



CITY OF OAKLAND
newsrelease
Office of the City Attorney

NEWS RELEASE
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Neighborhood Law Corps Helps Nuisance Liquor Store To Be a 'Good Neighbor'

OAKLAND, CA—In cooperation with community residents, Council President Ignacio De La Fuente and the City Administrator's Nuisance Abatement efforts, City Attorney John Russo's Neighborhood Law Corps (NLC) was able to bring a problem liquor store, A & J Liquors (23rd Avenue and E. 15th Street), into a compliance plan to correct blight and drug dealing.

"Liquor store owners have a right to operate a store in the community," said Oakland City Attorney John Russo, "but that right comes with a responsibility. When they become a destructive element in our neighborhoods, our Neighborhood Law Corps will turn them around or shut them down."

For the past four years, A & J Liquors has been the center of complaints about litter, loitering and drug dealing. The store was issued citations for selling alcohol and cigarettes to minors. "When a liquor store creates problems in a neighborhood, I am committed to taking fast and fair action that increases the safety of residents, merchants and school children," said Council President De La Fuente.

The Council President and City Attorney successfully shut down a nuisance liquor store, E&L Liquors (23rd Avenue at E. 24th Street), in October. Neighbors then asked for help in fixing the problems at A&J Liquors (23rd Avenue at E. 15th Street) -- just 2 blocks from Garfield Elementary School.

In less than nine weeks, the owner of A&J Liquors, as well as the owner of the property, signed a compliance plan designed to clean up the store and thwart dealers who use the corner to sell drugs. Under the terms of the compliance plan, the owners will do the following:

- ✓ Maintain exterior surveillance cameras to discourage drug dealers;
- ✓ Remove loiterers promptly because their presence has frightened children walking to school;
- ✓ Stop selling fortified alcohol, malt liquor and mini liquor bottles (a.k.a. "shots");
- ✓ Keep the sidewalks clean;
- ✓ Reduce store operating hours;
- ✓ Remove the large, exterior "LIQUORS" sign and re-name the store "T&K Market".

"The City listened to the community's concerns and took strong, but reasonable action against the store," said Don Davenport, Executive Director of the San Antonio Community Development Corporation. "The store must now be a real partner with the community in assisting us with the revitalization of the 23rd Avenue Corridor."

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In the last year, the Neighborhood Law Corps abated twenty-one drug nuisance locations, two problem hotels, seven blighted properties and eight general nuisance cases. The recent victory in a lawsuit against a negligent landlord resulted in the complete rehabilitation of eighteen rental properties and \$140,000 paid to the city.

NLC was recently awarded the Grand Prize for the [League of California Cities'](#) Helen Putnam Award for Excellence. The Putnam Awards recognize outstanding achievements by California's 477 cities. Cities are recognized for making unique contributions to improve the quality of life for community residents and businesses.

For more information on the Neighborhood Law Corps, please see the website:
<http://www.oaklandcityattorney.org/neighbor.html>.

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