

District One Newsletter – August 2013

Office of City Councilmember Dan Kalb

Hello,

Here is our latest newsletter. A number of interesting and exciting things have happened or are happening in District One and City Hall. Below are some of the highlights. My staff and I hope you find this newsletter informative.

I am honored to serve the residents of District One and the entire city. I look forward to keeping in touch.

-Dan

Announcement of Saturday Community Office Hours for Councilmember Kalb

Do you have a question that you are eager to ask or a local concern that you want to share with the Councilmember in person? Do want to discuss some finer points of city policy in a more intimate environment? Or maybe you just want to get to know your city council person a little better?

Councilmember Kalb is excited to announce that, starting this September, he will be spending every first Saturday morning of the month at a local coffee house in District 1, listening to your questions and concerns one on one. Sign up for 15 minute slots by emailing Dannette Lambert at dlambert@oaklandnet.com (or sign up on the website). The last half-hour, from 12-12:30, is for drop-ins for 5-10 minutes per person on a first come, first serve basis. Feel free to include the topic of your inquiry or issue when you reserve a spot.

Here are the first two dates/locations:

September 7, 2013

10AM – 12:30PM

Actual Café, 6334 San Pablo Ave.

October 5, 2013

10AM – 12:30PM

Old Brooklyn Bagels & Deli, 6000 College Ave.

Community Picnic



Some traditions are worth keeping, and having an annual District One picnic seemed like an excellent one to continue! We are grateful to all the District One residents who joined us on July 28th for the afternoon barbeque and social event at beautiful Lake Temescal Regional Park.

The food was delicious and plentiful, thanks to everyone who brought a dish to share. We would like to extend a huge thanks to our local businesses Market Hall, Piedmont Groceries, and Genova Delicatessen for their generous food and beverage donations. Next year we will truly need an army to help us eat all the amazing food on offer.

This event would not be possible without the support from our Firefighters, Local 55, who helped us with their warm presence and positive attitude, as well as their culinary expertise.

It was great to see many familiar and new faces and engage in constructive conversations and discussions. We are already looking forward to next year's picnic and hope you can join us!

Welcome Captain Toribio

Captain Anthony Toribio joined us as commander for Police Area 2 in July of this year. He previously served in this area of Oakland for many years and is very familiar with the territory.

We want to welcome Captain Toribio and thank him for his determined efforts as a hands-on public safety leader for our North Oakland communities.

Captain Toribio can be reached at AToribio@oaklandnet.com

twitter: @area2opd

July Public Safety Meeting



Safety and crime are on everyone's mind and we are acutely aware of the fact that people in our district and across Oakland too often do not feel safe. On July 31st, over 200 people gathered at College Prep School to share their concerns at a Public Safety meeting called by our office.

Through this and other meetings during our first seven months, we want to make it clear that improving public safety for Oakland residents is Councilmember Dan Kalb's first priority.

During the July 31st meeting Anthony Toribio, the newly assigned Police Area 2 Captain (which overlaps and covers District One), made a presentation to describe the new OPD structure, his vision for managing Police Area 2, and, together with me, answered multiple questions from North Oakland community members.

We also appreciate the input and ongoing work of our [North Oakland NCPC](#) (Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council) Chairs, who take an active and dedicated role in educating neighbors about recent crime trends and safety measures and help Oakland Police in identifying problem areas.

[Problem Solving Offices \(PSOs\)](#) for each Police Beat and [Neighborhood Service Coordinator \(NSC\)](#) Patricia Rose were also present at the meeting and introduced by Captain Toribio.

Among some of the major concerns were outbreaks of armed robberies, burglaries, and car break-ins occurring at throughout the day and night. People shared concerns and fears of walking on streets because of the proliferation of serious crimes.

Several crime “hot spots” were identified by the public and asked to be addressed by OPD. Captain Toribio has already followed up on many of them. Concerns were also articulated about the need for more jobs for Oakland residents and the connection between lack of economic development and crime.

You can see more coverage of the July 31st meeting in this [Oakland Tribune article](#).

Thanks and Acknowledgement of Interns

In addition to our amazing staff, we have just added on two amazing interns! Evelyn Torres and Natali Paniagua joined the District 1 team this June 2013. They will be assisting with administrative tasks and constituent casework, as well as each working on a project of their choosing. We welcome these two talented individuals and thank them for their continued service to our great city.

Natali Paniagua was born in Oakland, raised in Richmond, and lived in San Francisco throughout her college career. The Bay Area has always been her home. This past May, she became a recent graduate from San Francisco State University (Go Gators!). She received a BA in International Relations with an emphasis in Globalization and a minor in Middle East and Islamic Studies. Aside from assisting the D1 team, she also enjoys traveling, socializing with family and friends, and taking walks around Lake Merritt! Natali looks forward to serving the city of Oakland.

Evelyn Torres has lived the majority of her life in the Bay Area. She has been a supportive member of the city through her work with civic engagement, community organizing, and electoral campaigns. She has worked with nonprofit organizations such as the Ella Baker Center and Oakland Rising through various campaigns that have engaged and mobilized members of our city. Evelyn studied at San Francisco State University where she received a B.A. in Political Science and Latino Studies.

Dan’s Affordable Housing legislation passed by the City Council!



Great news! On July 30th, the City Council unanimously approved legislation I introduced to resume funding for affordable housing in Oakland.

With the dissolution of Redevelopment Agencies throughout California, Oakland lost millions of dollars in annual revenue used to finance and support affordable housing development projects. Affordable housing is vital to ensuring that Oakland remains a place for everyone, providing housing to Oakland households and workers as well as seniors on a fixed income.

California cities continue to receive a portion of the tax increment used to fund redevelopment projects, referred to as “boomerang” funds. In future years, the City of Oakland anticipates receiving approximately \$10 - \$20 million per year in boomerang funds. Many cities have moved to allocate a portion of their boomerang funds to affordable housing projects. The legislation I introduced continues Oakland’s commitment to funding affordable housing by allocating an amount equal to 25% of the boomerang funds towards affordable housing.

While this new funding is far less than the affordable housing funding Oakland had during the Redevelopment era, the funding maintains a critical lifeline for affordable housing projects in our city. A special thanks to East Bay Housing Organizations, the Oakland City Attorney’s office, and the Oakland Department of Housing & Community Development for their supportive work on this very important legislation. The legislation will need to pass again on second reading in September before it becomes official.

Empowering the Oakland Public Ethics Commission – Progress Report #1

Like many local jurisdictions in California and other states, Oakland has an agency whose purpose is to be a watchdog over our elected officials, administer government ethics laws, and educate citizens and City staff on ethics-related issues. Our agency is the Oakland Public Ethics Commission (PEC), a seven-member body of Oakland residents currently supported by mere two staff persons. For the past few months, I have been working on putting together an expert working group to study and make recommendations regarding empowering the PEC and improving and expanding the laws and programs under its purview.

I am pleased to announce that I have completed selecting the Ethics and Good Government (EGG) working group, which is comprised of experts in ethics, government transparency, and good government reform, including several former Public Ethics Commissioners. The EGG will begin work this month.

The group will consider the laws establishing and granting authority to the PEC, as well as the laws under or that should be under the authority of the PEC, and come up with specific recommendations for enhancements, improvements, and additions. The ultimate goal of this brainstorming, research and policy development effort is ambitious: to strengthen the PEC into a highly effective oversight and enforcement authority charged with enforcing the very best good government reform laws available.

After the conclusion of the project, I intend to use the recommendations to develop a series of legislative proposals, including strengthening amendments, new ordinances, and possibly even a Charter Amendment ballot measure. The proposals will be publicly vetted with the PEC and subsequently with my fellow City Councilmembers.

A recent report from the Alameda County Grand Jury found that that PEC lacks the financial resources to adequately do its job and that the PEC's limited power to penalize ethics violations reduces the PEC's effectiveness. The Grand Jury recommended that the Council provide the PEC with both full enforcement powers, including fines and mandatory training, as well sufficient financial resources to properly investigate allegations of violations.

The Council, in its response to the Grand Jury report, recently went on record as acknowledging the need to provide more resources and enforcement authority for the PEC. These commitments by the Council are a very positive sign for the ongoing work towards achieving the robust Public Ethics Commission that our City needs.

Importance of Peaceful Protest

Oakland has a long and rich history of protest and demonstration. We are a city of activists and organizers, and more broadly, politically aware and engaged people. I'm proud to live in a city where when residents see an injustice and, rather than sit back and wait for someone else to address it, they rise up and work to right the wrongs of our imperfect society.

Peaceful, strategic protest will always have a home in Oakland. 95% of those who took to the streets in response to the George Zimmerman verdict were peaceful protesters expressing legitimate outrage over the unjustified and unpunished killing of an African American teenage boy. Sadly, a small percentage chose to utilize this tragedy to rain destruction down upon Oakland's downtown and uptown storefronts.

The senseless destruction of property in our streets had no rhyme nor reason. Breaking windows, terrorizing local businesses, and tarnishing the reputation of our great city does nothing for the Trayvon Martins of the world, and went counter to the expressed wishes of the Martin family. Piling tragedy upon tragedy will not bring sympathy for the movement and breaking windows in Oakland will not change unjust circumstances in Florida or anywhere else.

Youth Radio, a local nonprofit that trains youth for careers in journalism, was vandalized during the week of protest following the Zimmerman verdict. The vandalism of this nonprofit was just one of the senseless acts committed, but represents the irony of the violence perpetuated in Trayvon Martin's name. How does breaking the window of a youth-centered job training program advance the goals of the social justice movement? Clearly, it doesn't.

If we truly care about the well-being and future prospects of our youth, we should be supporting organizations like Youth Radio, not forcing them to deal with the aftermath of misguided outrage. Please consider making a donation to help them recover from this unfortunate incident and train the next generation of Bay Area journalists.

You can make an online donation at <https://www.youthradio.org/donate> or mail a check to Youth Radio, 1701 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612.

Events & Announcements

Phat Beets

Our local food justice organization, would like you to complete a survey regarding their farmers market. You can access the survey [here](#).

Rebuilding Together Oakland

What: Oak Barrel Bash – 20th Anniversary Celebration

When: Thursday, September 19th, 6:00PM – 9:00PM

Location: Atrium-Garden at 1111 Broadway, Oakland, CA

Family Violence Law Center

What: Reimagine Oakland Stand For Peace Annual Fundraising Event

When: Thursday, September 19, 6:00PM – 9:00PM

Location: Loring Café, 37 Grand Ave, Oakland, CA 94612

Children's Hospital

What: Neighborhood Block Party - 100 Amazing Years of Caring for Kids Celebration

When: Saturday, September 28, 1PM – 4PM

Location: Dover Park, Oakland, CA 94609

Oakland Unified School District (OUSD)

What: 2nd Annual Back to School Festival and Open House

When: Saturday, August 24th, 9:30PM - 3:30PM

Location: 746 Grand Avenue, Oakland, CA

On Saturday, August 24th OUSD will be opening its doors to our OUSD families and to our valued community members so that everyone may come and meet them. It is our desire that our OUSD families and community members come to learn what they can do to help students excel in school and to find out what tools their office has to offer to help them achieve their academic goals.

Longfellow Chili Cook-off

When: October 12, 1PM – 4PM

Location: Community lot: 3881 MLK Jr. Way at 39th Street

The event is free for anyone who wants to enter any or all of the three categories: hot, mild or vegetarian. There is a \$5 cost to eat and judge all you want. Prizes will be awarded to the top three winners in each category. The LCA will provide grills, dogs, veggie dogs, buns, condiments, drinks, picnic ware and grilling accouterments. Attendees are encouraged to bring an item for the grill or a dish to share — and to come hungry. Sponsored by the LCA and the MLK Cafe.

Redistricting Town Hall Meeting for District 1

When: Sunday, September 8, 3PM – 5PM

Where: Claremont Middle School, 5750 College Avenue, Oakland

The Oakland City Charter mandates the review of City Council District boundaries every 10 years. The Oakland City Council Districts also serve as the districts for the Governing Board for the Oakland Unified School District, commonly called the Board of Education. Any changes made to the Council Districts will also change the boundaries for the areas represented by the elected members of the Board of Education. However, boundary changes will not impact school enrollment choices. Redistricting Town Hall Meetings will be held in each of the seven Council Districts July through September. Oakland residents are encouraged to attend the meeting to learn more about the process and provide comment and input on District boundaries.

For those unable to attend the meeting, the City is offering a variety of other engagement and feedback opportunities including:

- Using the interactive mapping software at <http://www.onlineredistricting.com/Oakland2/redist/>
- Emailing suggestions and comments to strategicplanning@oaklandnet.com
- Leaving a voice message on the redistricting hotline at (510) 238-3079
- Visiting the City's newly launched open data platform, <http://data.oaklandnet.com>, to explore and visualize population data
- Engaging in the discussion online at <http://www.EngageOakland.com>

In October, the City Council will begin holding public hearings to deliberate on the proposed redistricting maps that result from the summer's Town Hall Meetings. The Council will make a final selection of the Council District boundaries in November. For more information on Oakland's redistricting process including a map of current Council Districts, relevant legislation, upcoming Council meeting dates and more, the public should visit www.oaklandnet.com/redistricting

Thank you!

Dan Kalb

Oakland City Council

District One