



MEDIA RELEASE
July 18, 2006

Contact: Erica Harrold
(510) 238-3148

Drug Dealing Heats Up Law Corps Work

City Removes Two Nuisance Stores Bringing Relief to Neighborhoods

(Oakland, CA) –The Neighborhood Law Corps, in partnership with Oakland Police Department, the City Administrator’s Nuisance Abatement Unit and community leaders announced the removal of two nuisance stores—Gold Market at 2351 82nd Avenue and Acapulco Market at 2301 8th Avenue.

“Business owners have a right to operate a store in the community, but that right comes with a duty to be an asset – not a nuisance,” said Oakland City Attorney John Russo.

Over the years Gold Market has been the source of numerous community complaints due to the drug dealing in front of the store and the store’s sale of drug paraphernalia. After years of failed attempts to get the store owner to work with the City and discourage the drug dealing, residents joined with Councilmember Desley Brooks, the City Administrator’s Nuisance Abatement Unit and the Law Corps to take legal action. After the owner, Ronald Grant, agreed to evict the problem tenant, the Councilmember and other city staff appeared in Superior Court to support the eviction. On July 13th, Judge Winton McKibben ordered the eviction of the problem tenant.

“We’ll do everything we can to support property owners who agree to abate the nuisances on their property, including appearing in Court”, said City Attorney Russo.

Additionally, on July 17th, the owner of another drug nuisance property agreed to initiate proceedings to evict Acapulco Market and ensure that the drug dealing in front of and inside the store immediately cease. Police report that this summer the drug dealing has increased to a level unseen before in the quiet residential neighborhood. The store operator’s complacency only aggravated police efforts to curtail the illegal activity.

The Oakland Police Department, the City Administrator’s Nuisance Abatement Unit, and the Law Corps met with the owner today and showed him the substantial police evidence documenting the drug dealing at the location. Upon seeing the videos and police reports, the owner immediately agreed to evict the operator of the store and abate the nuisance at the property.

“Neighbors were terrified of the dealers; we had to do something to help them—and we had to do it fast,” said Russo.