



Oakland Police Department

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**For Immediate Release****SEVEN OFFICERS FROM OTHER AGENCIES BECOME OAKLAND POLICE**

OAKLAND, May 18—On Thursday, May 19, 2005, at 12:30 p.m., the Oakland Police Department (OPD) will host a badge-pinning ceremony for six new officers who left other agencies to join the ranks of the Oakland Police Department. The new officers began the lateral officer transition course April 15, 2005 and are the first new officers to join the Department since 2003. The ceremony will take place in the Chief's Conference Room on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor.

The following officers will be transitioned into the Oakland Police Department:

- Elizabeth Clark, 34-years-old, formerly of the Alameda County Sheriff's Department
- Abdullah Dadgar, 28-years-old, formerly an OPD Park Ranger
- Chan Lee, 30-years-old, formerly an OPD Park Ranger
- Michael Leonesio, 43-years-old, formerly of the San Carlos Police Department
- Themis Lonis, 40-years-old, formerly an OPD Park Ranger
- Timothy Martin, 38-years-old, formerly of the Palo Alto Police Department
- Michael Mellone, 25-years-old, formerly of the Richmond Police Department.

The Lateral Officer Transition Course is a 5-week, 200-hour course for sworn, veteran police officers that have resigned from their current agencies to take a job with the Oakland Police Department. The course is designed to familiarize and teach these officers about the policies and procedures of the Oakland Police Department.

**(more)**

The course includes instruction on community policing, tactical communication, report writing, ethics, defensive tactics, patrol procedures, firearms, and the Negotiated Settlement Agreement.

For more information about the OPD Lateral Officer Transition Course, please contact Sgt. Ray Backman at (510) 238-3552.

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