



# Merchant Information Bulletin



The trial of former BART police officer Johannes Mehserle is underway in Los Angeles and moving quickly; a verdict could be announced in late June.

## ***Message from Mayor Ron Dellums and Chief Batts on a United Oakland:***

*We are united as a city and a community, and we are dedicated to ensuring the safe expressions of emotions during this difficult time. We understand that the community is grieving, and we are in this together. We will get through this together.*

*There are many people ready to help begin the healing process and they have opened their doors to allow us to express our grief in a healthy manner that will not endanger our safety, livelihood or reputation as a city. We are asking for the community to come together, look out for one another, and stay safe.*

*We will not tolerate destruction or violence. We live here, and we love Oakland.*

## **Simple Steps to Help Keep Oakland Safe**

We anticipate that regardless of the verdict reached by the jury, demonstrations could occur in downtown Oakland, and potentially throughout the city. The City is committed to facilitating peaceful demonstrations. And we are prepared to deal with the situation if it turns violent. Here are some simple steps you can take:

- Stay tuned to your local TV and radio stations for information.
- On the day the verdict is announced, if possible park your car in a secure location.
- Remove or secure large trash receptacles.
- Let employees know they have the option to close the business and get to a safe location.
- Consider stocking up on plywood and supplies to board up your business, if necessary. These companies provide board-up services: Purofirst (510) 482-4545; Four Star Clean (510) 796-5900; 911 Restoration Services (510) 526-1137. Contact your private insurance company for other companies.
- Be sure your business is well lit. Good lighting increases visibility—and also increases the effectiveness of any closed circuit TV system.
- If you have a closed circuit TV, be sure it is in good working order and is turned on. Save recordings of documented criminal activity.
- Make sure your building has good quality locks on the doors and windows. Deadbolt locks are a must for exterior doors.
- All exterior doors with a gap exposing the door jam should be covered with a steel plate to prevent the door from being pried open.
- Leave the cash drawer empty and open after business hours.
- If your business is damaged, take photographs if possible.
- **For crimes in progress and other emergencies, dial 911. If using a cell phone, dial (510) 777-3211.**
- Report any suspicious activity to OPD by calling the non-emergency number: (510) 777-3333.

## **Stay Informed**

- We will post regular information updates on our web site: [www.oaklandnet.com](http://www.oaklandnet.com).
- To receive emergency alerts by email or wireless device, subscribe to our alert system. On the lower left hand side of the [City's home page](#), look for "Email Updates" and select "emergency alerts."
- Follow us on [Twitter](#): oaklandpoliceca
- If you don't have a computer, call (510) 444-CITY for information and/or recorded updates.