



## **Desley Brooks** Councilmember District 6

City Hall 1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland CA 94612  
City of Oakland Phone: (510) 238.7006 FAX: (510) 238.6910 E-mail [dbrooks@oaklandnet.com](mailto:dbrooks@oaklandnet.com)

### **COMMUNITY NEWS** *from the* *Offices of Oakland City Councilmember Desley Brooks*

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#### **MEDIA RELEASE**

For Immediate Release ... January 23, 2006

Media Contact: LaNiece Jones, [lajpr@aol.com](mailto:lajpr@aol.com), 510.568.5899

#### **NEW LIFE AT CONCORDIA PARK**

(Oakland, CA, January 23, 2006) ... There's fresh paint on the building at Concordia Park. There has been a flurry of activity in anticipation of GIRLS INC.'s arrival at the park early next month. GIRLS INC. will provide a host of after-school programs and services including sports, technology, homework help and tutoring, health awareness and leadership training for girls ages 6 - 18.

GIRLS INC. of Alameda is the local arm of the National Girls Incorporated, a national nonprofit youth organization. GIRLS INC.'s mission is to teach young women to be Strong, Smart and Bold. GIRLS INC. The organization offers academic enrichment activities, skill-building programs, and counseling services to girls and their families. Since 1958, GIRLS INC. has challenged girls to explore their potential, attend college, build fulfilling careers and expand their sense of what is possible.

GIRLS INC. Executive Director Pat Loomes says she is extremely pleased with the partnership between GIRLS INC., Councilperson Desley Brooks and the City of Oakland. "GIRLS INC.'s new site in Oakland is a dream come true for our team," Loomes stated. "Coming to Oakland has always been in our strategic plan and Councilmember Brooks made it happen." There had been no formal after-school programming at Concordia Park for almost 15 years. Seeking to change this situation, Councilperson Brooks solicited GIRLS INC. to come to the park.

To demonstrate their commitment, GIRLS INC. launched a capital campaign to raise monies to reach their projected \$600,000 goal to make infrastructure improvements to the existing building, to bring in and hook-up the wiring and plumbing for new portables, landscape design and implementation, furnishing and painting of all the units and remodeling of the recreation center. There are also plans to bring in two new portables and open up a

technology center by the fall. "We are excited about the possibility of providing safe and easily accessible programming for neighborhood girls," Loomes stated.

"I'm excited about GIRLS INC coming to Concordia" said Councilperson Brooks. Brooks went on to state "I want to see more children and families using our neighborhood park; that's why I launched a Park Improvement Initiative last summer." Since beginning this Initiative Councilperson Brooks has renovated all of the basketball courts at the District's recreational facilities, built a new play structure, renovated a tennis court into a skating rink, and will be making cosmetic improvements to Recreation Center buildings. At Concordia, Councilperson Brooks renovated the existing tennis courts and installed a new basketball court.

A Community Open House is scheduled for Saturday, February 25, 2006 from 11am - 1pm at the Concordia Park site. This is a wonderful opportunity for all in the community to meet and welcome GIRLS INC. members and staff to the neighborhood. GIRLS INC. at Concordia Park is currently accepting registrations for their after-school programs. To register or learn more, visit [www.girlsinc-alameda.org](http://www.girlsinc-alameda.org). If you have additional questions contact GIRLS INC at 510.357.5515.

To reach Councilperson Desley Brooks, call 510.238.2006 or email her at [dbrooks@oaklandnet.com](mailto:dbrooks@oaklandnet.com).

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