



News from Office of the Mayor

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MAYOR DELLUMS ACTS TO CENTRALIZE AND AUTOMATE OAKLAND'S CONTRACTING PROCESSES

Consolidation & Technological Upgrades Make City More Responsive to Business Community

Oakland, CA — Mayor Ron Dellums announced today the accelerated implementation of the two actions necessary to fully centralize Oakland's procurement and contracting processes: the physical consolidation of the Contracting and Purchasing Department, and the installation of the "procure-to-pay" online system. With these two components in place, the City's contracting and purchasing processes will be fully centralized, with a virtual "one stop shop" available to contractors and vendors seeking to do business with Oakland. The physical consolidation of the Purchasing Services Division with the remainder of the Contracting & Purchasing Department on the third floor of the 250 Frank Ogawa Plaza building will begin on Monday, December 22, 2008. All public contact information, such as e-mail and phone numbers, will remain the same.

Mayor Dellums stated: "The centralized approach to contracting will improve Oakland's procurement and contracting practices and ensure that the City is more responsive to the business community. The physical relocation of Purchasing Services completes the organizational consolidation of the Department of Contracting and Purchasing, created last year to centralize the contracting, procurement and social equity services into one centrally managed operation, thereby enhancing efficiency for both external and internal customers."

The newly formed department is poised to assist City agencies in meeting their contracting and procurement needs; implement and maintain standard procurement and contracting processes; support the implementation of the citywide automated contracting system; apply transparent strategies to reduce staff time and effort and procure quality deliverables and ensure adherence to the City's social equity policies for Oakland businesses and residents. While the department has already centralized most contracting and procurement processes, the full centralization was contingent upon the physical consolidation accelerated by the Mayor. With the upcoming move, scheduled to be completed before the winter holidays, Oakland will offer a "one-stop shop" for contractors and vendors to do business with the City, as well as for all City departments engaging in such transactions.

The Mayor is also accelerating the launch of a new, automated "procure-to-pay" system. This system will have significant internal and external impacts that will enhance the performance of City contracting operations. The contractors and vendors seeking to do business with the City will be able to access the new system via the City's home page (www.oaklandnet.com) and the Department of Contracting and Purchasing web page.

The first phase of the "procure-to-pay" system is the Internet Supplier Portal ("iSupplier"), which will be launched in January 2009. "iSupplier" will provide a means for suppliers of goods and services to communicate

with the City through a secure internet connection. This system will allow parties interested in doing business with the City to register online. Once registered, existing and new suppliers will be able to collaborate online with the Department of Contracting and Purchasing. Suppliers will be able to register and certify their firms to conduct business in Oakland and create a business profile. Subsequently, this online collaboration capability will serve as the foundation for the implementation of Phase Two of “procure-to-pay,” where businesses will be able to access contracting opportunities, submit proposals and invoices, and arrange for electronic transfers directly to their business accounts. The link to the “iSupplier” home page will be on the City of Oakland website.

Mayor Dellums stated: “In these challenging economic times, the City of Oakland strives to maintain a business-friendly environment, to both retain existing and establish new relationships with the contractors and vendors interested in doing business with us. We welcome you to Oakland, and will work hard to make your experience here positive.”