



CITY ATTORNEY JOHN RUSSO STATEMENT

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OAKLAND – City Attorney John Russo released the following statement today on Judge Frank Roesch’s tentative ruling in a lawsuit challenging the implementation of Measure Y – the Violence Prevention and Public Safety Act of 2004.

The statement is as follows:

We respectfully disagree with Judge Roesch’s tentative ruling. The clear intent of voters in approving Measure Y was to put problem-solving cops on the streets of Oakland. We believe that the fund has been spent in accordance with both the letter and the spirit of the law.

To build the effective community policing program directed by voters, the Oakland Police Department decided to fill Measure Y positions with experienced officers who know their beats and have the skills to act in a problem-solving capacity.

As Judge Roesch’s tentative ruling notes, Measure Y funds were approved for the purpose of “hiring and maintaining” 63 new community policing officers.

If the tentative decision becomes final tomorrow, Measure Y funds can continue to pay for new cops – as long as those rookie officers go directly into problem-solving positions.

The City Attorney’s Office believes that the voters intended to have the most effective crime fighting force available when they voted for the additional public safety tax contained in Measure Y. We will contest the tentative ruling in court Wednesday.
