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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Oakland Crime Rate Up After 80 Oakland Cops Laid Off Oakland Police Officer's Association Calls for Solutions After Two More Senseless Murders Occurred Monday Night**

Oakland, CA – Oakland crime rates are up. The streets are more dangerous. We believe this is a direct correlation to the 80 Oakland police officers laid off last month. According to statistics kept by the Oakland Police Officers Association (OPOA), crime in Oakland is up 9 percent since the layoffs.

There are now more than 40 different crimes for which Oakland police officers will no longer respond to because of budget cuts. Furthermore, the OPOA is frustrated by recent comments made by City Councilmember Ignacio De La Fuente, including such foolishness as stating that the number of police officers on the streets is not related to the crime rate.

"Crime in Oakland is up," said OPOA President Dom Arotzarena. "Oakland police officers remain committed to doing the best job we can with the resources available, but the fact is, the 80 officers that were recently laid off patrolled our streets in Oakland. Their lack of presence is felt."

"When Oakland police officers made \$34 million in concessions last year, we said reform was needed to find sustainable solutions to Oakland's budget problem. We were ignored," stated Arotzarena, who voiced his concerns in a radio interview yesterday.

"Oakland police officers have offered to contribute the full 9 percent towards our pensions. We have already voluntarily made more than \$34 million in concessions and agreed to a two-tier retirement system that reflects systemic change," said Arotzarena. "We ask City Councilmember Ignacio De La Fuente how much he pays into his own PERS pension account as a City Councilmember. De La Fuente is opposed to the parcel tax ballot initiative, which is fine, but what solutions does he have for solving Oakland's budget problem?"

Oakland police officers are doing their job under extraordinarily difficult circumstances and continue to work with responsible members of the City Council to find solutions that guarantee police officers will be working our community's dangerous streets.

### **Oakland Police Officer's Association**

Serving our community of Oakland. For more information, please visit [www.OPOA.org](http://www.OPOA.org).

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