



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

**MEDIA RELEASE**

For Immediate Release - February 27, 2006

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

**PARTNERSHIP FOR NEIGHBORHOOD CHANGES**

(Oakland, CA - February 27, 2006) Is there a nuisance property near you that is impacting the quality of life in your neighborhood? Is chronic drug dealing, abandoned vehicles, blight, building code issues, or people hanging out all the time for no apparent reason taking place in your neighborhood? With your help we can work to change this situation. Councilperson Desley Brooks has made restoring neighborhood quality of life a top priority in District 6 and progress is already visible.

For example, over the years the pink apartment complex at the corner of Bancroft and Ritchie has had a negative impact on the quality of life in the area. The parking lot was full of abandoned vehicles and garbage, blatant drug dealing and usage occurred daily, numerous building code violations and no on-site management were the norm at this complex. Councilperson Brooks and City staff conducted an inspection of the complex and took immediate action to begin to bring this nuisance property into compliance. The owner of the property was brought in to meet with Councilperson Brooks and Arturo Sanchez, the City's Nuisance Enforcement Officer. Under threat of being taken to an Administrative Hearing for having a nuisance property, the owner opted to enter into a Settlement Agreement to a clean-up his property.

Under the Agreement the property owner is required to evict tenants engaged in drug trafficking, remove excessive trash and vehicles from the parking lot, obtain restraining orders against individuals who have no legal right to be at the property; abate the building code violations; and provide onsite management.

Neighbors have already commented about the noticeable change at the complex. This all came about thanks to collaboration between the offices of Desley Brooks, City staff, and concerned area families.

"People being active in their neighborhoods create a greater sense of pride that permeates throughout the community, and working together we make a difference," says Brooks.

Residents can play a key role in improving their neighborhood's quality of life by serving as the eyes and ears of the community. Every individual can make a difference.

With that in mind, your help is needed to make continued progress. If you live in East Oakland and see any forms of blight, whether abandoned vehicles, rotting garbage, or continued loitering at the Ritchie and Bancroft property or others, please contact Councilperson Desley Brooks at [dbrooks@oaklandnet.com](mailto:dbrooks@oaklandnet.com) or 510-238-7006.