



CITY OF OAKLAND  
**newsrelease**  
Office of the City Attorney

**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
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## **Tenants Partner with City to Fix Slum Housing**

*ACORN Praises City Attorney Russo and Council President De La Fuente*

**When:** Tuesday, September 27, 2005 at 6 PM

**What:** Press event and rally by **ACORN members thanking city officials** for quickly resolving inhumane housing conditions at an Oakland apartment complex

**Where:** Steps of **Oakland City Hall** (14<sup>th</sup> St. btwn Broadway and Clay)

**Photo/Video Op:** Dozens of tenants will rally to thank Russo & De La Fuente

### **BACKGROUND**

Three months ago, tenants of the dilapidated Peppertree Apartments, located at 1500, 1508, and 1516 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue rallied in front of City Hall and then interrupted a City Council meeting to demand inspection of their run-down housing conditions. Organized by the Association of Communities Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), the tenants also demanded to have the City's blight line translated into multiple languages.

In July, members of ACORN's Tenant's United Chapter welcomed officials from the City's Code Enforcement Department, an attorney with the Neighborhood Law Corps and representatives from the office of Councilmember De La Fuente and the City Manager's office into the Peppertree Apartments in East Oakland. Inspectors observed violations in several apartments and interviewed residents.

As a result of the pressure by community and city officials, a settlement agreement was reached with the owner of the Peppertree, Adel Ali. The agreement, signed Friday September 16<sup>th</sup>, requires Mr. Ali to hire a private inspector, bring every unit up to code and post bonds to ensure the work is done in a timely and effective manner.

On Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, ACORN and the tenants of the Peppertree Apartments will once again rally at the City Hall steps at Frank Ogawa Plaza, but this time to thank the city officials for responding quickly and effectively to the tenants' concerns.

The Neighborhood Law Corps (NLC) is a unique, innovative community lawyering program created by Oakland City Attorney John Russo. The Neighborhood Law Corps focuses on three areas: blight and housing code violations, toxic pollution, and consumer education.

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