



## District One Newsletter – December 2013

### **Happy Holidays from Dan and his Staff**

Greetings. First and Foremost, my staff and I wish you a joyous holiday season and a very happy new year.

Over the past year, we've heard from many District One residents. In fact, we receive hundreds of emails and phone calls almost every week from Oakland residents sharing their views on Oakland's priorities or asking for assistance in dealing with a specific neighborhood problem. My staff has worked diligently to help residents resolve hundreds of cases and requests. However, we also realize that a few requests can fall between the cracks and may have been overlooked. If you have contacted our office specifically asking for assistance on a local matter, and we hadn't yet responded, I apologize. Please feel free to contact us again.

Here are a few examples of work my staff has undertaken to resolve resident concerns on specific matters in their respective neighborhood:

#### ***Olga:***

1. Helped merchants by facilitating the creation of several new street parking spots after the College Avenue Safeway was demolished.
2. Worked on bringing neighbors, contractors and City staff together to resolve numerous issues related to neighborhood transportation and construction.
3. Facilitated the expediting and installation of much-needed pedestrian crosswalks on Alcatraz and upper Broadway.
4. Helped a disabled constituent obtain a permit and get a blue curb painted.

#### ***Oliver:***

1. Assisted numerous residents with understanding the rules and submissions needed for applying for residential permitted parking;
2. Assisted a disabled resident with getting backyard recycling pickup;
3. Monitored or initiated various Public Works Agency service requests;
4. Tracked down a Building Service permit email address that was not posted online;
5. Assisted residents with understanding whom to contact within the City government, or outside the City government (such as at the County level), regarding various matters, or with identifying applicable City codes for their situation.

#### ***Dannette:***

1. Helped get a crosswalk installed at 55<sup>th</sup> and Dover
2. Got the lights fixed at Bushrod Park
3. Facilitated getting a Green Zone parking spot put in at 55<sup>th</sup> and MLK in front of Kings Market

4. Help facilitate the replacement of a slide at Dover Park

I want to take this opportunity to say how proud I am of my three hard-working staff people. They regularly work more hours than they are paid for in order to serve the residents of District One and to help me keep things moving forward at City Hall.

### **Council Member Kalb's First Annual D-1 Holiday Party - reminder**

**What:** Council Member Kalb invites you to come celebrate the holidays with him, his staff and your North Oakland neighbors

**When:** Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 12:00pm – 2:00pm

**Where:** MLK Café, 3860 Martin Luther King jr. Way

All District One residents are invited to join us in celebrating the holidays and the end of our first year in office. Light snacks will be provided, and a no-host bar. This event is free, but we will be collecting non-perishable food donations for the Alameda County Community Food Bank.

### **Legislation & Policy Update**

As the year draws to a close, I would like to highlight a few recent legislative and policy accomplishments.

**Promoting mandatory theft deterrent technology for smartphones:** On December 12<sup>th</sup>, the Rules & Legislation Committee approved my Resolution supporting the nationwide Secure Our Smartphones initiative and urging the State Legislature pass legislation to mandate the installation of a “kill switch” or similar theft-deterrent technology in all new smartphones sold in California. Cell phones have played a significant role in the wave of robberies plaguing our community, due to their high resale value. “Kill switch” results in stolen devices becoming unusable and would thereby reduce the incentive for committing such robberies. As noted in the December 11<sup>th</sup> *New York Times*, carriers are resisting this technology. My Resolution goes before the full City Council on January 7, 2014, and I am in touch with our state legislators on this issue.

**Improving the City's 911 system:** In October, I requested a report from the City Administrator and Police Department on modernizing the City's 911 system so cell phone calls within Oakland go directly to our City's 911 Emergency Dispatch Call Center. Presently, 911 calls made on cell phones in Oakland go first to the California Highway Patrol before being routed to the City's 911 Call Center. The report will be presented at the Council's Public Safety Committee on December 17<sup>th</sup>, and I will be working with the Administration to make this transition happen as soon as possible. I am also supporting stepped up recruitment for 911 dispatchers so we can fully staff our emergency call center.

**Reporting requirements for the City's new banking contract:** At the December 10<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting, I proposed additions to the City's new banking services contract, which we developed in consultation with the California Reinvestment Coalition (CRC). I am pleased to report that the Council adopted my additions, including required reporting from the bank regarding their lending, services, and community investment activities in Oakland as well as information relevant to home foreclosure relief efforts in the City.

As reported in a previous newsletter, earlier in the year I authored affordable housing trust fund legislation that successfully passed the Council. And I took the lead in getting into the adopted budget 10 new civilian positions at OPD—most of whom are slated to be at our city's Crime Lab in order to help with investigations of serious crimes.

My staff and I continue to work on public interest legislation on a number of topics, which we expect to introduce next year. Stay tuned!

## **Honoring Vertis Whitaker's 15 Years of Service**



Last month saw the end of the 15-year tenure of Vertis Whitaker as the chair of the 10Y Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council. Vertis is known as a take charge type of person who will stand on the corner with a local drug dealer and ask what benefit it serves the community to have him sell his product. She will meet with a problem property owner and ask him/her to clean up the mess or the community will do it for them. She tells residents on a regular basis to get involved and take back neighborhoods from individuals involved in criminal/nuisance activity. She encourages them to call the police, call their local council member and call the Mayor. She believes residents should let their voices be heard.

***NCPC co-chair Jimme James (left) and out-going chair Vertis Whitaker (right), photo by: Oakland Local***

This take charge approach has resulted in the following:

- A property at 52<sup>nd</sup> & MLK was rehabbed and problematic tenants removed.
- A park that was a magnet for drug dealing was officially adopted by a local church.
- A business at 45<sup>th</sup> & Market was put on notice that if the open air drug dealing and loitering did not cease, the community would take legal action against the property owner.
- Neighborhoods that once had motor homes parked on almost every street have seen a drastic reduction. The number went from 23 in a 10-block radius to five.

Thank you, Vertis, for your many years of service. Your community will forever enjoy the legacy of your efforts, and the next generation of organizers will take note and learn the lessons of your good work.

The City Council adopted a ceremonial resolution at their December 10<sup>th</sup> Council meeting to honor Vertis' tenure as the 10Y NCPC chair. Additionally, we would also like to extend a warm welcome to Hastings Hart, the newly elected chair of the 10Y NCPC. He will be joined by Vertis as Vice-chair, Catherine Montalbo as Secretary, and Beverly Lovejoy as Parliamentarian.

## **Shopping Local and Sustainable this Holiday Season**



This holiday season, I encourage all Oakland residents to do their holiday shopping at Oakland-based businesses. Shopping at locally-owned businesses is beneficial for Oakland and our local economy. Local businesses are much more likely to spend their proceeds in Oakland and reinvest in our community. Additionally, purchases made in Oakland generate sales tax revenue for the City, which in turn helps to pay for parks, libraries, police, firefighters, and more.

A great resource for shopping locally is [Oakland Grown](#) a program of the volunteer-run Sustainable Business Alliance and a movement of local businesses, artists, and residents.

***Councilmember Kalb at Hops 'N' Harvest\_11.9.2013, photo by: Our Oakland***

According to their website, Oakland Grown encourages people to “consciously support independent businesses and artists—those unique businesses and artists that have their roots in Oakland. Shopping Oakland Grown member businesses not only helps keep the character of Oakland, but also helps strengthen our economy, and preserve our environment.”

Oakland Grown maintains a handy online directory of participating local businesses, including some businesses located in North Oakland.

If you cannot find what you are looking for on the Oakland Grown website, check another green business listing so that your shopping is consistent with the values of environmental sustainability. The [Bay Area Green Business Partnership](#) certifies local green businesses and maintains a list of over 100 throughout the Bay Area. The [Chinook Book for the Bay Area](#) is a coupon book that supports local businesses that meet strict environmental and social criteria.

Of course, there are plenty of local retail shops right here in District One, including on College, Piedmont Avenue, [Telegraph Avenue](#), and San Pablo Avenue.

## **Save the Date: Covered California Health Care Town Hall, January 25, 2014**

Starting in January, I will be hosting a town hall meeting roughly every other month on various topics that are relevant to District One residents. Our first town hall in 2014 will be from **10:00-Noon, Saturday, January 25, 2014**, location to be determined. We will be partnering with Assembly Member Nancy Skinner on the topic of **Covered California** and the **Affordable Care Act**. If you are uninsured, underinsured, or run a small business whose employees may need health insurance coverage, this town hall meeting is for you. People will be able to sign up for coverage on the spot. Please come out with any questions you might have regarding the state’s roll out of the Affordable Care Act.

\*\*\*If you have recommendations as to topics for future town hall meetings, please contact my office by e-mail.

## **MLK Day of Service 2014**

The Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday is right around the corner. On January 20, 2014, Oaklanders across our city and Americans across the country will volunteer to help their neighbors and fellow community members. Reverend King once said, “Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?”

How will you get out and help on MLK day this year? If you need some ideas, please visit <http://www.serve.gov/> or <http://mlkday.gov/index.php>. These sites provide a search engine for many of the volunteer opportunities near you and your family this January 20<sup>th</sup>. Please join us in serving the communities of Oakland. One invaluable option that is available on the Saturday preceding MLK Day—or almost any other day of the week—is to **donate blood** through the Red Cross or another local blood bank.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Covered California Enrollment Free Events**

**What:** Sign-up for affordable healthcare.

**When:** Saturday, Dec. 21, 2:00pm – 5:00pm

**Where:** Rockridge Library, 5366 College Avenue



Enrollment Counselors will be at the Rockridge Library. Counselors will answer Covered California questions, explain various policies and sign you up. The first milestone for Covered California enrollment is fast approaching. Get health insurance by December 23 for coverage beginning January 1, 2014.

### Mayor's Community Toy Drive

**What:** Community Toy Drive

**When:** December 2013

**Where:** Multiple Locations (please click on website for information)

The Mayor, with the help of the Assistance Center and the Oakland Fire Department, has organized a community toy drive. Please help support the city by donating **Unwrapped Gifts** at one of the many locations. If you are interested in helping with packing and distributing please email [susangpiper@gmail.com](mailto:susangpiper@gmail.com)

For more information [click here!](#)

### Gun-by-Gun – Gun Buyback – You can help take a gun off the street!

**What:** Youth Uprising Gun Buyback

**When:** Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

**Where:** Youth Uprising in Oakland

Oakland is participating in a multi-city effort in California to get guns off the streets. On Saturday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, we are hosting a Gun Buyback program at Youth Uprising in East Oakland. You can help by donating to the gun buyback fund.



### Piedmont Avenue Holiday Stroll

**What:** Piedmont Avenue Third Thursday Stroll

**When:** Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 6-9 PM

**Where:** Piedmont Avenue, from MacArthur to Pleasant Valley

More info at [www.piedmontavestroll.org](http://www.piedmontavestroll.org)

## TOYS for JOY Christmas Toy Drive

**What:** Mistah FAB & Friends presents Toys for Joy

**When:** Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, Noon-6:00PM

**Where:** 45<sup>th</sup> Street and Market Street, Oakland

More info (or to donate a toy): [dabusride@gmail.com](mailto:dabusride@gmail.com)

## Councilmember Kalb's Community Office Hours

**What:** Sign up to have a face-to-face discussion with Council Member Dan Kalb

**When:** Generally the first Saturday of the month 10am-12:30pm

**Where:** Rotating cafes – please see below.

In addition to his availability at City Hall, 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 Dannette Lambert at [dlambert@oaklandnet.com](mailto:dlambert@oaklandnet.com). The last half-hour, from 12-12:30, is for drop-ins for 7-10 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.

Council Member Kalb's Community Office Hours for the next two months are as follows:

**January 11<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am-12:30pm (2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday)**

**Broadway Terrace Café**

5891 Broadway Terrace, 94618

**February 1<sup>st</sup>, 10:00am-12:30pm**

**Café Trieste**

4045 Piedmont Avenue, 94611

**Year-end Note:** Please stay safe and aware during the holiday season and beyond. As you probably know, while some serious crimes have been trending down in the right direction, armed robberies continue to plague many North Oakland neighborhoods. Here are some [reminder tips from OPD for the holiday season](#).

And click [here](#) to read my October summary (from the previous newsletter) of things OPD, the City Council and the Administration are doing to address public safety in North Oakland and throughout our city.

**Looking forward to working on more great projects together in 2014 and beyond.**



***Mural Affordable Housing Development Groundbreaking at MacArthur BART 11/15/13 with BART Director Robert Raburn and East Bay community development leaders***

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