



District One Newsletter – March 2014

Greetings to one and all. I hope you find my periodic e-newsletters worthwhile. Back issues of the newsletter can be found [here](#).

From economic development and affordable housing to government ethics reform and making sure Oakland enhances its reputation as a green city, my staff and I have been quite busy working on a range of issues and challenges facing District One and all of Oakland. We are also helping to resolve numerous neighborhood-based inquiries and concerns. **But the most important issue at hand of course is public safety.**

So here is some of what we've been doing to help make our city and neighborhoods safer. When it comes to investigating crimes, OPD is continuing to prioritize violent crimes—including shootings and armed robberies. And our crime lab is making progress in filling vacant positions. As you may have heard me say before, I have made it a top priority to increase the investigative capacity of our police department. While we have made some incremental progress in this area, there is a lot more work to do and I will continue to prioritize investigations as a key element to reduce crime.


Since armed robberies are still a serious problem in North Oakland (and other areas in our city), I am spending a good chunk of my time working to pass **SB 962** (Leno) in Sacramento. This bill would require all new smartphones sold in California have a 'kill switch' deactivation mechanism incorporated into the phone. Once this mechanism is an integral component of new smartphones, it will no longer be profitable to steal them. My staff and I have been building support for this bill both in Oakland and throughout the state. Assemblymember Nancy Skinner is the principal co-author of the bill, and Mayor Quan has instructed our city's lobbyist to make this bill a top legislative priority.

[East Bay Express blog on the Kill Switch bill](#)



March Town Hall on Public Safety

Hope to see everyone at our March 22nd Town Hall on public safety. This will be an opportunity for you to share your thoughts with city leaders as to what should be included in a fall 2014 public safety ballot measure.



North Oakland Town Hall
PUBLIC SAFETY
Community Policing
Crime Prevention

Saturday, March 22, 2014
10:00 AM — 12:15 PM
Beebe Memorial Cathedral,
3900 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland

with:

Oakland Interim Chief of Police **Sean Whent**,
representatives from the City Administrator's office and
Oakland's Department of Human Services,
Oakland-based service providers, and a program evaluator
from Resource Development Associates

Councilmember Dan Kalb is hosting this Town Hall to discuss community policing, neighborhood safety, and violence prevention programs. **This meeting will be an opportunity for you to let city leaders know what you would like to see included in a fall ballot measure to enhance public safety.**

Please contact Olga Bolotina, office of Councilmember Kalb
obolotina@oaklandnet.com or 510-238-7240 with any questions.

Survey for Future District One Town Hall Meetings

Please share your ideas for the topics you want Council Member Kalb to cover during his Town Hall Meetings by taking a short survey [here](#).

Breaking News

Oakland City Council Adopts Stronger Rent Stabilization Protections for Tenants in Compromise Deal with Apartment Building Owners. Click [here](#) for more info.

Violence Prevention & Public Safety Act of 2004

*Guest contributor: **Don Link**, Beat 11X NCPC Chair*

Sometimes known as Measure Y, “The Violence Prevention and Public Safety Act of 2004” sums up the purpose of this parcel and parking tax measure that passed with more than a two-thirds majority vote in November 2004 and took effect in 2005.

The 2004 Act grew out of the desire for dependable police staffing for the community policing beats in Oakland. In 2002, a reorganization of the Oakland Police Department led to reassigning community policing officers to patrol duty and renamed all patrol officers community policing officers. The Lieutenants put in charge of the then six Police Services Areas (PSAs) were charged with providing community policing and did to some extent with the Crime Reduction Teams they were given, but lacked the dedicated staffing to deliver the desired neighborhood-based policing to every beat. Most patrol officers were unable to adequately engage in community policing because they were racing from call to call during their busy shifts.

The 2004 measure was a grand compromise between those who favored community-based prevention and intervention programs on the one hand, and those who wanted more police in the beats engaging in community policing. These two programs divided the M-Y funds 32% and 48% respectively. Additionally, the measure provided roughly 20% of its funds to hire firefighters to keep nearly-shuttered fire stations open. The Measure Y assessments were projected to bring in approximately \$20 million a year.

The taxes funding crime prevention and public safety activities were almost evenly divided between a parcel tax that cost homeowners around \$88.00 a year at its inception (\$98.00 today with consumer price index adjustments), and an increase in parking taxes. These taxes will expire at the end of 2014 unless the voters authorize a new public safety measure.

The outgoing measure provided for 63 additional officers in OPD: approximately 40 Problem Solving Officers assigned to community policing duty, a Crime Reduction Team, School Safety officers, and officers assigned to the domestic violence and child abuse unit.

The violence prevention funds have been directed at community-based nonprofit organizations that have been successful at providing youth outreach counseling, after and in-school programs providing recreation, tutoring, and mentoring, domestic violence and child abuse counselors, and ex-offender/parolee employment training.

Whether the firefighters, police officers, or violence prevention programs will be maintained by the city without the Measure Y funding streams is a big question mark. What we do know is that a \$20 million reduction in revenues would be a big public safety deficit in an already tight city budget.

2014 Intern: Jasmine Sadat



Jasmine Sadat is a 2nd year graduate student at the University of California, Berkeley. She will be graduating this May and earning a Master of City & Regional Planning degree. Jasmine’s primary interests are planning and policy. Aside from assisting the D-1 team, she also enjoys standup comedy, poetry, and trying new foods. We’re thrilled to have Jasmine here as part of our District One team.

Empowering the Oakland Public Ethics Commission – Progress Report #3

Our August and October newsletters of last year reported on the [Ethics & Good Government Working Group](#) that I convened to study and make recommendations for strengthening the laws governing and enforced by the Oakland Public Ethics Commission (PEC). The PEC is Oakland’s governmental ethics regulatory agency charged with being a watchdog and promoting policy development in the program areas of local election campaign finance, lobbying disclosure, open meetings and public records, and conflicts of interest for government officials. As noted by a 2013 report of the Alameda County Grand Jury, the PEC has never been sufficiently funded to achieve all of its mandates and has significantly fewer staff than the Ethics Commissions in other cities in California. Moreover, all of its program areas are in need of upgrading.

I am pleased to report that the Ethics & Good Government Working Group and my office will very soon produce the first of two reports. The first report titled “Proposed Oakland Ethics Reforms: Public Ethics Commission Charter Reforms and Governmental Ethics Ordinance” will be published this month, and provides detailed recommendations on two topics: a Charter reform ballot measure proposal for the PEC and a new Ethics Ordinance for the City government of Oakland. Both are modeled on the best practices in use in various jurisdictions in California.

Next steps: Once the Working Group report has been published, I will continue to collect public feedback regarding the ethics recommendations. The report and the feedback will be used to draft legislative proposals for both reforming the Oakland Charter provisions governing the PEC and establishing the Ethics Ordinance. Once initial drafting is completed, the proposals will be submitted to the PEC to request public review at a public meeting. Subsequently, my ethics proposals will be submitted for review and potential adoption by the City Council.

Later in 2014, the Working Group project will produce a second report, which will offer recommendations for amendments to existing Oakland governmental ethics laws, including the Campaign Reform Act, Lobbyist Registration Act, Sunshine Ordinance, Ordinance Prohibiting Retaliation Against City Employees Who Act as Whistleblowers and others. The recommendations of this second report will promote the policy goals of campaign finance reform, transparency, and government integrity.

Redistricting Process Completed in December 2013 Sets New Council Boundaries

Every 10 years, the City of Oakland reviews and revises City Council and School Board District boundaries as mandated by the City Charter, in a process called redistricting. The purpose of redistricting 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.

Hundreds of Oakland residents participated in the redistricting process by attending at least one of the public meetings, submitting a map online, sending a letter or email, joining the online conversation at EngageOakland.com or leaving a voice message on the Redistricting hotline.

Boundary changes to Oakland City Council Districts resulted in about 12,000 Oakland residents shifting from one district to another.

In early February, a brochure explaining the redistricting process and boundary changes was mailed to the affected households. Translations in Chinese, Spanish and Vietnamese are available upon request. To view the brochure, the new Council district map, relevant legislation and additional information on the redistricting process, please visit <http://www.oaklandnet.com/redistricting>. To find out who represents you on the Oakland City Council, please use the City's online Council District Locator Tool at <http://mapgis.oaklandnet.com/councildistricts/>.

I am working with Councilmember Schaaf and stakeholders to take this process out of the hands of the Council and make it the responsibility of an independent redistricting commission.

Literacy Volunteer Opportunities

Second Start Adult Literacy Program

Did you know Oakland has one of the highest drop-out rates in the state? Without basic reading and writing skills our neighbors might have trouble filling out a new form at work, or reading bills or letters from a child's school. To help someone strengthen their reading and writing skills, contact your local Oakland Public Library branch or fill out the [volunteer form](#) for the [Second Start Adult Literacy Program](#). Second Start serves people age 18 and older who read below a high school level. The program also serves 16-17 year olds who are not enrolled in high school.

Experience Corps Oakland

The [AARP Experience Corps](#) program in the Bay Area recruits, trains and supports hundreds of older adults to serve as volunteer tutors and mentors to thousands of children struggling with

literacy proficiency. Focused primarily on low-income children in urban elementary schools, AARP Experience Corps trains volunteers in literacy intervention practices, with a focus on fluency, vocabulary growth and reading comprehension, as well as how to develop a positive mentor relationship.

Please sign up to volunteer AARP Experience Corps volunteer at North Oakland schools [here](#).

Golden Gate Second Saturdays

My office has been working together with multiple stakeholders from local retail businesses, grassroots and nonprofit organizations, and active community members to create a neighborhood-centric economic development strategy for the San Pablo corridor and Golden Gate Neighborhood in North Oakland. This effort represents a great opportunity for community building and neighborhood-based local development—including affordable housing and renovated retail storefronts.

The San Pablo Corridor working group is developing a plan that includes creating a vacant property inventory and running a class at Merritt College that is developing a vision and plan for the neighborhood. And the Golden Gate neighborhood now has its own monthly festival—Golden Gate Second Saturdays.

Golden Gate Second Saturdays is a family-friendly daytime event that showcases all that the Golden Gate has to offer. It has been going on for a couple months now as a simple stroll in which local businesses and residents participate. On April 12, 2014, we will officially launch the formal festivities. Each month's festival will be sponsored by a local organization that will host a portion of the event. In April, Rebuilding Together Oakland (RTO) will take the lead. In addition, artists, musicians, food vendors, performances, and information about volunteer opportunities will be interspersed throughout the corridor.

We're focusing on the independent character of our neighborhood. Our goals include:

- Encouraging interactions among residents of the Golden Gate neighborhood
- Showing off our neighborhood features to residents and visitors
- Supporting local arts, music, retail businesses, and organizations
- Having a great party every month!

To find out more about the Golden Gate 2nd Saturdays, check out the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/goldengatesecondsaturdays>. If you are an artist, musician, or would like to participate in some other way, please email GoldenGateSecondSaturdays@gmail.com for more information.

Upcoming Events

Oakland Earth Day 2014

What: [Oakland Earth Day 2014](#)

When: Saturday, April 26, 9am to Noon

Where: Varies locations (please see below)

Earth Day will be observed this year on **Saturday, April 26**, but it's never too early to sign-up to

help clean, green, and beautify Oakland! For Earth Day 2014 there will be many projects throughout district one and the entire city. The residents of Oakland will be cleaning parks, streets, creeks and waterways!

District One Earth Day 2014 sites include:

- FROG Park/Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt and Creek, Hardy Park, @ end of Hardy Cir; Cavour St & Redondo Way
- Keep Temescal Clean & Beautiful, 397 43rd Street
- Linden Park, 1000 42nd street
- Garber Park, 144 Evergreen Ln, Berkeley 94705 (there are a few addresses that are listed as Berkeley when in fact they are in Oakland)
- Glen Echo Park, North side of Monte Vista Ave, 1 block east of Piedmont Ave.

For more information on these and other [Earth Day sites](#), check out the complete [list of registered sites](#) and [map](#), updated weekly.

Santa Fe CAN monthly general meetings

What: Santa Fe CAN General Meeting

When: Every 1st Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Where: At Children's Hospital Oakland Research Institute (CHORI)

Library, 5700 Martin Luther King Jr Way. (Enter parking lot east of MLK from Aileen or 58th Street).

Last year an awesome new community association was created North Oakland in the Santa Fe Neighborhood of North Oakland. They are called Santa Fe Community Association of Neighbors (Santa Fe CAN) and the area is essentially bordered by Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, 53rd Street, Lowell Street & Stanford Street (up to the Berkeley border).

Santa Fe CAN has the following active committees: Beautification, Community Building, Education, and Public Safety. I encourage all North Oakland residents to attend, but particularly residents from bordering neighborhoods.

What's Your Budget Priority?

What: [State Budget Town Hall](#) with Assembly Member Nancy Skinner

When: Thursday, March 27, 2014, 7pm - 8:30pm

Where: Piedmont Elementary School, 4314 Piedmont Ave., Oakland

AC Transit Accessible: Bus lines #12 & #51A are located nearby

Join Chair of the Assembly Budget Committee Nancy Skinner at this AD15 Budget Town Hall and share what budget priorities are most important to you.

Next 10, a local non-profit organization, will lead you through an interactive "Budget Challenge" so each of you can weigh in on what California's budget priorities should be: Should we increase investment in education and safety net services? Pay down debt? Or save for a rainy day? Just like the Budget Committee, you will be tasked with making choices on funding for schools, transportation infrastructure, environmental protection and social services.

Please [RSVP](#) for this event.

Councilmember Kalb's Community Office Hours

April 5, 2014

10AM – 12:30PM

Actual Café, 6334 San Pablo Ave.

May 3, 2014

10AM – 12:30PM

Old Brooklyn Bagels & Deli, 6000 College Ave.

Councilmember Kalb has Community Office hours generally the first Saturday morning of each month. Any District One resident can sign up for a 15-minute slot by emailing Olga Bolotina at obolotina@oaklandnet.com. 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.

Please forward this newsletter to your neighbors and invite them to [sign up](#). Thank you!

Dan

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