1. INTRODUCTION

✓ Today Oakland is turning the page on a bleak chapter in our City history.

✓ I am pleased to stand here today with Mayor Jerry Brown; Oakland Police Chief Richard Word; plaintiffs’ attorneys John Burris, James Chanin, and John Houston Scott; City Council President Ignacio De La Fuente; Councilmember Larry Reid, Chair of the Council’s Public Safety Committee; and City Manager Robert Bobb to announce the global settlement of the Riders civil rights cases.

✓ As you remember, in the fall of 2000, 119 plaintiffs filed suit against the City in Federal Court alleging that their civil rights were violated by 4 Oakland Police officers working in West Oakland; these officers became known as the Riders.

✓ Allegations against the 4 officers included false arrest, planting evidence, excessive use of force, falsification of police reports, and assault and battery.

✓ When rookie police officers stepped forward to report the misconduct, the Oakland Police Department immediately placed the four named officers on administrative leave and launched an extensive Internal Affairs investigation.

✓ The investigation revealed that these four officers had committed serious violations of departmental policy; the officers were then terminated and the case was referred to the Alameda County District Attorney for investigation into criminal conduct.

✓ Their criminal trial is currently underway in Alameda County Superior Court.

2. FRAMEWORK OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND MONETARY PAYOUT

✓ Understanding the severity of the allegations and the potentially devastating financial impact of a lawsuit of this magnitude, the City moved quickly and effectively to fix the underlying weaknesses in our system that allowed this misconduct to occur.

✓ After nearly two years of extensive negotiation and hard work, the City of Oakland and plaintiffs’ counsel have reached a global settlement that is fair and that will ultimately serve the City well into the future.
The settlement agreement is voluntary, collaborative, and comprehensive

- **Voluntary:**
  - Unlike many other cities which have faced similar allegations of police misconduct, Oakland did not deny, hide or retreat from these serious allegations
  - We did not, so to speak, bury our heads in the sand
  - Nor did we wait for the Department of Justice to force us into a consent decree
  - Quite the contrary, the Executive Management of the City (Mayor/City Manager, Police Chief, City Attorney, City Council) took immediate action to aggressively manage this lawsuit in the interest of saving taxpayer dollars and preventing a repetition of such a scandal

- **Collaborative**
  - The process was collaborative
  - We looked to cities across country to learn from their experience in crafting a solution that would work in Oakland
  - We convened a Blue Ribbon panel of experts with national reputations to develop new police accountability procedures, including:
    - former DOJ lawyer who practiced in Civil Rights Division of DOJ
    - Deputy Commissioner in charge of all NYPD training
    - former police chiefs from other urban cities throughout the country
    - former president of the Black Police Officers’ Association
  - Most importantly, over the last 15 months we collaborated with plaintiffs’ attorneys and the Federal Court to develop an agreement that would result in systemic reforms

- **Comprehensive:**
  - This global, Court-approved agreement settles claims from 119 individual plaintiffs in 15 lawsuits—would have resulted in 25 separate trials if not settled (groups of 5 plaintiffs at a time) at enormous cost to the taxpayers of Oakland

- The settlement agreement is comprised of two parts: the monetary payout and the package of institutional and operational reforms in the Oakland Police Department

- **Monetary Payout**
  - 119 plaintiffs and their attorneys will receive $10.9 million
  - This amount includes all damage payouts, attorney’s fees, and costs
  - Refer to fact sheet provided for a detailed accounting of this breakdown
  - Under the City’s excess coverage insurance policy, the City is responsible for paying a $2 million “deductible” plus 1% of the total settlement cost
  - Total payout for the City is $2.5 million
To put this in context, the City has only paid out $2+ million in 5 other cases in its history (if asked):
- fire truck that hit store and killed person in 1991
- claims from Oakland Hills Firestorm in late 1990s
- home invasion robbery where two people were killed (2000)
- police car accident that left person permanently injured (2001)
- business license tax challenge (2002)

Reform Measures
- City of Oakland has agreed to institute operational reforms in the Police Department.
- Implementation of the five-year settlement agreement will be overseen by an independent monitor, to be agreed upon by the parties
- The monitor will audit the Department’s compliance with the settlement agreement and report to the Federal Court on a regular basis
- Chief Richard Word will discuss the reform measures these in more detail

✓ Settlement is fair—changes not unusual or draconian—reforms consistent with best policing practices nationwide

✓ Some aspects of the reforms will be new; the agreement is mostly about enforcing existing rules and providing the Department with better management tools to monitor performance

✓ Not looking to impede officers from doing excellent police work

✓ Acknowledge supervision of Federal Court

✓ Acknowledge cooperative, non-confrontational collaboration with plaintiffs’ attorneys to develop an agreement that would fairly compensate victims and would secure range of reforms to prevent future problems; approach is unique, cost-effective, valuable to all parties

3. LITIGATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

✓ All sides recognized need to minimize fiscal impact to City in order to maximize the effectiveness of the reforms

✓ City’s aggressive posture from start resulted in judiciously managed litigation—net result was to drive down cost to City
  - Not one deposition taken

✓ By controlling litigation costs we saved taxpayers millions of dollars so that the City’s resources could be spent on implementing the Court-approved reforms
4. INTRODUCE MAYOR JERRY BROWN/CITY MANAGER ROBERT BOBB

5. INTRODUCE POLICE CHIEF RICHARD WORD

6. INTRODUCE PLAINTIFFS’ ATTORNEYS: John Burris

7. INTRODUCE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT IGNACIO DE LA FUENTE

8. INTRODUCE COUNCILMEMBER LARRY REID, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

9. CLOSING REMARKS