



CITY OF OAKLAND
newsrelease
Office of the City Attorney

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City Attorney Introduces Oakland's Special Prosecution Team

OAKLAND, CA – At a press conference today at City Hall, City Attorney John Russo, Chief Assistant District Attorney Nancy O'Malley and other city officials announced a new crime-fighting partnership – the City Attorney's Special Prosecution Team.

Russo and O'Malley were joined by Oakland Police Deputy Chief Dave Kozicki and City Councilmember Larry Reid to introduce the Special Prosecution Team – a new unit of criminal lawyers in the City Attorney's Office that will work with the District Attorney and the Police Department to prosecute chronic non-felony crimes that severely impact the community's quality of life.

"The Special Prosecution Team, working closely with the community, will target the pervasive misdemeanors and infractions that invariably contribute to more serious crime, fear and disorder in the city," Russo said. "Every day in Oakland, in neighborhoods all over the city, there are people disturbing the peace, drunk or fighting in public, committing noise and graffiti offenses, illegally dumping garbage, selling stolen property, selling liquor to minors, being cruel to animals and committing other crimes that fit under the 'quality of life' category."

"These crimes are not as shocking or as evil as homicide or robbery," Russo said. "But they are a destructive force in our city. The chronic nature of these crimes has a chilling effect on our neighborhoods. Too often, these 'low level' crimes degenerate public safety, create an environment of lawlessness and ultimately lead to more serious or violent felonies."

Chief Assistant DA Nancy O'Malley said: "The District Attorney's Office is steadfastly committed to holding accountable those people who prey on our communities and wreak havoc in our neighborhoods. This partnership allows us to leverage resources, step up prosecution of 'quality of life' crimes and work toward improving the lives of Oakland's citizens."

The three Special Prosecution Team attorneys – Reve Bautista, Mario José Jovel and Eli Ferran – are each assigned to one of the Oakland Police Department's three Area Commands. Together they have almost four decades of experience as prosecutors in the San Francisco District Attorney's Office. In addition to prosecuting criminals, the unit will focus on intervention services and restorative justice programs where appropriate.
