

JEAN QUAN for OAKLAND MAYOR 2010

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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250 NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERS HELP LAUNCH JEAN QUAN FOR OAKLAND MAYOR 2010

OAKLAND, CA--250 supporters—local neighborhood leaders from all parts of Oakland—packed the Humanist Hall in North Oakland last Saturday, March 27 to rally on behalf of Oakland Vice Mayor Jean Quan for her historic run for Oakland Mayor.

“I must say I think the dial on the kickoff was set at "WOW" all the way through. This is clearly a grassroots campaign that can't help but catch on. And if this is how it starts, in a standing room-only hall overflowing with optimistic energy, I can't wait for the big bash in November,” said Tracy Baxter, a young San Francisco transplant who has called Oakland home for the past three years.

Leading the accolades were Assembly members Sandre Swanson (16th Assembly District) and Mary Hayashi (18th Assembly District). Former City Council Member Dick Spees, who represented Jean Quan's District 4 for 24 years, spoke of Jean's integrity and hard work, and reinforced Jean's unique brand of leadership, referring over and over to the campaign slogan of “Taking Back Oakland, Block by Block”.

Current School Board members Jody London (District 1) and Chris Dobbins (District 6) noted that Jean would be Oakland's first true Education Mayor, with her solid understanding of educational issues honed by 12 years on the Oakland School Board and leadership on state and national education and youth policy issues. Former School Board Member Lucella Harrison spoke of how she and Jean helped save music in the schools back in the early 1990s and went on to raise the bar for all students in Oakland's public schools.

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Reverend Valerie Miles-Tribble spoke about Jean's leadership in maintaining Oakland's affordable housing, and her work to create a grassroots movement among Oakland residents to help Oakland fulfill its tremendous potential.

Neighborhood leaders led by Ed Wing Yu of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance; Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council leader Peg Lum from Allendale; Library advocate Sylvester Grisby from East Oakland; Athelean Jones from 66th Avenue, Nick Vigilante from the Neighborhood Watch Council; young mother Bena Pierson of East Oakland; public safety advocate Don Link from North Oakland; young lawyer Teague Briscoe of East Lake, Mac-Tizoc of East Lake, and Dan Swafford of Dimond spoke of the many ways in which Jean and her staff nurtured their efforts to build community for improved public safety, emergency preparedness, elimination of blight and park improvements.

Quan, a 30-year resident of Oakland, has been repeatedly elected to public office over the past 20 years—three times as a member of the Oakland School Board and twice as a Council Member representing Allendale, Brookdale, Crestmont, the Dimond, Laurel, Maxwell Park, Melrose, Montclair, and Redwood Heights. At the close of the Rally, she thanked her supporters and noted that this election was not just about electing her to Mayor, but about creating a grassroots movement to build a partnership between the City and the community to bring real change to Oakland.

"I arrived around 12:30 and must say I was overwhelmed at the number of people, the variety of people and the positive buzz in the room," said Trestle Glen resident Kathy Dwyer. "I told Jean as we were walking the neighborhoods after the rally that the event truly epitomized what she is all about—a true grass roots effort."

For additional information or to sign up to help out in the campaign, go to www.jeanquanforoakland.org or call (510) 548-5729 and leave a message.

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