

# # #

"Last night's fire was an immense tragedy. I am grateful to our first responders for their efforts to deal with this deadly fire. Our focus right now is on the victims and their families and ensuring that we have a full accounting for everyone who was impacted by this tragedy.

"We are fully committed to sharing as much information as we can as quickly as possible. The most critical information to share at this time is the phone number where victims' families can get information which is (510) 382-3000 at the Alameda County Coroner's Bureau."

NOTE: Mayor Schaaf and other key officials will be made available later today. Media outlets will be updated as soon as possible on the time and location for this availability.

# # #

Public Information Officers will be providing hourly media updates throughout the day, on the hour. City officials will hold a news conference this afternoon at a location and time to be announced.

For updates on Twitter, stay tuned to @ACSOSheriffs and @oaklandpoliceca and the following hashtags:

#oaklandfire

#31stAvefire

Mayor Libby Schaaf issued the following statement:

"Last night's fire was an immense tragedy. I am grateful to our first responders for their efforts to deal with this deadly fire. Our focus right now is on the victims and their families and ensuring that we have a full accounting for everyone who was impacted by this tragedy.

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continue the recovery effort and conduct the investigation into the cause of this deadly fire.

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office will be managing the victim identification process and working with the Oakland Police Department to provide additional updates.

The last permitted use of the building was as a warehouse. On November 13, 2016, the City of Oakland received complaints of blight and unpermitted interior construction at the building. On November 17, 2016, a City building inspector visited the property and verified the blight complaint, but could not gain access to the building to confirm the other complaint regarding unpermitted construction. This is an ongoing investigation.

Our city has experienced a tremendous tragedy. As a community, we can come together in recovery and spirit. The Oakland A's have set up a site for donations for Oakland Fire Victims at <https://www.youcaring.com/firevictimsofoaklandfiredec232016-706684>.

The Alameda County Coroner's Bureau has established a Family Assistance Center in coordination with the American Red Cross, located at 2425 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street. Family members and friends looking to locate loved ones may go to the center. Grief counseling and resources are available to families affected by this tragedy. We are requesting that only families and loved ones go to the Family Assistance Center and ask that the media respect the privacy of families at this time.

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**Editor's Note:** The next update briefing will be held at 8 a.m. on Sunday, December 4, at International Boulevard and 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

Harry Hamilton  
Public Information Officer  
City of Oakland  
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland CA 94612  
510-238-2107  
510-238-6341 (fax)

**11th Best Large City to Live in** - WalletHub, July 2016

**Oakland MSA Ranked 3rd Best Place for Tech Careers** - Value Penguin, June 2016

**Oakland is the most diverse large city in the U.S.** - WalletHub, May 2016

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The public may access the latest updated information on the City's website at oaklandnet.com or at (510) 238-2181. **Please do not contact the Alameda County Coroner's Bureau unless you believe a family member may be a victim of the fire.**

In the coming days, after the recovery phase is completed, our focus will shift to a thorough investigation of what occurred. We are committed to bringing every resource to bear to determine what happened here and how such a tragic event could have occurred. Our priority is to bring closure to this tragedy for the victims' families.

### **Background**

A three-alarm fire broke out on Friday, December 2, at 11:32 p.m. at 1315 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue in Oakland. The fire has resulted in a terrible tragedy.

The badly damaged building has required shoring, and first responders have begun retrieving the deceased. The roof of the building collapsed onto the second floor which has complicated the process of recovery effort. This process will be undertaken in a methodical and thorough process in a humane and compassionate manner to ensure that the victims are recovered and identified, and to make sure their families have this information as expeditiously as possible.

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this deadly fire.

Personnel have created pathways through the debris, dividing the building into quadrants and removing debris by hand, bucket-by-bucket. This methodical and painstaking approach is important to respectfully remove the victims and carefully process the scene. At this time, about 20 percent of the building has been searched.

The recovery effort, hindered by the roof collapse, required a breach of the cinder block wall with heavy rescue equipment at approximately 10:00 p.m. last night. The debris removal process continued throughout the evening.

Three of the victims have been positively identified and their families have been notified. Out of respect for the families, these names will not be released until later today.

The devastation of the scene has impacted the recovery personnel. The City has counseling services on-site to assist first responders and support teams.

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The Alameda County District Attorney's Office has activated the criminal investigation teams and is actively looking at this with all of the other law enforcement partners.

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News from: City of Oakland

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 4, 2016

Update from the City of Oakland on the  
31st Avenue Fire at 5:30 p.m.

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office Coroner's Bureau has provided the City of Oakland the names of the eight (8) victims that have been positively identified as having perished in the 31st Avenue Fire. One of the seven victims is a 17-year-old minor whose name will not be released. The victims' families have been notified.

The six identified victims are:  
Cash Askew, 22, Oakland, Calif.  
David Clines, 35, Oakland, Calif.  
Nick Gomez-Hall, 25, Coronado, Calif.  
Sara Hoda, 30, Walnut Creek, Calif.  
Travis Hough, 35, Oakland, Calif.  
Donna Kellogg, 32, Oakland, Calif.  
Brandon Chase Wittenauer, 32, Hayward, Calif.

The City of Oakland extends condolences to the families who have received the dreadful news that one of their loved ones perished in the fire.

The focus of our efforts remains the recovery of victims. To ensure the safety of the first responders, more shoring has been placed to secure the collapsed sections of the building. This will allow first responders to safely proceed with the recovery process. Personnel from the Oakland Fire Department, Oakland Police Department, Alameda County Sheriff's Office and Oakland Public Works Department continued the painstaking work of recovering the bodies from the scene of the fire. At this time, about 30 percent of the building has been searched.

Oakland Fire Department continues to work with the Alameda County Sheriff's Department, Oakland Police Department, Alcohol Tobacco and Fire, CAL OSHA, Alameda County Search and Rescue and the American Red Cross to continue the recovery effort and conduct the investigation into the cause of this deadly fire.

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Personnel from the Oakland Fire Department; Oakland Police Department; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; Alameda County Sheriff's Office; Cal OSHA; Alameda County Search and Rescue and Oakland Public Works Department continued the painstaking work of recovering the victims from the scene of the fire. At this time, about 70 percent of the building has been searched. We anticipate this will remain an active recovery scene for at least the next day.

In order for first responders to complete the recovery process, it was determined that a large crane was needed. To safely operate the crane, it was necessary to de-energize nearby power lines. Thanks to careful planning, the planned outage impacted 12 residential and commercial PG&E customers. The power was turned off at 3:20 p.m. The planned outage is anticipated to last at least 12 hours.

In addition to PG&E's phone notification, outreach teams from the City's Neighborhood Services Division and Economic Development Department paid personal visits to both commercial and residential customers. If customers have any questions about the outage, they may call PG&E at (800) 743-5002.

Recovery efforts in a portion of the building were suspended this morning around 12:15 a.m. due to precarious building conditions. While a plan to stabilize that wall, recovery work resumed in a different area of the building. Debris removal and victim recovery continue. Currently, 70% of the building has been cleared.

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An additional victim is a 17-year-old minor whose name will not be released.

During this tremendous time of loss and grief for the families and friends of the victims, the City of Oakland encourages the media to respect their need for privacy.

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 5, 2016

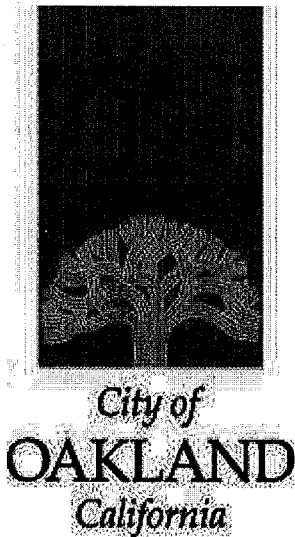
### **Update from the City of Oakland on the 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue Fire at 4:30 p.m.**

As of 2:30 p.m. on Monday, December 5, the number of located and recovered victims is 36. Twenty-two victims have been positively identified and their families have been notified. An additional 11 victims have been tentatively identified and three victims need scientific identification.

Today, Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley shared the details of the launch of her office's criminal investigation into the fire. The District Attorney's Office has activated the criminal investigation teams and is actively looking at this with all of the other law enforcement partners. In the coming days, after the recovery phase is completed, our focus will shift to a thorough investigation of what occurred. We are committed to bringing every resource to bear to determine what happened here and how such a tragic event could have occurred. Our priority is to bring closure to this tragedy for the victims' families.

As District Attorney O'Malley highlighted, members of the victims' families may be eligible to receive financial assistance through the California Victim Compensation Program (CalVCP). For details on this and other victim services, please visit [http://www.alcoda.org/victim\\_witness/](http://www.alcoda.org/victim_witness/).

At a 2:30 p.m. media briefing, Alameda County Sheriff Ahern shared images of the inside of the building at 1315 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue and recovery efforts undertaken. The images are available at <http://www2.oaklandnet.com/w/OAK061771>.



#### **Media Contact:**

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Twitter: @Oakland





dreadful news that one of their loved ones perished in the fire. Previously, the names of seven (7) identified victims were released. They include:

Cash Askew, 22, Oakland, Calif.  
David Cline, 24, Oakland, Calif.  
Nick Gomez-Hall, 25, Coronado, Calif.  
Sara Hoda, 30, Walnut Creek, Calif.  
Travis Hough, 35, Oakland, Calif.  
Donna Kellogg, 32, Oakland, Calif.  
Brandon Chase Wittenauer, 32, Hayward, Calif.

An additional victim is a 17-year-old minor whose name will not be released.

Personnel from the Oakland Fire Department; Oakland Police Department; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; Alameda County Sheriff's Office; Cal OSHA; Alameda County Search and Rescue and Oakland Public Works Department continued the painstaking work of recovering the victims from the scene of the fire. At this time, about 70 percent of the building has been searched. We anticipate this will remain an active recovery scene for at least the next day.

In order for first responders to complete the recovery process, it was determined that a large crane was needed. To safely operate the crane, it was necessary to de-energize nearby power lines. Thanks to careful planning, the planned outage impacted 12 residential and commercial PG&E customers. The power was turned off at 3:20 p.m. The planned outage is anticipated to last at least 12 hours.

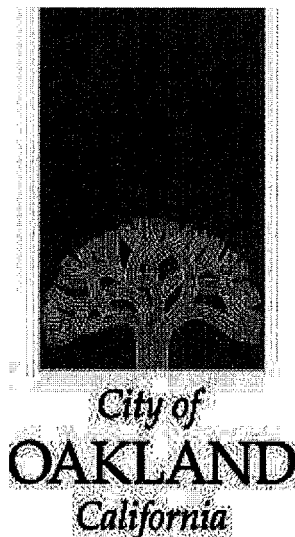
In addition to PG&E's phone notification, outreach teams from the City's Neighborhood Services Division and Economic Development Department paid personal visits to both commercial and residential customers. If customers have any questions about the outage, they may call PG&E at (800) 743-5002.

Recovery efforts in a portion of the building were suspended this morning around 12:15 a.m. due to precarious building conditions. While a plan to stabilize that wall, recovery work resumed in a different area of the building. Debris removal and victim recovery continue. Currently, 70% of the building has been cleared.

The focus of our efforts remains the recovery of victims. This recovery will be undertaken in a methodical and thorough process in a humane and compassionate manner to ensure that the victims are recovered and identified, and to make sure their families have this information as expeditiously as possible.

The Family Assistance Center, established by the Alameda County Coroner's Bureau in coordination with the American Red Cross, continues to operate at 2425 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street. Family members and friends looking to locate loved ones may go to the center between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Grief counseling and resource are available to families affected by this tragedy. We are requesting that only families and loved ones go to the Family Assistance Center and ask that the

**From:**OPD Media <[opdmedia@oaklandnet.com](mailto:opdmedia@oaklandnet.com)>  
**Subject:**Today's Press Releases from the City of Oakland - 05 Dec 16  
**Date:**December 5, 2016 at 10:08:52 PM PST  
**To:**OPD Media <[opdmedia@oaklandnet.com](mailto:opdmedia@oaklandnet.com)>



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## News from: **City of Oakland**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 5, 2016

### **Ten Additional Victims of 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue Fire Identified by the Alameda County Sheriff's Office Coroner's Bureau**

*The next media availability will be at 6:00 a.m. Tuesday, December 6, 2016.*

Of the 36 victims who perished in the 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue Fire, 22 victims have been positively identified and their families have been notified. An additional 10 victims have been tentatively identified and three victims need scientific identification.

At this time, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office's Coroner's Bureau has provided the names of 10 additional positively identified victims of the 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue fire. They include:

Em Bohlka, 33, Oakland, Calif.  
Micah Danemayer, 28, Oakland, Calif.  
Chelsea Dolan, 33, San Francisco, Calif.  
Justin Fritz, 29, Berkeley, Calif.  
Alex Ghassan, 35, Oakland, Calif.  
Michela Gregory, 20, South San Francisco, Calif.  
Edmund Lapine, 34, Oakland, Calif.  
Jennifer Morris, 21, Foster City, Calif.  
Benjamin Runnels, 32, Oakland, Calif.  
Jennifer Kiyomi Taouye, 31, Oakland, Calif.

The victims' families have been notified. The City of Oakland extends condolences to the families who have received the dreadful news that one of their loved ones perished in the fire.

Previously, the names of seven (7) identified victims were released. They include  
Cash Askew, 22, Oakland, Calif.  
David Cline, 24, Oakland, Calif.  
Nick Gomez-Hall, 25, Coronado, Calif.  
Sara Hoda, 30, Walnut Creek, Calif.  
Travis Hough, 35, Oakland, Calif.  
Donna Kellogg, 32, Oakland, Calif.  
Brandon Chase Wittenauer, 32, Hayward, Calif.

An additional victim is a 17-year-old minor whose name will not be released.

“In my previous Facebook post, I had no idea there was a loss of life,” Almena’s statement to NBC Bay Area read. “This tragic event consumes me every moment. My heart is broken. My heartfelt condolences to the family and friends who have suffered the loss of loved ones.”

Heavy machinery deployed to shore up sections of the damaged building could be heard late into Sunday evening, and until work was halted, groups of firefighters and workers cleared material from the site. Makeshift memorials of flower bouquets contributed by well-wishers slowly grew in size along nearby sidewalks and fences.

<http://www.dailynews.com/general-news/20161205/oakland-fire-investigation-no-stone-unturned>

###

"I've been kicked out of all the best banks," Goldsberry said.

Dan Mitchell is an Oakland writer. Email: [business@sfchronicle.com](mailto:business@sfchronicle.com)

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/business/article/Why-a-bank-for-pot-businesses-remains-a-hazy-idea-10688590.php>

**December 5, 2016**

## **Oakland fire investigation: 'No stone unturned'**

By Rick Hurd, Harry Harris and George Kelly, Bay Area News Group  
*Los Angeles Daily News*

OAKLAND >> Murder charges remain a possibility as an Alameda County investigative team continued to look into why a horrific fire broke out at a Fruitvale District warehouse, killing 36 people, authorities said Monday afternoon.

District Attorney Nancy O'Malley promised that "no stone would be left unturned" during the investigation, which remained as painstakingly slow as the cleanup, three days after the blaze at the building known as the Ghost Ship.

"We are following up on every single lead," O'Malley said.

Several people have been interviewed as part of the investigation, and more are being scheduled, O'Malley said.

She would not comment on whether Derrick Ion Almena, the resident of the warehouse and the subject of harsh words by people who know him, has been interviewed yet.

"It's too premature to say where the investigation will lead us," O'Malley said. "We are going to be looking at everything."

The recovery of bodies continued through the afternoon after a safety issue forced recovery efforts to stop from around 11:20 p.m. Sunday night until 9 a.m. on Monday, according to Oakland police spokeswoman Officer Johnna Watson said.

The death toll remained at 36, but Alameda County Sheriff's Coroner Greg Ahern said authorities "were not expecting any more huge numbers" of bodies in the building.

Thus far, 33 victims, including the 17-year-old son of an Alameda County sheriff's deputy, have been tentatively identified and 22 families have been notified by the Alameda County coroner's office.

The coroner has five pending notifications. Two victims have not been identified because they are too badly burned and one doesn't match the description of anyone on the missing person's list.

Crews found one victim each from Finland, Guatemala and Korea.

Authorities also said about 50 of the original 220 names who were unaccounted for remained that way Monday afternoon but that doesn't necessarily indicate they were in the building.

By Dan Mitchell  
*SF Chronicle*

Debby Goldsberry remembers the day she logged into her company's bank account and saw something startling: a negative balance of almost \$1 billion. "I nearly had a heart attack," she said.

That was nine years ago. Goldsberry, now the executive director of the Magnolia Wellness Clinic in Oakland, a marijuana dispensary, was then on the board of the Berkeley Patients Group. The Drug Enforcement Administration had seized all the cash in the group's account and, apparently just to be sure that it would be able to seize any future deposits, it created the eye-popping negative balance. In fact, the agency seized only about \$120,000, which had been earmarked to pay state sales taxes.

So Goldsberry's current business runs on cash, as do most marijuana dispensaries. Magnolia employees double-count bills as they come in and out. "We have to treat our cash like a hot potato" to prevent robberies or burglaries, Goldsberry said. "As soon as it arrives, it's got to go."

The passage of Proposition 64 last month, which made marijuana legal for recreational use in California, has done little to change the fact that pot is a cash crop in more than one sense. Marijuana remains illegal under federal law, which means that banks have to file stacks of paperwork just to handle everyday transactions — if they dare to take on marijuana businesses as customers at all.

On Friday, California Treasurer John Chiang said he would form a group to study the banking issues that hamper the cannabis industry. Earlier in the week, the Oakland City Council voted to study a public bank meant to serve pot businesses. Such a bank would allow owners to deposit sales receipts, pay taxes, buy supplies and, perhaps eventually, get loans.

But Oakland's proposal faces enormous challenges, and even if that bank or any others get off the ground, it's not clear they'll solve the industry's banking problems.

Bankers, understandably scared of being charged with money laundering or other crimes, generally won't touch marijuana businesses. Even if governments like Oakland create their own banks, the risk would remain.

As it looks now, however, Oakland's study seems likely to conclude that creating a public bank would be a major challenge at best, and utterly infeasible at worst. Creating a publicly owned bank is next to impossible in the United States, and that's even when such banks aren't serving problematic businesses like pot dispensaries.

Public banks in the United States face "huge, high and flaming hoops," largely because of resistance from established banks, said Gwendolyn Hallsmith, the executive director of Global Community Initiatives, who works with the Public Banking Institute, an advocacy group. Only one operates in the country: the Bank of North Dakota, created in 1919 to serve farmers like a credit union. This is a stark contrast with many other parts of the world, where publicly owned banks are common. "There's one on every street corner in Germany," Hallsmith said.

Any kind of full-service bank must do business with other banks — for example, to transfer funds. Banks that refuse to serve the pot trade might similarly refuse to do business with a public bank involved with it. And government authorities like the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and the Federal Reserve would likely look askance.

Chiang acknowledged as much in a letter to members of his working group. "This conflict between federal and state rules creates a number of problems for the states that have legalized cannabis use,

Alameda County Sheriff's Office spokesman Sgt. Ray Kelly spoke with some of the families and one woman showed him her phone with a text message on it from her daughter that said, "I love you. I'm going to die, Mom."

"I think it's important to recognize messages like these," he said. "Victims were inside and aware that they were going to die."

Kelly told The Associated Press that rescue crews have found bodies of people "protecting each other, holding each other."

O'Malley said criminal charges could range from murder to manslaughter depending on the evidence uncovered during the investigation. She did not give a timetable for when the probe would be completed, saying only that it will be "methodical and thorough, without sacrificing the detail that's needed."

On Monday, Derrick Ion Almena, the founder of the "Ghost Ship," sent a statement to NBC Bay Area responding to criticism over an earlier Facebook post in which he lamented the loss of material possessions but not the victims.

"In my previous Facebook post, I had no idea there was a loss of life," he said. "This tragic event consumes me every moment. My heart is broken. My heartfelt condolences to the family and friends who have suffered the loss of loved ones."

Almena also told NBC Nightly News reporter Miguel Almaguer that he had spoken with investigators and has not been charged. His family was not at the warehouse when the fire broke out.

"Do I take blame or responsibility for this?" asked Almena, shaking his head.

The city had received complaints about blight and illegal structures inside the warehouse near 31st Avenue and International Boulevard. An inspector paid a visit two weeks ago but left when no one answered the door, according to authorities.

The fire, among the deadliest in California history, is believed to have started on the first floor as dozens attended an electronic music party on the second floor. The power went out and people struggled to escape down a narrow staircase made out of pallets and plywood, according to authorities.

Former "Ghost Ship" tenant Shelly Mack said the artists' collective bypassed the meter and used "massive amounts" of electricity. A back staircase was closed during parties because it was used as a conduit for cables, she said.

People lingered at makeshift memorials set up on sidewalks near the building Monday, some taking pictures and some crying. News trucks from around the world filled nearby streets.

The tragedy drew words of sympathy from President Barack Obama. He said the full toll of the disaster is unknown, but "many people — including young men and women with their whole futures ahead of them — have tragically lost their lives."

Obama also thanked firefighters and other first responders who have worked to recover victims and treat the wounded.

Almena, 46, led the Oakland arts collective and commune from the building known as the "Ghost Ship," but he was nowhere to be seen when the fire broke out around 11:32 p.m. on Friday. The warehouse had been rented for a dance party.

He lived there with his wife, Micah Allison, and three children, and rented space to others.

"Am I the man who should be held accountable?" Almena asked host Matt Lauer. "What am I going to say to that. Should I be held accountable? I can barely stand here right now."

Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley announced Monday that charges ranging from murder to involuntary manslaughter could emerge from a criminal investigation into the fire, but she declined to say whether the focus begins with Almena. He converted the two-story space in the 1300 block of 31st Avenue, near the corner of International Boulevard, into a Burning Man-style arts collective and commune.

The facility did not have permits for parties or residential living, and former residents and frequent visitors say he was arrogant and indifferent about hazards that one of his former acquaintances dubbed a "death trap."

"Did we modify? Did we make changes? I would like say we made improvements," Almena said.

Said Allison, who accompanied Almena to the "Today" interview: "We didn't have enough money that needed to be done there, and there was nobody helping us in the ways that we needed."

Almena has run into trouble with the law previously. He pleaded no contest in Alameda County to a misdemeanor charge of receiving stolen property in a plea deal that saved him from facing a felony and was placed on probation until 2019. Online records show his criminal history also includes an unspecified arrest in Los Angeles County.

Will the blame for California's most devastating structure fire since 1906 also fall upon him?

"I'm worried man," he told Lauer. "I'm worried that my kids are going to be taken away from me."

Said Allison, who spent most of the interview off camera: "As a mother, I'm having a terrible time ... and I'm so sorry. I'm so sorry for what has happened."

Almena has drawn criticism for not being at the property on Friday night. He, Allison and their children stayed at a nearby hotel. He lamented on Facebook on Saturday morning about the loss of "everything I've worked for," without mentioning the victims, also drawing public ire. He later sent a statement to NBC that he put up his Facebook post before learning of the casualties.

"I'm 47 years old. I'm the father of this space," he said in the "Today" interview. "On the night of the fire, did I know there was going to be a fire? Did I remove myself from this space and get a hotel because I wanted to avoid this, because I wanted to cast blame on other people? No. ... I wanted to get a good night sleep with my children. I wanted to let the young people do what they needed to do."

Staff writer Thomas Peele contributed to this story.

<http://www.eastbaytimes.com/2016/12/06/ghost-ship-manager-derrick-ion-almena-apologizes-defends-living-arrangement/>



**December 6, 2016**

## **After Oakland warehouse fire, calls come for more inspectors**

By David DeBolt, Thomas Peele

*East Bay Times*

OAKLAND — In the wake of the deadly Ghost Ship fire, questions are being raised whether the city has sufficient fire inspectors to cover its diverse and sometimes problematic housing stock, including many older manufacturing warehouses that have been converted to artists' collectives.

Until last year, the city had gone three years without a fire marshal — the person with authority to shut down unsafe structures — and four other inspector positions are funded but remain vacant, according to documents.

And two years before the fire that killed 36 at an artist's collective Friday night, an Alameda civil grand jury report showed the fire department failed to inspect more than one third of the city's 11,000 commercial properties. The 2014 report offered another alarming finding: Oakland was losing about \$1.4 million a year in unrecovered fees, fines and abatement costs due to poor billing and collections practices.

Questions remain about whether fire inspectors ever visited the warehouse after the Ghost Ship opened in 2013. Oakland city officials have yet to release detailed information on the overall history of fire inspections at 1315 31st Ave. However, Tuesday night Mayor Libby Schaaf said the city was compiling records from several departments and would make them available to the public.

Councilman Noel Gallo acknowledged the shortage, and the city's struggles to get inspection efforts on track.

"We have a shortage of staff at the enforcement level and in the fire level," said Councilman Noel Gallo, who represents the Fruitvale district where the fire happened. "We've been trying to merge the building inspectors with the fire inspectors."

A review of employee data obtained by the Bay Area News Group shows in 2015 Oakland had nine fire prevention inspectors; three assistant fire marshals; and a fire marshal, Miguel Trujillo. There were also five fire suppression district inspectors.

Firefighter union Vice President Zac Unger said leaving the fire marshal position vacant for so long "sends a terrible signal that protecting firefighters and citizens isn't a priority."

There is a "giant disconnect" between the firefighters and the civilian fire safety inspectors, he said.

"We see dangerous stuff on the street and we send it up there and it just goes into a void," Unger said, adding that Fire Chief Teresa Deloach Reed "has completely ignored fire prevention."

According to the most recent staffing report released in October, two civilian fire prevention bureau inspectors positions and two fire suppression district inspector positions remain vacant, even though City Council approved funding for the jobs.

**"To me, that is the bigger outrage," Council member Rebecca Kaplan said Tuesday. "There are significant vacancies in the fire department."**

**Kaplan** said positions are posted and hiring is a priority.

"Those complaints that deal with life safety that pose a threat to people's survival need to be given priority," she said.

**Kaplan** talked about the city's responsibility to address safety concerns.

Some of the last survivors to escape the Friday fire said law enforcement and firefighters were in that building many times and wonder why nothing was done earlier.

"Well, exactly, and that is why I am supporting the request by members of the public that there be an independent investigation," **Kaplan** said. "Because we don't yet know. Did the incident not get reported up to the next people to respond, or was it reported and not responded to?"

Gallo wants a full accounting of building owners and landlords for those warehouse spaces.

"Many of the property owners who are arriving in Oakland do not live in Oakland and do not live in the United States of America," he said. "I want to clearly identify in terms of the ownership."

Gallo said his own complaint about the 31st Avenue warehouse went nowhere.

"In my district, I have a large immigrant community that is just arriving in Oakland, and they're choosing to live in apartments in these commercial places," he said. "In some places, the property owners are taking advantage of them."

City leaders said they are determined to find out where the system failed to prevent future tragedies.

<http://www.nbcbayarea.com/investigations/Oakland-Leaders-Call-For-Probe-Into-Illegal-Live-Work-Warehouses-405118005.html>

**December 6, 2016**

## **VIDEO: Concerned residents, business owners raise questions about safety of another Oakland building amid deadly fire**

By Gabe Slate

KRON 4

[Video in Link]

OAKLAND (KRON) — There are scores of warehouses across the Bay Area.

On Tuesday night, concerned residents and business owners are raising questions about another building in Oakland. They say they want to prevent a tragedy like Friday's fire from happening again.

Dorothy King is the owner of Everett & Jones BBQ restaurant on Broadway in downtown Oakland. She is holding a press conference Wednesday morning to raise the red flag about a warehouse on her block.

She was not able to talk to KRON4 on Tuesday. But Gabe Slate did visit her restaurant and spoke with the staff there to give some perspective.

The restaurant is located at the corner of Second Street in Jack London Square.





following position:

➤ Support Services Manager

For the most up-to-date information on City jobs, please view the Employment Information page on our website at <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/oaklandca/default.cfm>. The Employment Information page also contains information on minimum qualifications of specific job classifications, how to apply for a job on-line and how to submit a job interest card for positions not currently posted. For more information, please contact the Human Resources Management Receptionist at (510) 238-3112.

**Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

For information on upcoming City meetings and events, please visit the City's online calendar at <http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Events/index.htm>. For events at the Oakland Public Library, please visit <http://oaklandlibrary.org/events>. For a roster of holiday events throughout the community, please visit [www.oaklandnet.com/celebrations](http://www.oaklandnet.com/celebrations).

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

SABRINA B. LANDRETH

City Administrator

**Main Library Offers Introduction To Python Programming For Teens** – On Tuesday, December 20, the Main Library's TeenZone, 125 14th Street, is offering a workshop for students with no previous experience in programming. Learn the basic concepts of Python language, string manipulation, arithmetic/logic operations, loops, lists and more. For more information on the curriculum, please visit [www.mathandcoding.org](http://www.mathandcoding.org). Space is limited to nine students, so register now by calling (510) 238-7332. This class will be conducted in two sections, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Lana Adlawan, Teen Services Coordinator, at [ladlawan@oaklandlibrary.org](mailto:ladlawan@oaklandlibrary.org) or (510) 238-7613.

**American Red Cross Lifeguard Training Class** – From Monday, December 19 to Thursday, December 22, Oakland Parks & Recreation (OPR) is hosting an American Red Cross Lifeguard certification class open for those 15 and older. The class runs from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day and costs \$190 for Oakland residents or \$225 for non-residents. The registration fee can be reimbursed if you are hired by OPR Aquatics and upon completion of 200 worked hours. The training class will take place at Temescal Pool, 371 45th Street. For more information and to register, please contact William Davis, Jr., Aquatics Specialist, at [wdavisjr@oaklandnet.com](mailto:wdavisjr@oaklandnet.com).

**Dimond Branch To Close Temporarily For Renovation** – On Friday, December 23, the Dimond Branch Library, 3565 Fruitvale Avenue, will close temporarily for a renovation project. The branch is scheduled to reopen in May 2017. The renovation project consists of a "makeover" of the first floor to better serve patrons, with distinct program areas and comfortable seating. New furniture will be purchased, as will a new information desk and self-check machines. The project is funded entirely by donations and foundation grants. If patrons have items on hold with Dimond Branch designated as the pick-up location, the location will automatically change to the César E. Chávez Branch Library, 3301 East 12th St., Suite 271. The book drops at the Dimond Library will remain open during the closure and returned items will be checked in on a regular basis. For more information, please contact Mary Schrader, Supervising Librarian, at [mschrader@oaklandlibrary.org](mailto:mschrader@oaklandlibrary.org) or at (510) 238-6720.

**Author And Feminist Judy Juanita To Talk At Main Library** – On Saturday, December 10, at 2:30 p.m., local author, novelist and playwright Judy Juanita will give a presentation at the Main Library, 125 14th Street, in the Bradley C. Walters Community Room. Ms. Juanita will discuss her latest work, *De Facto Feminism: Essays Straight Outta Oakland*, featuring essays about her evolution as a feminist through various iconic experiences in the 1960s, including joining the Black Panther Party and editing the Black Panther Newspaper. For more information, please contact Mana Tominaga, Supervising Librarian, at [mtominaga@oaklandlibrary.org](mailto:mtominaga@oaklandlibrary.org) or (510) 238-6611.

**Marian Van Der Zwaan's Red String** – Through Saturday, December 31, *Red String*, a site-specific installation by Marian van der Zwaan, will be on display at Pro Arts, 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, and in the adjacent Kahn's Alley. The installation was developed with support of Amnesty International in Portugal, and arrives at Pro Arts from Europe, as part of an international tour including site-specific installations in The Netherlands, Lithuania, Portugal and South Africa. Five kilometers, about three miles, of continuous red string has been threaded and woven through the interior and exterior of Pro Arts as well as Kahn's Alley and the Rotunda Building. The installation is a symbolic gesture meant to prompt critical dialogue on issues surrounding race and ethnic discrimination. An opening reception and artist talk will be held from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Friday, December 2, at Pro Arts. For more information, please visit <https://proartsgallery.org/current/>.

**Folk Singer José-Luis Orozco Appearing At Melrose Library** – On Wednesday, December 14, at 10:45 a.m., José-Luis Orozco will give a special performance for children at the Melrose Branch Library, 4805 Foothill Boulevard. Mr. Orozco is a bilingual educator, children's author and recording artist who dedicates his life to creating quality bilingual music, books and videos for children. He encourages learning of the Spanish language and promotes Latin American culture through his art. For more information, please contact Kate Hug, Children's Librarian, at [khug@oaklandlibrary.org](mailto:khug@oaklandlibrary.org) or (510) 535-5623.

**Holiday Caroling On Lake Merritt** – Through Friday, December 23, the Lake Merritt Boating Center is offering on-the-water tours launching from 568 Bellevue Avenue. Enjoy the Holiday Room with hot cider and cookies before beginning your voyage around Lake Merritt. Experience a unique view of Oakland as your Water Sleigh glides past the 18th Street Fountain & Holiday Cove before returning to the Boating Center. Times vary. The admission fee is \$6 per person or \$100 to reserve the whole boat for a private tour. To view the flyer, please visit [www.sailoakland.com](http://www.sailoakland.com). For more information, please contact Sarah Herbelin, Boating & Outdoor Recreation Supervisor, at [sherbelin@oaklandnet.com](mailto:sherbelin@oaklandnet.com) or (510) 238-2196.

**DeFremery Crab Feed** – On Saturday, December 10, deFremery Recreation Center, 1651 Adeline Street, is hosting its annual all-you-can-eat crab feed fundraiser. A 50/50 raffle, prizes and an auction will round out the social event. Proceeds help support Bay Area youth programs and scholarships. The doors open at 5:00 p.m. and the entrance fee is \$55. Tickets may be purchased at the recreation center or online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/defremerys-annual->

the California Disaster Assistance Act, the City of Oakland may be eligible for reimbursement of up to 75 percent of qualifying response and recovery expenses related to the 31st Avenue Fire. Generally, these include labor, equipment, materials and other expenses related to extinguishing the fire and recovering the victims from the scene. The Oakland Fire Department's Emergency Management Services Division will be developing an initial damage estimate to provide to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) for consideration for California Disaster Assistance Act funding. Staff from the Economic & Workforce Development Department has already begun distributing the Estimated Disaster Economic Injury Worksheet for Businesses. Artists who may have operated a business in the 1315 31st Avenue warehouse may be eligible for SBA loans, and are encouraged to contact Aliza Gallo, Economic Development Manager, at [agallo@oaklandnet.com](mailto:agallo@oaklandnet.com) or (510) 238-7405. As of the time of this report, the ATF is continuing their investigation into the source of the fire. For more information, please visit <http://www2.oaklandnet.com/OAK061753>.

**Rebuild Mosswood: Envision The Future** – On Saturday, December 10, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., the Oakland Parks & Recreation and Public Works departments are hosting a community meeting dubbed Rebuild Mosswood: Envisioning the Future. The event will be held at Mosswood Park, 3612 Webster Street. This event is an invitation to the community to share their vision for the “new” Mosswood Community Center. At 1:00 p.m., a short program, hosted by OPR Director Nicholas Williams, will feature special guests Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf and Marshawn Lynch. Following the program, City design staff will facilitate the community engagement process to create a vision for a “new” Mosswood Community Center. There will also be activities for children and a special visioning station for youth. All ages are invited to attend. The Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation established a “Rebuild Mosswood” account to receive tax deductible donations. Donations will be used to support rebuilding efforts for Mosswood, including covering costs that exceed available insurance as well as amenities that the community may desire adding to the park. To make a donation, please visit [www.oaklandparks.org](http://www.oaklandparks.org) or call the foundation at (510) 465-1850. For more information about the event, please email [parksandrec@oaklandnet.com](mailto:parksandrec@oaklandnet.com) or call (510) 238-PARK (7275).

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following position:

➤ Support Services Manager

For the most up-to-date information on City jobs, please view the Employment Information page on our website at <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/oaklandca/default.cfm>. The Employment Information page also contains information on minimum qualifications of specific job classifications, how to apply for a job on-line and how to submit a job interest card for positions not currently posted. For more information, please contact the Human Resources Management Receptionist at (510) 238-3112.

**Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

For information on upcoming City meetings and events, please visit the City's online calendar at <http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Events/index.htm>. For events at the Oakland Public Library, please visit <http://oaklandlibrary.org/events>. For a roster of holiday events throughout the community, please visit [www.oaklandnet.com/celebrations](http://www.oaklandnet.com/celebrations).

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

SABRINA B. LANDRETH  
City Administrator

**Main Library Offers Introduction To Python Programming For Teens** – On Tuesday, December 20, the Main Library's TeenZone, 125 14th Street, is offering a workshop for students with no previous experience in programming. Learn the basic concepts of Python language, string manipulation, arithmetic/logic operations, loops, lists and more. For more information on the curriculum, please visit [www.mathandcoding.org](http://www.mathandcoding.org). Space is limited to nine students, so register now by calling (510) 238-7332. This class will be conducted in two sections, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Lana Adlawan, Teen Services Coordinator, at [ladlawan@oaklandlibrary.org](mailto:ladlawan@oaklandlibrary.org) or (510) 238-7613.

**American Red Cross Lifeguard Training Class** – From Monday, December 19 to Thursday, December 22, Oakland Parks & Recreation (OPR) is hosting an American Red Cross Lifeguard certification class open for those 15 and older. The class runs from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day and costs \$190 for Oakland residents or \$225 for non-residents. The registration fee can be reimbursed if you are hired by OPR Aquatics and upon completion of 200 worked hours. The training class will take place at Temescal Pool, 371 45th Street. For more information and to register, please contact William Davis, Jr., Aquatics Specialist, at [wdavisjr@oaklandnet.com](mailto:wdavisjr@oaklandnet.com).

**Dimond Branch To Close Temporarily For Renovation** – On Friday, December 23, the Dimond Branch Library, 3565 Fruitvale Avenue, will close temporarily for a renovation project. The branch is scheduled to reopen in May 2017. The renovation project consists of a "makeover" of the first floor to better serve patrons, with distinct program areas and comfortable seating. New furniture will be purchased, as will a new information desk and self-check machines. The project is funded entirely by donations and foundation grants. If patrons have items on hold with Dimond Branch designated as the pick-up location, the location will automatically change to the César E. Chávez Branch Library, 3301 East 12th St., Suite 271. The book drops at the Dimond Library will remain open during the closure and returned items will be checked in on a regular basis. For more information, please contact Mary Schrader, Supervising Librarian, at [mschrader@oaklandlibrary.org](mailto:mschrader@oaklandlibrary.org) or at (510) 238-6720.

**Author And Feminist Judy Juanita To Talk At Main Library** – On Saturday, December 10, at 2:30 p.m., local author, novelist and playwright Judy Juanita will give a presentation at the Main Library, 125 14th Street, in the Bradley C. Walters Community Room. Ms. Juanita will discuss her latest work, *De Facto Feminism: Essays Straight Outta Oakland*, featuring essays about her evolution as a feminist through various iconic experiences in the 1960s, including joining the Black Panther Party and editing the Black Panther Newspaper. For more information, please contact Mana Tominaga, Supervising Librarian, at [mtominaga@oaklandlibrary.org](mailto:mtominaga@oaklandlibrary.org) or (510) 238-6611.

**Marian Van Der Zwaan's Red String** – Through Saturday, December 31, *Red String*, a site-specific installation by Marian van der Zwaan, will be on display at Pro Arts, 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, and in the adjacent Kahn's Alley. The installation was developed with support of Amnesty International in Portugal, and arrives at Pro Arts from Europe, as part of an international tour including site-specific installations in The Netherlands, Lithuania, Portugal and South Africa. Five kilometers, about three miles, of continuous red string has been threaded and woven through the interior and exterior of Pro Arts as well as Kahn's Alley and the Rotunda Building. The installation is a symbolic gesture meant to prompt critical dialogue on issues surrounding race and ethnic discrimination. An opening reception and artist talk will be held from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Friday, December 2, at Pro Arts. For more information, please visit <https://proartsgallery.org/current/>.

**Folk Singer José-Luis Orozco Appearing At Melrose Library** – On Wednesday, December 14, at 10:45 a.m., José-Luis Orozco will give a special performance for children at the Melrose Branch Library, 4805 Foothill Boulevard. Mr. Orozco is a bilingual educator, children's author and recording artist who dedicates his life to creating quality bilingual music, books and videos for children. He encourages learning of the Spanish language and promotes Latin American culture through his art. For more information, please contact Kate Hug, Children's Librarian, at [khug@oaklandlibrary.org](mailto:khug@oaklandlibrary.org) or (510) 535-5623.

**Holiday Caroling On Lake Merritt** – Through Friday, December 23, the Lake Merritt Boating Center is offering on-the-water tours launching from 568 Bellevue Avenue. Enjoy the Holiday Room with hot cider and cookies before beginning your voyage around Lake Merritt. Experience a unique view of Oakland as your Water Sleigh glides past the 18th Street Fountain & Holiday Cove before returning to the Boating Center. Times vary. The admission fee is \$6 per person or \$100 to reserve the whole boat for a private tour. To view the flyer, please visit [www.sailoakland.com](http://www.sailoakland.com). For more information, please contact Sarah Herbelin, Boating & Outdoor Recreation Supervisor, at [sherbelin@oaklandnet.com](mailto:sherbelin@oaklandnet.com) or (510) 238-2196.

**DeFremery Crab Feed** – On Saturday, December 10, deFremery Recreation Center, 1651 Adeline Street, is hosting its annual all-you-can-eat crab feed fundraiser. A 50/50 raffle, prizes and an auction will round out the social event. Proceeds help support Bay Area youth programs and scholarships. The doors open at 5:00 p.m. and the entrance fee is \$55. Tickets may be purchased at the recreation center or online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/defremerys-annual->

this deadly fire.

Personnel have created pathways through the debris, dividing the building into quadrants and removing debris by hand, bucket-by-bucket. This methodical and painstaking approach is important to respectfully remove the victims and carefully process the scene. At this time, about 20 percent of the building has been searched.

The recovery effort, hindered by the roof collapse, required a breach of the cinder block wall with heavy rescue equipment at approximately 10:00 p.m. last night. The debris removal process continued throughout the evening.

Three of the victims have been positively identified and their families have been notified. Out of respect for the families, these names will not be released until later today.

The devastation of the scene has impacted the recovery personnel. The City has counseling services on-site to assist first responders and support teams.

The Family Assistance Center, established by the Alameda County Coroner's Bureau in coordination with the American Red Cross, continues to operate at 2425 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street. Family members and friends looking to locate loved ones may go to the center. Grief counseling and resources are available to families affected by this tragedy. We are requesting that only families and loved ones go to the Family Assistance Center and ask that the media respect the privacy of families at this time.

The public may access the latest updated information on the City's website at [oaklandnet.com](http://oaklandnet.com) or at (510) 238-2181. **Please do not contact the Alameda County Coroner's Bureau unless you believe a family member may be a victim of the fire.**

In the coming days, after the recovery phase is completed, our focus will shift to a thorough investigation of what occurred. We are committed to bringing every resource to bear to determine what happened here and how such a tragic event could have occurred. Our priority is to bring closure to this tragedy for the victims' families.

### **Background**

A three-alarm fire broke out on Friday, December 2, at 11:32 p.m. at 1315 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue in Oakland. The fire has resulted in a terrible tragedy.

The badly damaged building has required shoring, and first responders have begun retrieving the deceased. The roof of the building collapsed onto the second floor which has complicated the process of recovery effort. This process will be undertaken in a methodical and thorough process in a humane and compassionate manner to ensure that the victims are recovered and identified, and to make sure their families have this information as expeditiously as possible.



The Alameda County Sheriff's Office will be managing the victim identification process and working with the Oakland Police Department to provide additional updates.

The last permitted use of the building was as a warehouse. On November 13, 2016, the City of Oakland received complaints of blight and unpermitted interior construction at the building. On November 17, 2016, a City building inspector visited the property and verified the blight complaint, but could not gain access to the building to confirm the other complaint regarding unpermitted construction. This is an ongoing investigation.

Our city has experienced a tremendous tragedy. As a community, we can come together in recovery and spirit. The Oakland A's have set up a site for donations for Oakland Fire Victims  
at <https://www.youcaring.com/firevictimsofoaklandfiredec232016-706684>.

# # #

## Kaplan, Rebecca

---

**From:** Vice Mayor Annie Campbell Washington <annecampbellwashington@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 04, 2016 1:23 AM  
**To:** Kaplan, Rebecca  
**Subject:** Oakland Mourns the Victims of Last Night's Tragic Fire



Dear Friends,

Saturday morning we woke up to a horrific tragedy -- the deadliest structure fire in Oakland's history had occurred overnight in the Fruitvale neighborhood.

At this moment, there are nine people confirmed dead, but many more are still missing. This devastating loss of young, creative lives hits our entire community so hard. Our hearts and prayers go out to each and every individual who has been affected by this tragedy -- especially the families and loved ones of the victims. You can read the New York Times account of the fire [here](#).

We deeply appreciate the combined efforts of the Oakland Fire Department, Oakland Police Department and the Alameda County Sheriff's Office in their ongoing and tireless efforts to recover victims and provide support to the families and loved ones.

The Alameda County Coroner's Bureau has established a Family Assistance Center in coordination with the American Red Cross, located at 2425 E. 12th Street. Family members and friends looking to locate loved ones may go to the center or call (510) 382-3000. Grief counseling and resources are available to families and loved ones affected by this tragedy.

This is an immense tragedy for Oakland and we are all grieving. As a community, we will continue to come together in love and spirit. The Oakland A's and Oakland Raiders have set up a site for donations for Oakland Fire Victims at [YouCaring](#).

A community candlelight vigil has been scheduled for Monday, December 5th from 8-10 pm at the Lake Merritt Pergola (599 El Embarcadero).

If you or someone you know needs help during this difficult time, please text BAY to 741741 to chat with a trained Crisis Counselor or call the Alameda Crisis Line at 1-800-309-2131.

In Service To Oakland,

Annie



Thank you for all that you do for the City of Oakland! We are delighted to serve this beautiful community. Please reach out to us with ideas or concerns. We want to hear from you!

See what's happening on our social sites.



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Oakland City Council, City Hall, Oakland, CA 94612

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Sent by [annecampbellwashington@gmail.com](#) in collaboration with

**Constant Contact** 

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## Kaplan, Rebecca

---

**From:** Landreth, Sabrina  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 03, 2016 9:50 PM  
**To:** McElhaney, Lynette; Reid, Larry; Campbell Washington, Annie; Guillen, Abel; Kalb, Dan; Gallo, Noel; Brooks, Desley; Kaplan, Rebecca  
**Cc:** Cappio, Claudia; Daniel, Christine  
**Subject:** Fwd: Release: Update from the City of Oakland on the 31st Avenue Fire at 6:30 p.m.

Additional update:

- Christine remains on scene coordinating with County and Red Cross at family assistance center
- We have set up a dedicated family communications channel
- we have staffing there 24-hrs, with city staff rotating out every 6 hrs
- Claudia & I are still on incident scene, with Fire/PWA/Building/PD and outside partners continuing to work on safe search efforts
- Staff continuing to assess and compile all records on property (fire inspections, police reports, bldg complaints/permits/inspections)
- PIOs remain at both locations
- Coroner has positively identified first victims and will be notifying families within the next few hours, but not publicly announced until AM.
- Mayor has been with the families most of the day and has been in contact with other state & fed officials
- Donations pouring in, and initial efforts to coordinate are set up through Red Cross and [Youcaring.com](http://Youcaring.com)
- Extra crisis support services being made available through County for our staff and vendors on scene.

Thank you for all your support today.

This will be a multi-day operation as we carefully gain access to the building and assess.

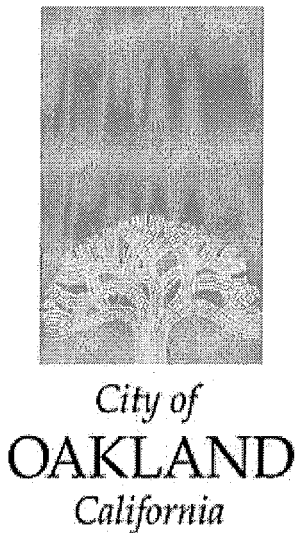
First press briefing tomorrow will be at 8AM tomorrow morning.

-Sabrina

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Hamilton, Harry" <[HHamilton@oaklandnet.com](mailto:HHamilton@oaklandnet.com)>  
**Date:** December 3, 2016 at 7:37:02 PM PST  
**To:** DL - Internal Media <[internalmedia@oaklandnet.com](mailto:internalmedia@oaklandnet.com)>  
**Subject:** Release: Update from the City of Oakland on the 31st Avenue Fire at 6:30 p.m.



**Media Contact:**

Karen Boyd  
[kboyd@oaklandnet.com](mailto:kboyd@oaklandnet.com)

OPD Media  
[opdmedia@oaklandnet.com](mailto:opdmedia@oaklandnet.com)

Facebook: CityofOakland

Twitter: @Oakland

## News from: **Office of the City Administrator**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 3, 2016

### **Update from the City of Oakland on the 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue Fire at 6:30 p.m.**

A three-alarm fire broke out on Friday, December 2, at 11:32 p.m. at 1315 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue in Oakland. The fire has resulted in a terrible tragedy.

There are nine confirmed casualties. As of 4:30 p.m., all nine people who were initially located have been recovered and transported to the Coroner's Bureau for identification.

We are working on compiling an accurate list of those who are unaccounted for. Fortunately, a number of people who were initially reported as missing have been located.

At this time, the combined efforts of the Oakland Fire Department, Oakland Police Department and the Alameda County Sheriff's Office are focused on search for an recovery of victims and providing support to the families. For most of the day and evening, Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf spoke with families of the victims and continues to offer them our deepest sympathies.

The badly damaged building has required shoring, and first responders have begun retrieving the deceased. The roof of the building collapsed onto the second floor which has complicated the process of recovery effort. This process will be undertaken in a methodical and thorough process in a humane and compassionate manner to ensure that the victims are recovered and identified, and to make sure their families have this information as expeditiously as possible.

In the coming days, after the recovery phase is completed, our focus will shift to a thorough investigation of what occurred. We are committed to bringing every resource to bear to determine what happened here and how such a tragic event could have occurred. Our priority is to bring closure to this tragedy for the victims' families.

Oakland Fire Department is currently working with the Alameda County Sheriff's Department, Oakland Police Department, Alcohol Tobacco and Fire, CAL OSHA, Alameda County Search and Rescue and the American Red Cross to secure the scene, continue the recovery effort and conduct the investigation into the cause of this deadly fire.

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office will be managing the victim identification process and working with the Oakland Police Department to provide additional updates.

The last permitted use of the building was as a warehouse. On November 13, 2016, the City of Oakland received complaints of blight and unpermitted interior construction at the building. On November 17, 2016, a City building inspector visited

the property and verified the blight complaint, but could not gain access to the building to confirm the other complaint regarding unpermitted construction. This an ongoing investigation.

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# # #

**Editor's Note:** The next update briefing will be held at 8 a.m. on Sunday, December 4, at International Boulevard and 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

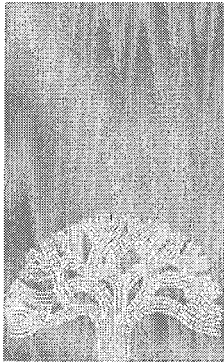
Harry Hamilton  
Public Information Officer  
City of Oakland  
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland CA 94612  
510-238-2107  
510-238-6341 (fax)

**11th Best Large City to Live in** - WalletHub, July 2016

**Oakland MSA Ranked 3rd Best Place for Tech Careers** - Value Penguin, June 2016

**Oakland is the most diverse large city in the U.S.** - WalletHub, May 2016

**From:** Hamilton, Harry  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 03, 2016 7:37 PM  
**To:** DL - Internal Media  
**Subject:** Release: Update from the City of Oakland on the 31st Avenue Fire at 6:30 p.m.



City of  
**OAKLAND**  
California

**Media Contact:**

Karen Boyd  
[kboyd@oaklandnet.com](mailto:kboyd@oaklandnet.com)

OPD Media  
[opdmedia@oaklandnet.com](mailto:opdmedia@oaklandnet.com)

Facebook: CityofOakland

Twitter: @Oakland

News from: **Office of the City Administrator**

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December 3, 2016

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# # #

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Harry Hamilton  
Public Information Officer  
City of Oakland  
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland CA 94612  
510-238-2107  
510-238-6341 (fax)

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**Oakland is the most diverse large city in the U.S.** - WalletHub, May 2016



## Kaplan, Rebecca

---

**From:** Karchmer, Joanne  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 03, 2016 12:28 PM  
**To:** DL - Council Members; DL – Council Staff  
**Subject:** FW: OPD Update: 31st Avenue Fire

Dear Council Members,

I know you received this message directly from OPD, but I wanted to let you know that I am also in the office and available to you. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me, and I will do my best to provide you with a timely response. I will also let you know as details come together about the timing and location of the media availability. I think we can all agree this is an enormous tragedy and also an extremely fluid situation with many external partners involved, but I will do everything I can to keep you informed.

Best,  
Joanne

**Joanne Karchmer**  
**Interim Director, Legislative and Governmental Affairs**  
Office of the Mayor | City of Oakland  
One Frank Ogawa Plaza – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612  
Main: 510-238-3141 | Direct: 510-238-7439

**For Immediate Release**  
December 3, 2016

### **Update: 31st Avenue Fire**

The Oakland Police Department is supporting the Oakland Fire Department as they are conducting their investigation into the large structure fire at 1305 31st Avenue.

Per the Oakland Fire Chief Teresa Deloach Reed:

- There are nine (9) known fatalities from this incident.
- At this time, an assessment is still being made of any additional victims in association with this incident.
- The Alameda County Sheriff's Coroner's Bureau and Chief Forensic Pathologist are processing the scene.
- Alameda County Arson Task Force is currently on scene to assist with the investigation.
- We are also working with Federal partners to determine the cause of the fire and assist with the investigation moving forward.
- Due to structural damage from the fire, the ongoing investigation efforts and search for additional victims will be methodical and are anticipated to take some time.

The Alameda County Coroner's Bureau has established a Family Assistance Center in coordination with the American Red Cross, located at 2425 East 12th Street in Oakland. Family members and friends looking to locate loved ones may go to the center in person or call (510) 382-3000. There will be grief counseling and resources available to families affected by this tragedy. We are requesting that only families and loved ones go to the Family Assistance Center and ask that media respect the privacy of families at this time.

The City of Oakland and the Alameda County Sheriff's Office have set up a joint command post at the corner of Fruitvale Ave. and International Blvd.

Public Information Officers will be providing hourly media updates throughout the day, on the hour. City officials will hold a news conference this afternoon at a location and time to be announced.

For updates on Twitter, stay tuned to @ACSOSheriffs and @oaklandpoliceca and the following hashtags:  
#oaklandfire  
#31stAvefire

Mayor Libby Schaaf issued the following statement:

"Last night's fire was an immense tragedy. I am grateful to our first responders for their efforts to deal with this deadly fire. Our focus right now is on the victims and their families and ensuring that we have a full accounting for everyone who was impacted by this tragedy.

"We are fully committed to sharing as much information as we can as quickly as possible. The most critical information to share at this time is the phone number where victims' families can get information which is (510) 382-3000 at the Alameda County Coroner's Bureau."

NOTE: Mayor Schaaf and other key officials will be made available later today. Media outlets will be updated as soon as possible on the time and location for this availability.

# # #

## Kaplan, Rebecca

---

**From:** Derryck, Erica  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 03, 2016 12:10 PM  
**Subject:** OPD Update: 31st Avenue Fire

All,  
**Resending in case there is anyone who was missed when OPD sent this out.**  
Best,  
Erica

Erica Terry Derryck | Director of Communications | Office of Mayor Libby Schaaf | City of Oakland | One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza | 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor | Oakland, CA 94612 | Office: 510-238-7072 | Cell: 510-435-4345 | Email: [ederryck@oaklandnet.com](mailto:ederryck@oaklandnet.com)

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# # #

## Davenport, Kevin

---

**From:** Jan Lewis <jan.h.lewis@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 06, 2017 12:02 PM  
**To:** At Large  
**Subject:** Increasing housing opportunities for homeless people  
**Attachments:** Ideas to create housing for homeless people.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Rebecca,

Thank you for the email about the meeting January 4 to talk about safe, affordable housing and jobs. Unfortunately I wasn't able to attend, but I've been thinking about the question. What started out as a few notes ended up as the attached, two pages of possible solutions. It's an outline and I know for every suggestion there are a host of related problems, but it's in the category of "I have a dream"... what could be done to house people living in tents, on the streets.

Just some ideas "for the hopper" should any be useful. I worked with Children's Services from 1993-98 at the Henry Robinson Multi-Service Center (emergency housing and 18 month transitional housing for families) and was Children's Services Manager from 1995-98. Certainly many things have changed since then, but not the need for housing.

Best wishes,

Jan Lewis

## **Ideas to create housing for homeless people**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is coming up, and, asking what's my dream, this is it: to having a safe, decent place for every homeless person to live, Oakland's "Housing Homeless People" initiative (HHP.) Imagining a solution could look like this.

There are at least three parts: **increase housing stock**, **finance**—paying for it, and **administration**—who goes where (including social workers' "case management," when indicated), coordination of services, problem solving, accountability.

### **Increase housing stock:**

**Current SRO's**—rehab for homeless people, like the City, Red Cross, Traveler's Aid, and HUD did in a joint project at the Henry Robinson Multi-Service Center, after the Loma Prieta Earthquake. This project created many units for families, had a drop in center for emergency housing up to 30 days, and housed families admitted to the program up to 18 months. I worked with Children's Services there from October, 1993 -98, and was Director of Children's Services from 1995-98. Things have changed since then, but needs have only increased. Except for 1983-June 93, I've lived in Oakland since 1972 and have never seen so many people living on the streets.

**Warehouses** that currently house live/work spaces: make them safe, up to code, and affordable (see finance).

**Vacant land** the city owns (? Is there some?) – what could be built on it or a portion of it? While small pods look good as a solution, long term they may create more problems than they'll solve short term. Better: regular construction, but very well designed. A competition? Architecture schools? Contractors? Prize is lots of publicity and you get to build your design... well-coordinated plans with building trades, local hires, will earn extra "points." Applicant has to pay 50% (verified/certified), City (see finance) will pay 50%.

**Current distressed housing**, not up to code: If the owner has an option to participate in Oakland's Housing the Homeless program to rehab units for homeless people, the owner can access special funding and tax benefits (finance). There would be a required number of years to participate in the program or there would be a lien to pay back all money. After the number of years, the owner could receive tax incentives to keep in the program, accepting people sent by the Housing the Homeless program.

At least 3 categories of housing are needed:

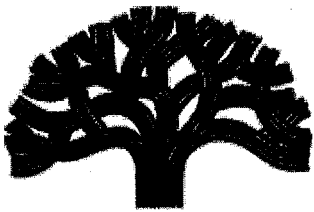
1. "Come as you are" housing—getting people off the streets, especially people with addictions and other health issues. This would be staffed, supportive housing. For single people, couples. Presumably children are not there, but if they are, the family should be housed in category 2.
2. Supportive housing for families with additional health issues contributing to homelessness.. Staffed, supportive housing.

## Davenport, Kevin

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**From:** Woo, Winnie  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 29, 2016 10:00 AM  
**To:** DL - Mayor's Staff; DL - City Council  
**Cc:** Landreth, Sabrina; Cappio, Claudia; Cotton, Chantal; Orologas, Alexandra  
**Subject:** Information Memorandum - Post 31st Avenue Fire Follow-Up

To view this information memo, please visit: <http://www2.oaklandnet.com/w/OAK062140>



**CITY OF OAKLAND**

**DISTRIBUTION DATE:** 12/29/16

### ***MEMORANDUM***

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**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR &  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** SABRINA B. LANDRETH,  
City Administrator

**SUBJECT:** Post 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue Fire Follow-up

**DATE:** December 28, 2016

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City Administrator

Date

Approval

/s/ **Claudia Cappio**

**12/28/16**

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### **INFORMATION**

This Information Memorandum provides an update on the efforts staff have taken since the 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue fire on December 2, 2016, as well as information on next steps that are underway to address the longer term impacts of the fire.

#### **Post Disaster Recovery Efforts:**

In the days following the fire, the City worked diligently with nonprofit, local, state, and federal partners to secure the site, provide services to the families in need and address questions from the community about the incident. Below is a summary of the key critical actions taken in the Post Disaster Recovery phase.

1. California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Cost Reporting: The Cal OES has the California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA) which is the negotiated reimbursement mechanism for local government fire agency responses through the California Fire Service and Rescue Emergency Mutual Aid System. The agreement requires certain documentation to be kept and submitted in order for a local government agency to receive reimbursement funding for expenses in large emergency situations. Oakland Fire Department Emergency

There are a number of actions underway to address the short term and long term issues associated with the 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue fire. Some of these actions will be completed in the near term and some will take longer as they involve significant policy issues.

*Immediate Term:*

1. Tenant Protections: The City Administrator's Office is working with the City Attorney's Office to develop a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that will be posted on the City's website. The FAQs will address various questions that have arisen concerning the rights and responsibilities of occupants and owners of spaces like that of the 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue warehouse and similar spaces.
2. Special Events: The City is creating a coordinated interdepartmental team to address special events. This team will facilitate well-informed decision making to ensure that special events are permitted and safe. This group will also assess staffing needs related to enforcement of special events permits and requirements.
3. Relocation Assistance: The Housing and Community Development Department is coordinating short-term housing for those displaced by the 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue Warehouse fire. For housing questions, please visit <https://goo.gl/UoGmfv>. More information on housing assistance will be forthcoming through a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) link on the Housing Assistance Center webpage mentioned above.

*Longer Term:*

1. Fire Safety Task Force. Immediately following the fire, the Mayor created a Fire Safety Task Force. Staffed by City Administrator's Office, assisted by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the Task Force includes City staff as well as outside experts. This Task Force will use the standards created by the NFPA 1730, "Standard on Organization and Deployment of Fire Prevention Inspection and Code Enforcement, Plan Review, Investigation, and Public Education Operations," as well as any other specific NFPA recommendations from the NFPA, to conduct a Community Risk Assessment and a Community Risk Reduction Program. This will be a comprehensive process that will include (but not be limited to) recommendations regarding:
  - a. Developing a plan to create more detailed building stock inventories and to prioritize those buildings with the highest risks;
  - b. Determining potential policy changes regarding inspections, enforcement, special event permitting, and zoning vis-a-vis live/work units;
  - c. Examining how departments communicate with each other and how calls for service and other complaints are tracked, including a close look at our Accela, HDL, and Cityworks databases.
2. Artists Task Force: The Mayor's Office Policy Director of Art Spaces is reconvening the Artists Housing and Workspace Working Group of the Oakland Housing Cabinet. The Working Group will continue to solicit input from the artist community on solutions to safety and affordability issues for artist workspace and housing, as well as review and advise on the work of the Fire Safety Task Force.

**Other Information:**

The City Administrator will continue to provide updates on each of the actions described above and will provide more information with the report to the City Council on February 21, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Sabrina B. Landreth



## Davenport, Kevin

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**From:** Announcements  
**Sent:** Friday, December 16, 2016 4:37 PM  
**To:** Announcements  
**Subject:** 12-16-16 City Administrator's Weekly Report

To download a copy of this week's issue of the City Administrator's Weekly Report, please visit:  
<http://www2.oaklandnet.com/w/OAK061996>

**DISTRIBUTION DATE:** December 16, 2016



CITY OF OAKLAND

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR &  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Sabrina B. Landreth

**SUBJECT:** City Administrator's Weekly Report

**DATE:** December 16, 2016

---

### INFORMATION

*With the legislative recess, the next edition of the City Administrator's Weekly Report will be published on January 6, 2017.*

Following are the key activities to be highlighted this week:

**Upcoming Holiday Closures** – On Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2, the City of Oakland's administrative offices will be closed in observance of the Christmas Day holiday and the New Year's Day holiday. While the City's administrative employees are out of the office, if a situation arises that requires more staffing, the City has a plan in place to call in additional resources. Police, fire and emergency services are not affected during the holiday. To read the media release for specific service impacts, please visit <http://www2.oaklandnet.com/w/OAK061925>.

**Annual Holiday Food Drive** – Through Friday, December 23, the City of Oakland is holding its Annual Holiday Food Drive. The Alameda County-Oakland Community Action Partnership (AC-OCAP), in partnership with Alameda County Community Food Bank, is coordinating the food drive. The Alameda County Community Food Bank serves one in five residents of Alameda County. The cost of living in the Bay Area has made it nearly impossible for many households to make ends meet. Children and seniors remain the most vulnerable to hunger in our community. Food collection barrels are in the lobbies at the following locations:

- City Hall, 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza
- Wilson Building, 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza – 1st Floor Lobby & 4th Floor Lobby
- Dalziel Building, 250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza
- Oakland Police Administration Building, 455 7th Street
- Oakland Police Substation, 2651 73rd Avenue at the Eastmont Town Center
- 7101 Edgewater Drive – OPD Dispatch, Building 2 and Building 4
- 5050 Coliseum Way

operation at the Alameda County Sheriff's facility, 2425 E. 12th Street. The center comforted and assisted family members and friends looking for loved ones with grief counseling and other services. Representatives from Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services, Alameda County District Attorney's Victims Support Division and the City of Oakland joined in partnership with volunteers and staff from the American Red Cross in providing support to families and friends of the fire victims. On Monday, December 5, Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley shared the details of the launch of her office's criminal investigation into the fire. The District Attorney's Office activated the criminal investigation teams and is actively looking at this with all of the other law enforcement partners. On Thursday, December 8, the proclamation of a Local Emergency by the Oakland City Administrator was ratified by the Oakland City Council during a special meeting. The local emergency, which was proclaimed on Tuesday, December 6, is an important step in recovery for the City of Oakland and our community. Under the California Disaster Assistance Act, the City of Oakland may be eligible for reimbursement of up to 75 percent of qualifying response and recovery expenses related to the 31st Avenue Fire. Generally, these include labor, equipment, materials and other expenses related to extinguishing the fire and recovering the victims from the scene. The Oakland Fire Department's Emergency Management Services Division will be developing an initial damage estimate to provide to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) for consideration for California Disaster Assistance Act funding. Staff from the Economic & Workforce Development Department has distributed the Estimated Disaster Economic Injury Worksheet for Businesses. Artists who may have operated a business in the 1315 31st Avenue warehouse may be eligible for SBA loans, and are encouraged to contact Aliza Gallo, Economic Development Manager, at [agallo@oaklandnet.com](mailto:agallo@oaklandnet.com) or (510) 238-7405. At a press conference on Tuesday, December 13, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, or ATF, and the Oakland Fire Department shared that they have concluded the on-scene investigation for the 31st Avenue Fire. Throughout the District Attorney's Office's criminal investigation and the Oakland Fire Department's scene investigation, ATF has assisted by providing their fire expertise and assisting with witness interviews. All of the scene information has been gathered and analysis of the information will continue. The Oakland Fire Department will prepare the final report of the scene investigation. ATF and Oakland Fire Department's findings will be submitted to the District Attorney's Office in support of their ongoing criminal investigation. Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley explained that her office's criminal investigation is ongoing. The District Attorney's office continues to ask any witnesses with information about the fire or the warehouse to come forward to assist with the investigation. She also shared information with the public about how those impacted by the fire could access victim witness support available through the DA's Office. The District Attorney thanked the Red Cross for its ongoing support of victims, their families and those displaced by the fire. Members of the Red Cross team provided information on where those impacted by the fire could continue to access support being provided by the agency. As of the time of this report, the cause of the fire has not been identified. For more information, please visit <http://www2.oaklandnet.com/OAK061753>.

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with Centro Legal attorneys are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The next clinic will be held on Wednesday, December 21, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Other workers' rights clinics are by appointment only. Call Centro Legal de La Raza at (510) 437-1554. For more information, please visit [www.oaklandnet.com/minimumwage](http://www.oaklandnet.com/minimumwage) or contact the Contracts & Compliance Office at [minwageinfo@oaklandnet.com](mailto:minwageinfo@oaklandnet.com) or (510) 238-6258.

**Main Library Offers Introduction To Python Programming For Teens** – On Tuesday, December 20, the Main Library's TeenZone, 125 14th Street, is offering a workshop for students with no previous experience in programming. Learn the basic concepts of Python language, string manipulation, arithmetic/logic operations, loops, lists and more. For more information on the curriculum, please visit [www.mathandcoding.org](http://www.mathandcoding.org). Space is limited to nine students, so register now by calling (510) 238-7332. This class will be conducted in two sections, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Lana Adlawan, Teen Services Coordinator, at [ladlawan@oaklandlibrary.org](mailto:ladlawan@oaklandlibrary.org) or (510) 238-7613.

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**Marian Van Der Zwaan's Red String** – Through Saturday, December 31, *Red String*, a site-specific installation by Marian van der Zwaan, will be on display at Pro Arts, 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, and in the adjacent Kahn's Alley. The installation was developed with support of Amnesty International in Portugal, and arrives at Pro Arts from Europe, as part of an international tour including site-specific installations in The Netherlands, Lithuania, Portugal and South Africa. Five kilometers, about three miles, of continuous red string has been threaded and woven through the interior and exterior of Pro Arts as well as Kahn's Alley and the Rotunda Building. The installation is a symbolic gesture meant to prompt critical dialogue on issues surrounding race and ethnic discrimination. For more information, please visit <https://proartsgallery.org/current/>.

**Holiday Caroling On Lake Merritt** – Through Friday, December 23, the Lake Merritt Boating Center is offering on-the-water tours launching from 568 Bellevue Avenue. Enjoy the Holiday Room with hot cider and cookies before beginning your voyage around Lake Merritt. Experience a unique view of Oakland as your Water Sleigh glides past the 18th Street Fountain & Holiday Cove before returning to the Boating Center. Times vary. The admission fee is \$6 per person or \$100 to reserve the whole boat for a private tour. To view the flyer, please visit [www.sailoakland.com](http://www.sailoakland.com). For more information, please contact Sarah Herbelin, Boating & Outdoor Recreation Supervisor, at [sherbelin@oaklandnet.com](mailto:sherbelin@oaklandnet.com) or (510) 238-2196.

**Dunsmuir Holiday Tradition** – On Saturdays and Sundays through December 18, Oakland Parks & Recreation invites you to step back in time and experience a turn-of-the-century Holiday Tradition at the Dunsmuir Hellman Historic Estate, 2960 Peralta Oaks Court. The event runs from noon to 4:00 p.m. The magnificent 16,000-square-foot, 37-room mansion will be transformed into a breathtaking masterpiece of an Edwardian holiday. Each room is adorned with elegant holiday trees, garland, antique furnishings and festive decorations to provide you with ideas for your own home decorations. Visitors can enjoy a snack at the Winter Café, while tackling their holiday shopping list with purchases from the Mansion Gift Shop. Families can begin the morning with Brunch with Santa, and afterwards enjoy games, face-painting and other activities. The Holiday High Tea for adults and children is a special treat and wonderful way for families and friends to begin their own tradition and celebrate the holiday season. To read the media release, please visit <http://www2.oaklandnet.com/w/oak061449>. For event attractions and to purchase tickets, please visit [www.dunsmuir-hellman.com](http://www.dunsmuir-hellman.com). For more information, please contact Deborah Cooper, Estate Manager, at [dcooper@oaklandnet.com](mailto:dcooper@oaklandnet.com) or (510) 615-5555.

## Davenport, Kevin

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**From:** Announcements  
**Sent:** Friday, December 16, 2016 4:37 PM  
**To:** Announcements  
**Subject:** 12-16-16 City Administrator's Weekly Report

To download a copy of this week's issue of the City Administrator's Weekly Report, please visit:  
<http://www2.oaklandnet.com/w/OAK061996>

**DISTRIBUTION DATE:** December 16, 2016



### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR &  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Sabrina B. Landreth

**SUBJECT:** City Administrator's Weekly Report

**DATE:** December 16, 2016

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**American Red Cross Lifeguard Training Class** – From Monday, December 19 to Thursday, December 22, Oakland Parks & Recreation (OPR) is hosting an American Red Cross Lifeguard certification class open for those 15 and older. The class runs from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day and costs \$190 for Oakland residents or \$225 for non-residents. The registration fee can be reimbursed if you are hired by OPR Aquatics and upon completion of 200 worked hours. The training class will take place at Temescal Pool, 371 45th Street. For more information and to register, please contact William Davis, Jr., Aquatics Specialist, at [wdavisjr@oaklandnet.com](mailto:wdavisjr@oaklandnet.com).

**Dimond Branch To Close Temporarily For Renovation** – On Friday, December 23, the Dimond Branch Library, 3565 Fruitvale Avenue, will close temporarily for a renovation project. The branch is scheduled to reopen in May 2017. The renovation project consists of a "makeover" of the first floor to better serve patrons, with distinct program areas and comfortable seating. New furniture will be purchased, as will a new information desk and self-check machines. The project is funded entirely by donations and foundation grants. If patrons have items on hold with Dimond Branch designated as the pick-up location, the location will automatically change to the César E. Chávez Branch Library, 3301 East 12th Street, Suite 271. The book drops at the Dimond Library will remain open during the closure and returned items will be checked in on a regular basis. For more information, please contact Mary Schrader, Supervising Librarian, at [mschrader@oaklandlibrary.org](mailto:mschrader@oaklandlibrary.org) or at (510) 238-6720.

**Marian Van Der Zwaan's Red String** – Through Saturday, December 31, *Red String*, a site-specific installation by Marian van der Zwaan, will be on display at Pro Arts, 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, and in the adjacent Kahn's Alley. The installation was developed with support of Amnesty International in Portugal, and arrives at Pro Arts from Europe, as part of an international tour including site-specific installations in The Netherlands, Lithuania, Portugal and South Africa. Five kilometers, about three miles, of continuous red string has been threaded and woven through the interior and exterior of Pro Arts as well as Kahn's Alley and the Rotunda Building. The installation is a symbolic gesture meant to prompt critical dialogue on issues surrounding race and ethnic discrimination. For more information, please visit <https://proartsgallery.org/current/>.

**Holiday Caroling On Lake Merritt** – Through Friday, December 23, the Lake Merritt Boating Center is offering on-the-water tours launching from 568 Bellevue Avenue. Enjoy the Holiday Room with hot cider and cookies before beginning your voyage around Lake Merritt. Experience a unique view of Oakland as your Water Sleigh glides past the 18th Street Fountain & Holiday Cove before returning to the Boating Center. Times vary. The admission fee is \$6 per person or \$100 to reserve the whole boat for a private tour. To view the flyer, please visit [www.sailoakland.com](http://www.sailoakland.com). For more information, please contact Sarah Herbelin, Boating & Outdoor Recreation Supervisor, at [sherbelin@oaklandnet.com](mailto:sherbelin@oaklandnet.com) or (510) 238-2196.

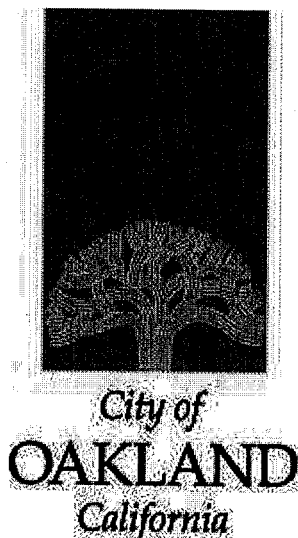
**Dunsmuir Holiday Tradition** – On Saturdays and Sundays through December 18, Oakland Parks & Recreation invites you to step back in time and experience a turn-of-the-century Holiday Tradition at the Dunsmuir Hellman Historic Estate, 2960 Peralta Oaks Court. The event runs from noon to 4:00 p.m. The magnificent 16,000-square-foot, 37-room mansion will be transformed into a breathtaking masterpiece of an Edwardian holiday. Each room is adorned with elegant holiday trees, garland, antique furnishings and festive decorations to provide you with ideas for your own home decorations. Visitors can enjoy a snack at the Winter Café, while tackling their holiday shopping list with purchases from the Mansion Gift Shop. Families can begin the morning with Brunch with Santa, and afterwards enjoy games, face-painting and other activities. The Holiday High Tea for adults and children is a special treat and wonderful way for families and friends to begin their own tradition and celebrate the holiday season. To read the media release, please visit <http://www2.oaklandnet.com/w/oak061449>. For event attractions and to purchase tickets, please visit [www.dunsmuir-hellman.com](http://www.dunsmuir-hellman.com). For more information, please contact Deborah Cooper, Estate Manager, at [dcooper@oaklandnet.com](mailto:dcooper@oaklandnet.com) or (510) 615-5555.

**Davenport, Kevin**

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**From:**  
**Sent:**  
**Subject:**

Hamilton, Harry  
Tuesday, December 13, 2016 12:35 PM  
On-Scene Operations Concluded for 31st Avenue Fire; Investigations Continue



**Media Contacts:**

Karen Boyd  
City Administrator's Office  
Communications Director  
510-238-6365  
[kboyd@oaklandnet.com](mailto:kboyd@oaklandnet.com)

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Alameda County District  
Attorney's Office  
[damedia@acgov.org](mailto:damedia@acgov.org)

**News from: City of Oakland & Alameda  
County District Attorney's Office**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 13, 2016

**On-Scene Operations Concluded for 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Fire; Investigations Continue**

OAKLAND, CA –Today, the City of Oakland Fire Department, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office (DA's Office), and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) gathered with representatives from the Red Cross to discuss the conclusion of the on-scene operations for the 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue fire that broke out on December 2, 2016. The group also outlined the continued work to support victims' families, those displaced by the fire and potential witnesses.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, or ATF, and the Oakland Fire Department have concluded the on-scene investigation for the 31st Avenue Fire. Throughout the District Attorney's Office's criminal investigation and the Oakland Fire Department's scene investigation, ATF has assisted by providing their fire expertise and assisting with witness interviews. All of the scene information has been gathered and analysis of the information will continue. The Oakland Fire Department will prepare the final report of the scene investigation. ATF and Oakland Fire Department's findings will be submitted to the District Attorney's Office in support of their ongoing criminal investigation.

"ATF will continue to support the Fire Department with processing the data from the scene for the final report," said Special Agent in Charge Jill Snyder. "ATF will also continue to assist the District Attorney's Office and the Oakland Fire Department with interviewing witnesses for the investigation."

"I want to thank ATF for their support of our investigation, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, as well as the other first responders who provided mutual aid support during the recovery effort," said Oakland Fire Chief Teresa Deloach Reed. "I also want to acknowledge the outstanding work of Oakland's firefighters in managing this tragedy and the offer our deepest thanks to the Red Cross for their support at the scene and continued engagement with displaced residents, and the victims' families. We will continue to work closely with the District Attorney's Office as the investigations continue."

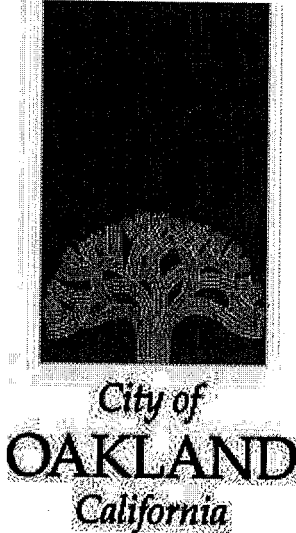
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**Davenport, Kevin**

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Tuesday, December 13, 2016 12:35 PM  
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Attorney's Office  
[damedia@acgov.org](mailto:damedia@acgov.org)

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## Davenport, Kevin

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**From:** Announcements  
**Sent:** Friday, December 09, 2016 5:21 PM  
**To:** Announcements  
**Subject:** 12-9-16 City Administrator's Weekly Report

To download a copy of this week's issue of the City Administrator's Weekly Report, please visit:  
<http://www2.oaklandnet.com/w/OAK061857>

**DISTRIBUTION DATE:** December 9, 2016



CITY OF OAKLAND

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR &  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Sabrina B. Landreth

**SUBJECT:** City Administrator's Weekly Report

**DATE:** December 9, 2016

### INFORMATION

Following are the key activities to be highlighted this week:

**Fire At 1315 31st Avenue** – On Friday, December 2, a tragic fire claimed the lives of 36 victims. Within minutes of the first call to dispatch, crews from the Oakland Fire Department arrived and the incident quickly went to a three alarm. The fire was deemed under control at 4:36 a.m. on Saturday, December 3. We continue to extend condolences to the families and friends who have received the tragic news of losing loved ones in the 31st Avenue warehouse fire. During the height of the response to extinguish the fire, there were 16 units on scene and 77 fire fighters. During this response phase, the Oakland Fire Department received mutual aid from the City of Alameda Fire Department and the Alameda County Fire Department. During the recovery phase, personnel from the Oakland Fire Department; Oakland Police Department; Oakland Public Works Department; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF); Alameda County Sheriff's Office; Cal OHSA; Alameda County Search and Rescue; Fremont Fire Department; Hayward Fire Department; East Bay Regional Park District's Fire Department; Contra Costa County Fire Protection District and San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District conducted the painstaking work of recovering the victims from the scene of the fire. At times, debris removal progressed by bucket brigade. Due to severe damage to the building, sections of the building needed to be shored-up to provide safe entry for recovery teams. Recovery efforts continued around-the-clock and required the use of heavy equipment. At one point, electrical lines had to be de-energized to allow use of a large crane. Thanks to careful planning, at its height, the planned power outage impacted 12 residential and commercial customers. On the morning of Wednesday, December 7, search and recover efforts at 1315 31st Avenue were concluded. A secondary search by recovery personnel and cadaver dogs was made and returned no additional victims. From Saturday, December 3, through Wednesday, December 7, a Family Assistance Center was in operation at the Alameda County Sheriff's facility, 2425 E. 12th Street. The center comforted and assisted family members and friends looking for loved ones with grief counseling and other services. Representatives from Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services, Alameda County District Attorney's Victims Support Division and the City of Oakland joined in partnership with volunteers and staff from the American Red Cross in providing support to families and friends of the fire victims. On Monday, December 5, Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley shared the details of the launch of her office's criminal investigation into the fire. The District Attorney's Office activated the criminal investigation teams and is actively looking at this with all of the other law enforcement partners. On Thursday, December 8, the proclamation of a Local Emergency by the Oakland City Administrator was ratified by the Oakland City Council during a special meeting. The local emergency, which was, proclaimed on Tuesday, December 6, is an important step in recovery for the City of Oakland and our community. Under





































































































