



Oakland Police Department

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**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
**For Immediate Release**

## **Oakland Police Chief Richard Word to Announce Changes to Police Department's Crowd Control Policy at Citizen's Police Review Board Hearing**

(Oakland, CA) On Thursday, December 11, 2003 at 6:15 PM, Oakland Police Chief Richard Word will announce changes to the Oakland Police Department's Crowd Control Policy at the Citizen's Police Review Board Hearing. The Hearing will take place at the Oakland City Hall City Council Chambers. Following the April 7<sup>th</sup> anti-war demonstration at the Port of Oakland, the Chief of Police convened an internal review board to examine every facet of their response including: prior communications and planning with protest leaders, crowd control training, equipment and use of force options. The review board also included non-police participants.

"We have learned many lessons in light of the April 7<sup>th</sup> anti-war demonstration at the Port of Oakland," says Oakland Police Chief Richard Word. "We will do everything we can to communicate with protest leaders and other representatives of protest organizations prior to planned, future protests in the City of Oakland. The value of having protest liaisons from the Oakland Police Department and prior communication with protest leaders was proven at the subsequent Port protest on May 12<sup>th</sup>."

Changes to the Oakland Police Department Crowd Control Policy include but are not limited to:

- The establishment of police protest liaisons, trained by practiced protestors, to be on-site during the protest to meet with protest leaders and advise of an intended police action or to relay any police requests.
- The numbering of police officer helmets in an effort to easily identify officers involved in any police action.
- The elimination of the wooden dowel from the Oakland Police Department arsenal.
- The suspension of the motorcycle B.U.M.P. (Basic Utilization of Motorcycle Push) technique.
- Restricting the use of flexible baton (bean bag) rounds.
- All officers will be trained on the new crowd control policy.

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