



NEWS FROM:

The Office of Mayor Ron Dellums

Media Contact

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 21, 2008

MAYOR DELLUMS TO ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP TO SUPPORT HIGH RISK YOUTH IN OAKLAND

OAKLAND, CA – Mayor Ron Dellums and the Oakland Police Department will announce a partnership with the national O.K. (Our Kids) Mentorship Program - a program which fosters partnerships between police agencies, schools, students, community members and the faith community to provide positive guidance and support for youth who are at high risk for incarceration and homicide (with an intense focus on African-American males between the ages of 12-18 years old).

Program Goals accomplished through one-on-one mentoring include: Reducing high incarceration rate of African American males, reducing gang affiliation, reducing gun violence, promoting healthy life styles, and enhancing academic performance.

“As a community, we need to embrace our youth to make sure they can live good and safe lives,” said Mayor Dellums. “One reason I’m here today is because someone stepped up and gave me an opportunity. The O.K. Mentorship Program will help us provide our youth with healthy life options and allow us to get beyond the craziness that is gripping our community. I came home because I want our youth to have the opportunity to grow and to have long beautiful lives. Life is a marathon; it is my generation’s job to pass the baton to the generation of our youth and it is their job to pass the baton to the next generation.”

Mayor Dellums has a long history of examining ways to support our youth, including chairing the Dellums Commission which looked at the plight of young men of color in this country by examining national, state and local policies in the areas of health and mental health services, education, juvenile justice, criminal justice, family support and child welfare.

The City of Oakland was selected as an O.K. program affiliate, joining Little Rock, AR, Indianapolis IN, and Monroe, LA. Currently, the Oakland O.K. Program affiliate is recruiting and training men of good standing in the Oakland community to act as mentors for students attending public middle and high schools in Oakland. Oakland Police Officer Nathan Brooks is the coordinator of the program and can be contacted directly regarding questions or further interest in participating as a mentor, student, or supporter of the O.K. Program. Phone: 510.750.4541 nbrooks@oaklandnet.com

WHEN: Saturday, November 22, 2008
9:30am

WHERE: Acts Full Gospel
1034 66th Avenue
Oakland, CA 94621

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