



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 13, 2007**

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## **City of Oakland Gets Help to Tackle Problem Liquor Stores**

Assemblywoman Hancock Offers Bill to Reduce Liquor Outlets in Over-concentrated Areas

*Oakland, CA* – Assemblymember Loni Hancock in conjunction with local officials in Oakland has introduced legislation to crack down on problem liquor stores. Oakland has more than 300 liquor stores. Problem liquor stores have too often been the nexus for nuisance behavior such as littering, loitering, drug dealing and gun violence in many of Oakland's neighborhoods. AB960 will give local cities control of liquor store concentration by permitting cities to phase out nuisance liquor stores through an amortization process.

"This bill will give cities the tools to crack down on problem liquor stores," said Assemblywoman Loni Hancock. "Over-concentration of liquor stores is a huge problem for urban communities and low income neighborhoods. The over-concentration of liquor stores contributes to increases in crime, excessive and underage drinking, loitering and blight in communities. It is time we had legislation to address this problem."

The City Attorney's Neighborhood Law Corps program has been responding to community requests about problem liquor stores and bars. In the past three years, eight liquor outlets have been closed and sixteen liquor stores have improved their operating conditions to become 'better neighbors.'

"Problem liquor stores have had a negative impact on quality of life issues in certain Oakland neighborhoods for too long," said Oakland Mayor Ron Dellums. "I want to thank Assemblymember Loni Hancock, City Attorney John Russo and The Neighborhood Law Corps for coming together to craft legislation to help us address this problem. In order to make Oakland a Model City we must improve the quality of life for every Oakland resident. This legislation moves us in the right direction."

"We're grateful for this assistance from the state. This new law will balance the needs of the property owner with the needs of the community," said Neighborhood Law Corps founder and Oakland City Attorney John Russo. "When liquor stores become a destructive element in our neighborhoods we need the ability to quickly turn them around or shut them down."

AB 960 allows local governments a framework by which to remove liquor stores in overly concentrated or high crime areas. The amortization process would be ten years or less depending on certain factors including: purchase price for the premises, depreciation value of the premises as well as length and term of any lease.

AB 960 and a one-page explanation of the amortization process follow this release.

## Neighborhood Law Corps Progress

In the last 4 years NLC has:

1. Shut down 3 stores (permanently closed).
2. Monitored the ABC license surrender of 1 store (permanently closed).
3. Currently finalizing the closure of 4 stores (in appeal or negotiation).
4. Abated Nuisances at 16 stores – all positive outcomes with significant improvements (security, lighting, reduced hours, better signage, more cooperative with neighborhood groups).
5. Currently abating nuisances at 11 stores.