

The Brooks Blotter

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

Happy Holidays from Councilperson Desley Brooks

The 6th Annual Holiday Party hosted by Councilperson Desley Brooks and Sports Agent Aaron Goodwin on Saturday December 21st at the Oakland Coliseum's Westside Club was an afternoon filled with joy, laughter, fun, and holiday cheer. 100 deserving youth each received a \$50 gift card. There was plenty of food and activities; visit by Santa and other special guests. It was a great time for all! May Peace, Joy, Hope and Happiness be yours during this Holiday Season and throughout the New Year 2014.

Operation "Motor Santa"

On Wednesday, December 18, the Oakland Police Department Traffic Division conducted its annual "Motor Santa" Operation to provide toys to children (up to the age of 12) throughout Oakland. In this seven-year Traffic Division tradition, a traffic officer dresses up as Santa and rides his motorcycle throughout the city, passing out toys to children he encounters along the way. The route began at the Eastmont Substation at 2751 73rd Avenue and ended in West Oakland. The toys were purchased with money donated from members and employees of the Traffic Division and the Oakland Police Motorcycle Drill Team.

Upcoming Holiday Closures at the City of Oakland

On Wednesday, December 25 and Wednesday, January 1, the City of Oakland's administrative offices will be closed in observance of the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays. While the City's administrative employees are out of the office, if a situation arises that requires more staffing, the City has a plan in place to call in additional resources. Police, fire and emergency services are not affected during the holiday. Please note that all library locations will be closed on Tuesday, December 24, Wednesday, December 25 and Wednesday, January 1. All library locations will be open on Tuesday, December 31 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information, please visit www.oaklandnet.com.

Free Downtown Oakland "B" Shuttle Hours Extended On New Year's Eve

On Tuesday, December 31, the City of Oakland and AC Transit will co-sponsor extended Broadway "B" Shuttle service. The shuttle will operate from 7:00 a.m. on New Year's Eve until 1:00 a.m. on New Year's Day, running every 10-15 minutes between Jack London Square and Grand Avenue/27th Street. Use this safe alternative to driving and enjoy Oakland's nightlife! For shuttle route and other information, please visit www.bshuttle.com.

Holiday Ice Public Skating

Enjoy the holidays by gliding across the rink! Now through Saturday, January 4, the Oakland Ice Center, 519 18th Street is open to the public. Skate one session and get 50% off the second session on the same day. Warm clothing and gloves recommended. For more information, please visit www.oaklandice.org.

Oakland Zoo Lights brighten Oakland's night sky

Visit the Oakland Zoo (9777 Golf Links Road) now through Sunday, January 5, 5:30 - 9:00 p.m. Hundreds of thousands of LED lights brighten Oakland's night sky. Highlights include a candy cane lane themed rides area, a nighttime adventure on the Outback Express train, rocking around the Christmas trees in the Children's Zoo and a light show that's sure to blow out any bah-hum-bugs. No ZooLights on December 24 or 25. For more information, please visit www.oaklandzoo.org or call (510) 632-9525, ext. 100.

14th Annual New Year's Eve Balloon Drop

On Tuesday, December 31, at the Chabot Space & Science Center (10000 Skyline Boulevard), kids can ring in the New Year without staying up past their bedtime! Celebrate the strokes of midnight around the world at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Kids count down to 2014 as thousands of balloons rain down on them. Each child will receive a special prize. For more information, visit www.chabotspace.org.

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

With the holiday season here, 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 reopened 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).

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.

Raiders' Linebacker donates Computers to students

Raider Linebacker Kevin Burnett and the Burnett Foundation teamed up with Microsoft to present two dozen students from McClymonds High School and Oakland Community day School with brand new Microsoft tablets. The students were treated to lunch at the Oakland Raiders facility on Tuesday Dec. 17. These students were selected by teachers and the principals based on their academic and behavioral accomplishments. Congratulations student recipients on a well-deserved recognition!

Appointment of Oakland Animal Services Director

OPD Interim Police Chief, Sean Whent, announced today that Mr. Gary Hendel is the new Oakland Animal Services Director, effective January 6, 2014. Mr. Hendel comes to the City with over 19 years of experience in animal care services, having worked as a Director in variety of local governments, including: San Antonio, Texas; Washington County, Oregon; Montgomery County, Ohio; and, Multnomah County, Oregon. He also served as the Executive Director of the Maui Humane Society in Hawaii.

During his time as Director of Animal Care Services for the City of San Antonio, Mr. Hendel was responsible for the management of the San Antonio Animal Care Services, where he led a staff of 124 employees, 300 volunteers and managed a budget of just under \$10M. Some of his accomplishments during his time in San Antonio included developing a specialized animal court and a court diversion program for animal violations. Using a public input process, Mr. Hendel conducted an evaluation of city animal codes for the City Council's consideration.

In addition to his work at the Director level, Mr. Hendel also has experience in most areas of animal services, including adoption, kennel maintenance, and fundraising. Mr. Hendel will work collaboratively to care for Oakland's animals and to provide quality services at the shelter.

Oakland Economic Development Update

Oakland's economic development outlook is improving with increased investment and development interest increasing throughout the city. Major economic development projects, including three \$1 billion plus projects, are currently in various stages of planning and construction include:

- The Brooklyn Basin waterfront master plan which will add over 3,100 residential units, over 200,000 square feet of office space and 30 new acres of waterfront park. Infrastructure construction will start in 2014.
- The "Coliseum City" master development which could provide new sports facilities and residential and retail development in the Coliseum area is underway with its Specific Plan, and the Environmental Impact Report is expected to be released to the public in Spring 2014.
- The Oakland Global Trade Logistics Center, a full redevelopment of the former Oakland Army Base property into a major logistics center, will start infrastructure development in early 2014.
- AC Transit's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project will be built along the length of International Boulevard, supporting commercial revitalization and new mixed-use development opportunities along one of Oakland's major transportation routes. The project is in design development and related construction will begin in summer 2014 with advanced utility work.

The City is also underway with four specific plans to guide development in various areas of Oakland over the next 25 years. The four specific plans cover Broadway/Valdez, West Oakland, the Lake Merritt BART Station Area and Coliseum City. On Wednesday, December 18, the Oakland Planning Commission certified the Final EIR for the Broadway Shops retail center development which will include a Sprouts Market and additional retail in the Broadway/Valdez area. That development will join The Hive, a mixed-use project with space for 104 apartments and 100,000 square feet of office and retail in the Upper Broadway area. In addition, the City Council recently approved the Central Estuary Area Plan to guide the development of Oakland's waterfront. For more information on these specific plans, please visit:

<http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/PBN/OurOrganization/PlanningZoning/index.htm>.

City Council Adopted New 2013-2023 Redistricting Boundaries

Every 10 years the City of Oakland reviews and revises City Council District boundaries, as mandated by the City Charter. The purpose of this Redistricting process is to equalize each district's population according to U.S. Census data. New City electoral district boundaries are drawn to address population changes over the past decade.

On December 10, 2013, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 13206 C.M.S. creating the 2013-2023 Council and OUSD electoral district boundaries. On Friday, December 20, the City's online Council District Locator Tool was updated and now reflects the 2013-2023 District Boundaries. To educate those residents impacted by changes to district boundaries, the City of Oakland will undertake an outreach campaign beginning in January. In addition to the use of Web and Social Media outlets, the campaign will include a direct mail piece to impacted residents, presentations to Neighborhood Crime Prevention Councils in areas where the boundaries shifted and informational slides on the City's television station, KTOP TV-10. Printed information will be available in English, Chinese, Spanish and Vietnamese. A detailed map of the new district boundaries can be found at oaklandnet.com/redistricting.

General Summary of Boundary Changes:

Broadway Terrace is generally the new border between District 1 and District 4. The Forest Park neighborhood moves to District 4. Woodland Place, Pine Needle and Farralon Way move to District 1. In the Glenview neighborhood, both sides of Trestle Glen Road are united in District 2. Both sides of Greenwood Avenue and Canon Avenue are united in District 5. Two census blocks just west of the Fruitvale Elementary School – bordered by I-580, Boston Avenue, School Street and Champion Street – move to District 5. The school itself remains in District 4. The boundary between Districts 4 & 5 between Humboldt Avenue and 35th Avenue moves one block to Davis Street. The Maxwell Park neighborhood is united in District 6. The Melrose Leadership Academy Middle School, at 4730 Fleming Avenue, moves to District 6. The boundary between Districts 4 & 6 is extended to 55th Avenue between Bancroft Avenue and Brookdale Avenue. The Melrose neighborhood, between Seminary and 51st Avenue, from International Boulevard south to San Leandro Street and the railroad tracks, moves to District 5. Bridges at Melrose Elementary School, at 1325 53rd Avenue, moves to District 5. East of Lake Merritt, Haddon Hill and Lakeshore Avenue move to District 2. The Gold Coast neighborhood blocks bounded by Madison Street, Lake Merritt, 14th and 17th streets move to District 2.

