



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

**BAY AREA COUNCIL CALLS FOR ACTIVATION OF
“LAW ENFORCEMENT MUTUAL AID” FOR OAKLAND,
IN PREPARATION OF MEHSERLE VERDICT**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — In light of the upcoming Mehserle verdict, today the Bay Area Council called for immediate activation of the California Office of Emergency Services “Law Enforcement Mutual Aid” agreement for the City of Oakland.

Specifically, the Council is calling on the Chiefs of Police of the region’s nine biggest cities – San Jose, San Francisco, Fremont, Santa Rosa, Hayward, Sunnyvale, Concord, Vallejo and Daly City, and Oakland’s neighbors Berkeley and San Leandro – plus the Sheriffs of the surrounding counties – Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Clara, San Mateo and San Francisco – to aid the Oakland Police Department however possible, in the event of violence or rioting.

“With the verdict in the Mehserle trial coming any day now, it is vitally important that the region’s public safety agencies stand ready to assist Oakland in the event that vandalism or rioting breaks out,” said Jim Wunderman, President and CEO of the Bay Area Council. “The Oscar Grant shooting was a terrible tragedy, and with tensions running high, the region needs to work together to ensure that Bay Area residents and businesses are protected.”

Currently, Oakland police, Alameda County sheriff’s deputies, the California Highway Patrol and BART police are the main agencies on alert, but they can request mutual aid from all Bay Area counties if more police are needed.

Recently, hundreds of Bay Area law enforcement officers joined Oakland police for crowd-control training and arrest exercises in anticipation of the Mehserle verdict. In addition, Oakland police have been meeting with businesses to assure them that all steps necessary will be taken to prevent rioting, vandalism and violence.

“The steps taken recently by Chief Batts and the Oakland Police Department to train officers and educate business owners about the department’s preparations for the verdict are very encouraging signs and the Chief and the department deserves credit,” continued Wunderman.

“At the end of the day, we hope cooler heads prevail and the Bay Area’s streets are quiet and without incident,” said Wunderman. “But it’s always better to be safe than sorry.”

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About the Bay Area Council

The Bay Area Council is a business-sponsored, public-policy advocacy organization for the nine-county Bay Area. The Council proactively advocates for a strong economy, a vital business environment, and a better quality of life for everyone who lives here. Founded in 1945, the Bay Area Council is widely respected by elected officials, policy makers and other civic leaders as the voice of Bay Area business. Today, approximately 275 of the largest employers in the region support the Bay Area Council and offer their CEO or top executive as a member. Our members employ more than 4.43 million workers and have revenues of \$1.94 trillion, worldwide.