



Oakland Police Department

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Chief of Police

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## MEDIA ADVISORY

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### **California Police Activities League to honor Oakland Councilmember Larry Reid and Oakland Tribune Reporter Harry Harris**

**(Oakland, CA)** The California Police Activities League (PAL) will host its Annual Awards Dinner on Monday, March 22, 2004, at the Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza in Sacramento from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Among those honored will be Oakland Councilmember Larry Reid and Oakland Tribune Reporter Harry Harris.

Councilmember Reid has had a phenomenal impact on the Oakland PAL for the past eighteen years. Since 2001, he has provided scholarships to PAL graduating seniors to assist in furthering their educations. Councilmember Reid also endorsed an agreement between the City of Oakland Parks and Recreation Department and Oakland PAL to re-open the Verdese Carter Youth Center. The center was closed in early 2003 due to budget cuts. The center now serves as the Oakland PAL Youth Center. Because of his hard work and dedication to the Oakland PAL, Councilmember Reid will be presented with the California PAL Government Leader of the Year Award.

Thanks to reporter Harry Harris, the Oakland Tribune can always manage to find space for an Oakland PAL story. Mr. Harris was born and raised in Oakland and coached youth baseball for twenty-five years. He recognizes that Oakland PAL programs have a tremendous influence on children who need to know that there are adults in the community, and the Oakland Police Department, who care about their futures. Mr. Harris has been a reporter for thirty-two years, mostly covering crime stories from the Oakland Police Department. He says, "A good writer must be able to write about the good and the bad. People need to be reminded that police officers do more than just arrest people." Because of his hard work and dedication to the Oakland PAL, Mr. Harris will be presented with the California PAL Media of the Year Award.

When asked his opinion of the award recipients, Oakland Police Chief Richard Word said, "Larry Reid is a great leader for his constituents. He is also a passionate man who is committed to find lasting solutions to Oakland's homicide problem. Larry consistently demands that Oakland officers maintain the highest standards of professional policing. He is also a tireless advocate for Oakland's youth and our PAL programs. He certainly understands the link between effective programs for youth and crime reduction. Harry Harris is a reporter I trust without question. As an 'insider,' I have never read a Harry Harris story that was unfair or factually incorrect. He has also been one who encourages us to speak of our accomplishments. He is knowledgeable, forthright and balanced in his work. If either of these men were cops, they would be a fantastic partner!"

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