mail.house.gov** or **Call: 510-763-0370. RSVPs Preferred.**

Youth UpRising to co-host a gun buyback event in East Oakland

On Saturday, December 14, 2013, Youth UpRising will host a gun buyback event at “**Statewide Gun Buyback Day of Action**” from 9am to 3pm at **Youth UpRising** located at **8711 MacArthur Blvd, Oakland, CA, 94605**. The event is part of a statewide gun buyback initiative hosted in partnership with the organization Gun by Gun. These organizations strive to empower individuals to remove guns from their communities through crowd funded gun buyback programs. In addition to providing the primary online platform for raising the funds, Gun by Gun will also manage the coordination with local law enforcement to operate the gun buyback programs safely and efficiently. We know the stakes could not be higher. **One out of every five Oakland homicides occurs within a mile of Youth UpRising.** The murder rate in the community immediately surrounding our organization is seven times higher than the national average, with homicide the leading cause of death for young people under 25. ***Please help spread the word!*** YouthUpRising looks forward to another successful event which means fewer guns in our streets, in our schools, at our workplaces, and in our homes. For more information visit: <https://www.gunbygun.org/oakland-gun-buyback>.

Holiday Safety Tips from the Oakland Police Department & the Fire Department

With the holiday season upon us, the Oakland Police Department and the Oakland Fire Department would like to ensure a safe and happy time for everyone. OPD has patrols in key areas of Oakland. They will be using a variety of enforcement techniques in which officers will focus on: **Intervention, Prevention, and Enforcement.** OPD will continue to partner with other law enforcement agencies and members of the community to reduce crime. Even during this season of giving, criminals will take advantage of easy targets. Please keep in mind the following personal safety tips throughout the holidays: ***Always be aware of your surroundings. *Don't be distracted by cell phones and electronic devices. *Stay in well lit, populated areas. *Stay alert and keep your shopping bags nearby – don't leave bags unattended. * Do not leave packages, shopping bags or other items of value visible in your vehicle. *Avoid showing large amounts of cash when making purchases. Be especially alert when entering and exiting your vehicle. *Remember to lock your car door after entering your vehicle. *Let people know when you intend to arrive at your destination, so they can keep an eye out for you. *If someone or something looks suspicious call the police on OPD's nonemergency Number (510) 777-3333 or (510) 777-3211 if you are in Oakland calling from your cell phone.**

Nixle Tip Watch allows tipsters to send OPD a tip three ways:

1. **Text TIP OAKLANDPD to 888777** from your cell phone;
2. **Call** our toll-free tip hotline at **855-TIPS-247** (855-847-7247);
3. **Respond** to OPD's Nixle messages.

Oakland Fire Department Safety Tips- Winter holidays are a great time for families and friends to get together in celebration, however this time of year also brings a greater risk for fire, so it is important to remain proactive in your prevention efforts by following a few simple tips to help ensure a happy and fire safe holiday season.

When choosing and placing holiday decorations:

- Choose flame resistant or flame retardant materials;
- Refrain from lighting wax candles, and opt for the use of battery operated candle lights;
- Use indoor/outdoor lights where they belong and appropriately;
- Check string lights for frayed wires, broken bulbs, or loose connections and repair as needed prior to installation;
- Read the manufacturer's instructions for use on all lights as they may differ;
- Use clips instead of nails to hang lights to prevent any damage to the cord; and
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors to ensure unobstructed ingress and egress.

While entertaining family and friends, remember to:

- Test your smoke alarms and share your fire escape plan with guests;
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet;
- Remain in the kitchen while cooking over the stovetop; and
- Avoid the use of area heaters.

City of Oakland Opens Winter Shelter

The City of Oakland has operated a temporary inclement weather shelter at the Oakland Army Base since 1999. On Wednesday, November 20, 2013, the City of Oakland's temporary Winter Shelter re-opened for the season at the Henry Robinson Multi-Services Center, 559 16th Street, Oakland.

Vouchers are available to both single men and women for up to 50 beds in the temporary Shelter (can only accommodate single adults without children). The Shelter hours are from 6:30pm to 7am.

Persons who are homeless and seeking assistance and access to the Winter Shelter can gain access through one of the following referring agencies: **St. Vincent de Paul**, 2272 San Pablo Ave. Oakland (510) 832-3600; **Henry Robinson MSC (HRMSC)**, 559 16th St. Oakland (510) 419-1010; **Operation Dignity**, 1504 Franklin St. Oakland (510) 287-8465; **Health Care for the Homeless (HCH)**, 1900 Fruitvale Ave. Oakland (510) 532-1930; **TRUST Clinic**, Oakland (internal referrals only).

Background: The Oakland Army Base Temporary Winter Shelter (OABTSW) closed after the 2012 winter season due to the development of the Army Base. The Mayor and the Department of Human Services have worked diligently along with the County of Alameda to identify and implement a new Winter Shelter location. The Henry Robinson was identified as the most suitable site for this transition.

Additional shelter sites at: *Crossroads at 7515 International (510) 532-3211* - has space for women and men and limited number of families. It is a 24/7 shelter option that has enriched services; *CityTeam at 722 Washington Street (510) 452-3758* - Men only. Hours: 4pm to 6am. Dinner and Breakfast served; *Salvation Army at 2794 Garden Street (510) 437-9437* - For Families (single parent and/or married couples with children). 24 hour service - Clients apply between 9am-5pm M-F but should call ahead.

HUNGER AND ALLEVIATE HOMELESSNESS

22nd Annual Holiday Dinner Slated for Tuesday, December 23, 2013

The holidays are a joyous time for most. It's also a time to focus on the needs of those less fortunate. The City of Oakland's Department of Human Services, Communities United Committee, Community Action Partnership and the Emergency Food Providers Committee are pleased to announce our annual city-wide event to feed seniors and those who are homeless and/or low income: The 22nd Annual Holiday Dinner will be held on **Monday, December 23, 2013 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Oakland Marriott City Center, 1001 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94607.**

At the Annual Holiday Dinner, the free turkey feast will provide a nutritious meal and entertainment to more than 2,000 low-income families, seniors and homeless individuals while providing them the opportunity to obtain a winter coat/jacket if needed. This volunteer-operated event brings out the best in our community and it is supported by donations, large and small, by hundreds of neighborhood volunteers – in a spirit of giving and fellowship. Just \$17.00 will provide a meal for one guest and \$35 per family. The City of Oakland is still actively seeking donations to meet our goal of serving 2,000. Major sponsors of the Holiday Dinner are the City of Oakland's Department of Human Services' Hunger Program and Community Action Partnership and Marreese Speights and the Golden State Warriors, the Oakland Raiders, Oakland Marriott City Center, WellPoint, Inc. and the many concerned citizens of Oakland and the surrounding Bay Area. To volunteer or make a donation please call the Department of Human Services' Hunger and Homeless Program at 510-238-2077 or mailing address: 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 4th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612. Checks should be made to the City of Oakland Hunger Program and your donations are tax deductible and the tax identification number is 94-6000384. Thank you for your contribution to help combat hunger and homelessness in our city.

Oakland Municipal ID/debit card program- opens new East Oakland Office

On Wednesday, November 20th, the City of Oakland opened a 3rd municipal ID/debit card program Office for the public in East Oakland at 8650 International Boulevard, in property owned by the Allen Temple Baptist Church. The two other offices are at 250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza on the sixth floor, and in the Spanish Speaking Citizens Foundation at 1470 Fruitvale Ave. Since the City of Oakland opened the doors at the first-of-its-kind municipal identification/prepaid debit card program office on Feb. 1, more than 4,000 people have applied for the card. This landmark program combines the empowerment of a government-issued identification with banking services many members of our community have difficulty accessing. A major component of the debit card function is that it provides users with the protections of federal banking laws, which are stronger than the privacy laws afforded other ID-issuing government bodies. The program is cost-neutral to the City and the fee structure for using the card was designed such that card provider SF Global could cover its costs while keeping fees and charges at a minimum. So, the City and SF Global have partnered to eliminate point-of-sale charges for the card. The fees had been capped in April at \$12.50 per month and will now **not** be charged at all. Other fees are also being reduced. Card owners now also have the *option* to register as organ donors. The card administrators are announcing a partnership with DonateLife, the state-authorized organ and tissue donor registry program – the “pink dot” found commonly on drivers' licenses. More information about the card is available at each of the three offices from 9am to 5pm, Monday - Friday, online at www.oaklandcityid.com, or by calling 888-997-3522.

U.S. Department of Justice Recognizes Oakland's Juvenile Justice Program

The U.S. Department of Justice recently recognized Oakland's Juvenile Justice program for its innovative work in serving youth and reducing the likelihood of their re-arrest. On Wednesday, November 13, 2013, the Council of State Governments Justice Center released the report "*Reentry Matters: Strategies and Successes of Second Chance Act Grantees Across the United States*," highlighting Oakland's program along with other successes. Oakland's Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) Wraparound Program has been able to successfully serve over 350 youth with a history of involvement with the juvenile justice system per year, providing individualized services to help youth get out of the cycle of incarceration and violence and back into school. Led by the Department of Human Services' Oakland Unite Violence Prevention Programs and funded through local Measure Y and federal grant funding, the program is a unique partnership that provides services tailored to the needs of each individual youth. The partnership includes Alameda County Probation Department, Alameda County Health Care Services, Oakland Unified School District and community-based organizations. In a press release, the CSG Justice Center illustrated the positive impact these initiatives have on successful reentry into the community by focusing on employment, education, mentoring, and substance abuse and mental health treatment." For the full report go to:

<http://csgjusticecenter.org/wpcontent/uploads/2013/11/ReentryMatters.pdf>

FREE PARKING HOLIDAYS

The City of Oakland will offer free parking every Saturday between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, plus Plaid Friday which is November 29. On the following days, parking at all City-metered spaces throughout Oakland will be free for the time period posted on the meter or kiosk (30 minutes, 1 hour, 2 hours or 5 hours): Friday, November 29; Saturday, November 30; Saturday, December 7; Saturday, December 14; Saturday, December 21; Saturday, December 28. The free parking "holidays" apply to both standard meters and the multi-space parking kiosks located in many commercial districts. Standard parking rules and time limits apply -- if shoppers need additional parking time, they will need to move their cars across the street if it is a two-way street, or park around the block if it is a one-way street. The City will be monitoring parked cars on a regular basis, including enforcing other violations (e.g., red, yellow, green and white zones as well as double parking).

Upcoming City of Oakland Job Announcement

During the week of December 9, the Department of Human Resources Management (DHRM) anticipates posting job announcements for the following positions:

- Veterinary Technician
- Park Supervisor II

For information on City jobs, please contact the Department of Human Resources Management Receptionist at (510) 238-3112 or visit the DHRM website at:

<http://agency.governmentjobs.com/oaklandca/default.cfm>.

This Employment Information page also contains information on minimum qualifications of specific job classifications, how to apply for a job online and how to submit a job interest card for positions not currently posted.

