

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oakland Chamber Surveys Business Outlook

OAKLAND, CA -- Businesspeople throughout Oakland are encouraged to attend the upcoming Chambers of Commerce Breakfast, with Oakland Mayor Ron Dellums, February 19th at the Oakland Marriott City Center from 8:00 to 9:30 am. Local Chambers of Commerce from the City of Oakland will be in attendance.

Among the important topics will be a candid discussion about the business climate in Oakland. A recent survey commissioned by the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce shows some deep concerns among local companies about the business climate in the city. A majority of businesses in Oakland name a variety of challenges such as recruiting and retaining qualified employees, profitability and growth, the economy, taxes, competition and exposure and local regulations.

While 49% of the businesses surveyed feel things in Oakland are generally going in the right direction, they feel there is more work to do. The vast majority of businesses ranked crime and public safety as the most important problem facing Oakland. Other concerns included education, poor political infrastructure and a lack of assistance for small businesses in the area, but those concerns were not nearly as prevalent as the business community's concerns over public safety.

Of note in this survey is the loud and clear call from Oakland businesses to the Chambers of Commerce – 61% of businesses feel the main focus of their city should be on promoting economic growth through business development in the community. They feel businesses would be better served if resources were focused on these issues, and not on new endeavors, such as the electricity business as suggested under Community Choice Aggregation which would have local governments to take on the procurement of energy for all customers not expressly opting-out. In fact, the majority of Oakland businesses say they prefer that PG&E continue as their electricity provider, and 72% of businesses rated PG&E favorably.

The Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce commissioned EMC Research, Inc. to complete a survey of businesses in the City of Oakland. EMC conducted a total of 149 interviews with a margin of error of \pm 8.0 percentage points. Interviewing was conducted November 7 – December 4, 2007 online and by telephone.

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Founded in 1905, the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce aims to promote commerce and industry, advance economic growth and enhance the quality of life in the city of Oakland. For more information, please visit www.oaklandchamber.com.