CITY OF OAKLAND
newsrelease
Office of the City Attorney

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City of Oakland Goes to Court to Get Trash Picked Up

Oakland, CA – Today, Oakland City Attorney John Russo filed an injunction with the Alameda County Superior Court to compel Waste Management of Alameda County (WMAC) to perform its duties under its contract with the city and pick-up garbage, recycling and yard waste bins (RG 07335086).

"We are entirely within our contract rights and California state law to demand this health and safety issue be addressed immediately," said Oakland City Attorney John Russo. "We have a duty to protect Oakland's people and businesses. This situation has gone on long enough."

Since the July 1st lock-out by WMAC and the subsequent pile up of trash, recycling and food waste scraps in various neighborhoods, more than 1,000 emails and phone calls have been made to the City of Oakland's recycling hotline.

"We've expressed our genuine desire to help mediate this matter. It is our sincere hope and desire that this matter is resolved expeditiously," said Oakland Mayor Ron Dellums. "Oakland residents, as well as Alameda County residents, deserve to know the garbage pick up will go forward in an uninterrupted manner. In an urban environment where disease can spread quickly, we ask that both parties resolve these issues now."

"The garbage is piling up in our neighborhoods, and as a City we have the responsibility to protect the health and safety of our residents, " said Council President Ignacio De La Fuente. "We have to do whatever it takes to ensure that Waste Management complies with their contract."

The City of Oakland contracts with Waste Management because it does not have the facilities, trucks or staff to pick-up, sort or manage trash.

Waste Management informed city officials on July 2nd of a lock-out of Local 70 employees due to concerns about service disruption from the union's alleged threat to strike. The following day the City issued a Notice of Violation of Franchise Agreement demanding garbage collection duties resume regardless of WMAC's employee/management issues. After ten days and many formal and informal talks to resolve the problem, the City of Oakland is seeking relief through the courts.

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