



News from
Office of the Mayor

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MAYOR'S OFFICE, OPD MEET WITH MERCHANTS INVOLVED IN TAKEOVER ROBBERIES

OAKLAND – As the Oakland Police Department announced two more arrests in the takeover robberies, Mayor Ron Dellums' Office, the Oakland Police Department and Neighborhood Services met with merchants who have been affected by this brazen act of crime to discuss ways to develop a partnership to keep Oakland businesses safe.

Commenting on the arrests, Mayor Dellums stated: "We are extremely pleased with the work of the Oakland Police Department. These robberies are absolutely unacceptable and these individuals must be held accountable for their actions. Everyone in Oakland – residents and merchants alike – deserves safety and security. We are working with OPD to expand crime prevention training and resources for merchants and restaurant owners in Oakland and we will be working collaboratively with merchant associations to prevent these kinds of attacks in the future."

During the meeting held at City Hall, many items were discussed to keep Oakland's businesses and merchants safe, including:

- Crime Prevention Training for merchants;
- The business district will be eligible for free security inspections upon completion of Merchant Watch training.
- Developing more communication between merchants;
- Encourage calls to police department to report any suspicious activity;
- Improve street lighting and address a lack of building exterior lighting
- Communication with police department investigators to gather information on recent crimes in business district or nearby districts, such as suspects and car descriptions, modes of operation. OPD will share that information with merchants and residents;
- Working with Neighborhood Services to communicate long-term problems, such as nuisance properties or spike in robberies;
- Façade Improvements for eligible districts. Free architectural assistance and 50 percent matching grants up to \$20,000. Contact 510-238-3344
- Following through on mayor's comprehensive recruitment plan to ensure that Oakland gets to full staffing by the end of the year.

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