

# *The Brooks Blotter*

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

## ENGAGE/EDUCATE/EMPOWER

### District 6 Empowerment Committee Meetings

Since September 2013, **Councilmember Brooks, Pastor L.J. Jennings, Pastor Curt Robinson, Pastor Joe Smith, Pastor Mark Smith, & Pastor Cornell Wheeler** hosted a series of meetings in Councilmember Brooks' District 6 to empower the community to finding information to improve their community. The meetings took place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month (with the exception of December) at various locations in District 6. Thanks to all who have expressed interest in participating in the District 6 Empowerment Committees. These meetings will be held each month on: **1<sup>st</sup> Saturday – Economic Development Committee**, 10am to 12noon, at Kingdom Builders Christian Fellowship, 7272 MacArthur Blvd.; **2<sup>nd</sup> Monday – Public Safety Committee** – 5:30pm to 7:30pm, at Faith Baptist Church, 2680 64<sup>th</sup> Ave.; **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday – Community Development / Public Works** –10am to 12noon, at Last Days Revival Ministries, 2001 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave. The first Committee meeting (Economic Development Committee) was held on Sat. March 1<sup>st</sup>. Congratulations to Darleen Brooks and Yakpasua Zazaboi who were elected as Co-Chairs to this committee! The upcoming committee meeting is **Public Safety**. It will be held on Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm – 7:30pm at Faith Baptist Church. Please join Council woman Brooks and engage in a more in depth discussions to improving your community.

### Public Safety Townhall Meetings

Over the last year Oakland has been transforming its police services, creating neighborhood-level geographic accountability, implementing Ceasefire and hiring more officers. The next step is to gather community feedback and work together to grow police-community collaboration. You are invited to participate in any of the following Saturday town hall meetings (10am–12:30pm), regardless of which Police Area you reside or work in. **Area 5: March 15<sup>th</sup>, Castlemont High School, 8601 MacArthur Blvd;** **Area 4: April 5<sup>th</sup>, Fremont High School, 4610 Foothill Blvd;** **Area 2: April 19<sup>th</sup>, North Oakland Senior Center, 5714 MLK Jr. Way;** **Area 3: May 10<sup>th</sup>, Bret Harte Middle School 3700 Coolidge Ave.** If you are not sure what Police District you live or work in, a map of Oakland's police districts, beats and Council districts can be reviewed at: [www.oaklandpolice.com/cdpdbeats](http://www.oaklandpolice.com/cdpdbeats).

#### **Topics of Discussion -**

**How we can strengthen community policing:** Participate in our Neighborhood Council (NCPC), Learn about Neighborhood Watch, Meet your beat officer and captain, Get in the Citywide Public Safety Plan.

**How we can work with our Schools:** Truancy, Focused Employment Programs, Mentoring & Volunteering, Schools to Jobs Pipeline, Mayor's Summer Jobs Program.

**How we can improve employment opportunities:** Workforce Investment Board, The Port of Oakland, City of Oakland Human Resources, OPD Recruitment.

## Congrats Public Works Award Recipients!

On Thursday, February 27, 2014 Public Works Agency received 5 awards from the American Public Works Association at the North California Chapter Annual APWA Awards Luncheon. These winners will be forwarded as nominations to the National APWA. The awards are:

- *Staff of the Year in Administrative Management* Carla Reed, Account Clerk III.
- *Manager of the Year for Administrative Management*, Yolanda Lopez, Administrative Services Manager II.
- *Manager of the Year in Public Fleet*, Joey Williams, Acting Equipment Superintendent.
- *Sustainability Practices*, Adopt a Spot Program.
- *Transportation Projects between \$25-\$75 million*, 12<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstruction.

For more information please contact Kelly Pschirrer, Executive Assistant to the Director at [kpschirrer@oaklandnet.com](mailto:kpschirrer@oaklandnet.com) or (510) 238-3490.

## FREE TAX HELP

***AC-OCAP Offers Free Tax Help, Do-It-Yourself Tax Website*** – Through Tuesday, April 15, Oakland employees and residents earning \$52,000 or less in 2013 can take advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and receive **free** tax preparation services (a \$150 value). Since the April 15 deadline is right around the corner, get started now by visiting <http://www2.oaklandnet.com/w/OAK045642> for a roster of sites where the free tax assistance is provided and a link to the Do-It-Yourself tax preparation website. The free tax preparation program is a service of the Alameda County-Oakland Community Action Partnership (AC-OCAP). For more information, please call (510) 238-2362 or contact Kristian Ongoco, Program Analyst, at [kongoco@oaklandnet.com](mailto:kongoco@oaklandnet.com).

## Girls Sports "So I Heard You Love to Dance" Master Class

Saturdays through March 8, Noon - 2:00 p.m., at Willie Keyes Recreation Center, 3131 Union Street. These free master classes are designed to create an environment that encourages dancers of all levels to express themselves, without feeling intimidated or isolated, through several different styles of dance. Four different styles of dance – hip-hop, salsa, jazz and lyrical – will be demonstrated and instructed. Participants are also encouraged to choreograph and/or freestyle during the class. Each class session will include a warm-up, dance, demonstration/presentation and cool-down. For more information, please contact Carla Hardiman, Recreation Leader II, at (510) 597-5042.

## OPR Part-time Summer Employment Opportunities

From now until Friday, March 17, Oakland Parks and Recreation will be accepting applications for Part-Time Summer Employment for the following positions: ***Recreation Aides, Part-Time and Recreation Attendants, Part-Time***. To assist applicants for these two positions, workshops will be held on Saturdays through March 15, at Youth Uprising, 8711 MacArthur Boulevard. At the workshops, which will run from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., applicants will receive assistance on completing the online process. For more information on the workshops, please contact Maribel Corral, Recreation Supervisor at (510) 615-5755. For more information, please visit the Department of Human Resources Management (DHRM) hiring website at <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/oaklandca/default.cfm>.

## Olympian Thinking Training For Ace Kids Golf Camp Sweeney Program

Mondays and Tuesdays through March 25, 1:45 - 2:30 p.m., Lake Chabot Golf Course, 11450 Golf Links Road. This eight-week program is designed to mentally recondition Camp Sweeney incarcerated young men ages 16 to 18. The Olympian Thinking Training will be presented by Olympic Pentathlete Marilyn King. Participants are trained to think positive about themselves, family and their community. At the end of the session, participants will understand the process of using passion, vision and action to accomplish their goals. For more information, please contact Preston Pinkey, Ace Kids Golf Director, at (510) 351-5812.

### Homebuyer Workshop

Wednesday, March 19, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Hearing Room #3, Oakland City Hall, 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza. The city sponsors a free, two-evening workshop each month to educate prospective homebuyers about the home-buying process, including mortgage financing, working with realtors, property selection and the responsibilities of ownership. There is a special emphasis on Oakland area housing assistance programs designed to assist low- and moderate-income homebuyers. Open to attendees currently residing in any city. Space is limited and advance enrollment is required. To register, please call (510) 238-7486.

### University of California-Oakland Partnership

University of California President Janet Napolitano has announced the launch of UC- Oakland Partnership, (UCOP); an initiative to strengthen ties between the Office of the President and the community by supporting local businesses and civic organizations, and awarding scholarships to Oakland high school students committed to enrolling at a UC campus. The UC-Oakland Partnership will build and enhance the Oakland community, engage UCOP employees with the community and to fund the newly created UCOP Oakland Scholarship. UCOP has teamed with the Oakland Sustainable Business Alliance to create the "Oakland Grown" gift card, which UCOP staff can use for purchases at Oakland independent businesses. A percentage of gift card purchases will then go towards the UCOP Oakland Scholarship Fund. Every purchase using the card will also accrue reward points that can be redeemed for a variety of good and services.

### Oakland Fund For Children and Youth (OFCY) Releases RFP for LGBTQ Youth Services

On Wednesday February 26, the Oakland Fund for Children and Youth (OFCY) released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) Youth Services. Agencies are encouraged to apply for funding to expand community-based programming and safe spaces specifically for LGBTQ youth in Oakland. This RFP covers the amended funding strategy for the 2013-2016 Strategic Investment Plan, supporting LGBTQ Youth Services in Oakland. All applicants are strongly encouraged to read the LGBTQ Youth Services Strategy in addition to this RFP before starting the application process. For more information on the RFP requirements, LGBTQ Youth Services Strategy, Fiscal Year 2013-2016 Strategic Investment Plan, visit: [www.ofcy.org](http://www.ofcy.org).

## OPD Chief Whent Joins Ceasefire Night Walk

More than 80 people, including Oakland Police Chief Whent, participated in the Ceasefire night walk at the end of January. Others from the police department and City Hall joined in as well to bring a peaceful presence to one of the areas in East Oakland hardest hit by violence in Oakland. The walk started out of a new church, St. Louis Bertrand Catholic Church, and the walk was important because the route took place in the area where two brothers were shot and killed on separate occasions. It was humbling to see the group stop at the spot where the two homicides happened. The group prayed for peace and for the families that lost their loved ones. The owner of the home in front of where the homicides took place said there hadn't been a shooting in that neighborhood in 40 years. It was good to see Chief Whent join the night walk, which shows the city's commitment to the Ceasefire partnership. This relationship will be incredibly important as the Ceasefire strategy moves into working on police-community relations.

## State of Park Maintenance Report at City Hall

The culmination of Oakland Parks Coalition's annual report on park conditions took place at the Council's Public Works Committee last Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30am at City Hall. OPC presented a power point on the *State of Maintenance of Oakland Parks*. The presentation was based on OPC's fall 2013 park survey which many of you participated in, and it highlighted the need for enhanced maintenance of Oakland green spaces. It also recommended the creation of a comprehensive on-line volunteer site and the establishment of a position of coordinator for a volunteer clearing house for the City. The full written report can be viewed at: <https://oakland.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=298148&GUID=01927B1F-DAA4-4725-B9E7-176F8253FE8D&Search>. The Power Works Committee asked staff to come back to Council to show how they can plan for next year specifically around financial and equipment for staff, and also explore options for trash removal on weekends including large trashcans. Staff is to bring the report back in time for the mid-cycle budget.

## FLU SEASON IS HERE!

As we welcome the month of March and the rain is here, we find ourselves in the middle of flu season. Everyone is encouraged to become familiar with and adhere to the current recommendations for staying healthy and preventing the spread of viruses. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention provide tips to help you and your family cope with this season's flu bugs. More information is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>

## PWA's 2014 Bulky Pickup Program

Public Works Agency mailed out an announcement to the occupants of 90,000 Oakland single-family residences (1-4 units), including owner-occupied and rental properties notifying them of the 2014 Bulky Pick up Program. Oakland residents can call **(510) 613-8710 to schedule a pickup appointment**. For more information on the guidelines and for any questions you may have about the program, please contact PWA's Recycling Hotline, at 238-SAVE (7283) or [recycling@oaklandnet.com](mailto:recycling@oaklandnet.com).

