



News from
Office of the Mayor

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MAYOR'S OUTREACH WORKERS TO HIT THE STREETS

Outreach Program is Part of a Citywide Violence Reduction Effort

Oakland – May 20, 2008 - Joined by representatives from the Department of Human Services and various Measure Y providers, Mayor Dellums today met with the approximately 20 outreach workers who are being trained by the city of Oakland. These outreach efforts workers will hit the streets this weekend addressing street level violence by connecting high risk individuals with opportunities to get out of street life.

“The street outreach worker initiative represents a fundamental part of my overall public safety strategy,” said Mayor Dellums. “As we seek solutions to the issue of crime and violence in Oakland, I am committed to finding comprehensive prevention strategies that offer young people on the margin an opportunity to turn their lives around.”

The Mayor's Street Outreach Program is one part of a citywide violence reduction effort that involves interagency collaboration and coordination with the Oakland Police Department, DHS, and others. Through shared training, data, information, shared resources, and shared identification of deployment priorities the mayor is confident that Oakland will begin to see a reduction in violent crime in Oakland's most crime impacted neighborhoods.

The Department of Human Services will serve as the central coordinating agency for the street outreach component of the citywide violence reduction effort. Kevin Grant, the DHS Violence Prevention Network Coordinator will be responsible for the overall management of the Mayor's Street Outreach Program and will build close working relationships with each worker. He will oversee, train and deploy the outreach workers in coordination with existing Measure Y violence prevention services administered by DHS in consultation with the Command Area Captains and the priorities of the Oakland Police Department.

Kevin Grant said, “We want to let the people of Oakland know that help is on the way. We are blessed to have a strong team here, with our community partners from **California Youth Outreach (CYO)**, **Leadership Excellence (LE)**, and **Youth UpRising (YU)**, who have such great resources to the offer the community. For all those who have only known violence, we are here to offer hope.”

Last December, the council approved Mayor Dellums' proposal authorizing the Department of Human Services to request proposals for hiring street outreach workers in high crime areas in a manner designed to prevent the escalation of tension that often leads to violence. In coordination with Measure Y, Mayor Dellums proposed to design a program to identify organizations with the capacity to provide street outreach services to address street level violence by connecting with individuals in designated "hot spots".

The outreach workers will be employed by several Oakland based organizations including Leadership Excellence, Healthy Oakland, Covenant House, California Youth Outreach, and Youth UpRising. Following the weeklong training, outreach workers will be deployed to each of the city's three Public Safety Districts in areas of highest need at the times of highest need (including nights and weekends) beginning Saturday, May 24.

About the Grantees

Leadership Excellence (LE): LE currently provides Measure Y Youth Outreach/Case Management and Sports and Recreation services in West Oakland, primarily to McClymonds High School youth.

California Youth Outreach (CYO): CYO has been recognized nationally and specifically through the state of California for their expertise in outreaching to gang-involved youth.

Youth UpRising (YU): YU currently provides Measure Y Youth Outreach/Case Management and Sports and Recreation services in East Oakland.

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