

Dear Oakland Business:

On behalf of the men and women of the Oakland Police Department, I want to welcome you to the **Merchant Watch Program** and thank you for taking the time to be a part of this important program.

The Merchant Watch Program is based on the premise that when Merchants work together to make their working environments safer, crimes can be prevented. Merchants' working together in partnership with the Oakland Police Department is an effective tool for fighting crime. I strongly encourage you to actively participate in your Merchant Watch Group.

Training for your Merchant Watch Group is intended to provide you with up to date crime prevention techniques and other information so you can effectively partner with the Oakland Police Department to keep your business corridor safe. The Merchant Watch program consists of two one hour meetings where you will learn:

- How crime happens and the Merchant Watch Concept
- How the City of Oakland's Community Policing Program works
- How to be a trained observer
- How to protect your business
- How to access city departments to report and solve problems
- How to schedule a commercial inspection
- Disaster preparedness

Nationwide, over 40 million crimes are committed every year. When businesses work in cooperation with law enforcement crime can be reduced. Merchant Watch fights the isolation that crime both creates and feeds upon. Thank you again for forming a Merchant Watch Group in your business corridor.

If you have any questions regarding the Merchant Watch Program, please contact Eddie Simlin, Police Services Technician at (510) 238-6200 or via email at Esimlin@oaklandnet.com.

Thank you again for forming a Merchant Watch Group in your business corridor. We look forward to a productive and mutually beneficial partnership.

Sincerely,

Wayne G. Tucker
Chief of Police