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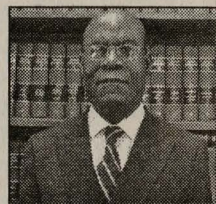
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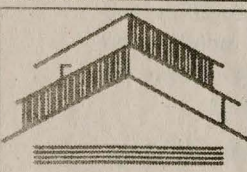
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Transit Board Gets Another Earful On Oakland Death

By Terry Collins

Associated Press Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) - Angry residents criticized transit officials again Sunday for their response to the fatal shooting of an unarmed man by a transit police officer on New Year's Day.

About 100 people attended a community meeting hosted by the Bay Area Rapid Transit board about the shooting of 22-year-old Oscar Grant, but few appeared appeased.

Most who spoke railed against what they called a slow response and demanded to know if Officer Johannes Mehserle would be arrested. Alameda County prosecutors, and Oakland and transit police say they still are investigating why Mehserle shot Grant, who had been detained in a station following a fight on a train.

"Why hasn't anyone with authority just arrested this guy?" asked Oakland resident Nader Bey, echoing the frustration prevalent at the more than two-hour-long meeting.

Mehserle, 27, resigned from the force before his department's internal affairs division could interview him. BART Police Chief Gary Gee pleaded for patience and said Sunday he hoped to present the division's findings about the case to the district attorney by week's end.

Mehserle, who was a BART officer for two years, received all required police training, including on avoiding racial profiling, Gee said.

Last week, demonstrators outraged by the shooting torched cars, smashed store windows and threw bottles at officers in downtown Oakland. This was the transit agency's second public meeting in four days intended to ease tensions.

Oakland City Council member Desley Brooks said she wanted to know when the board would



Gabrielle Rae holds a photo of Oscar Grant while attending a BART board of directors meeting on last Thursday in Oakland, Calif. Speakers criticized the transit agency for its handling of a New Year's Days incident involving a BART police officer who shot and killed Grant, an unarmed 22-year old. AP Photo/Noah Berger.

respond to a list of demands, including the identifications of the other officers present during the shooting and turning the investigation over to state and federal prosecutors.

She asked BART director Carole Ward Allen: "When are you going to take some action, some real action, Carole? It is clear something has to be done..."

Ward Allen, who earlier had said the board was doing its best to release information without compromising the investigation, left the room visibly agitated. She represents the district where Grant was shot.

Ward Allen eventually returned to the meeting and said afterward that she and her colleagues also are frustrated with the pace of the

investigation.

"I'd like for it to have been done yesterday, but the district attorney is going to take his time," Ward Allen said.

Alameda County District Attorney Tom Orloff says he will decide within two weeks whether to bring criminal charges. On Saturday, Attorney General Jerry Brown said he would dispatch a state prosecutor to monitor the county investigation.

The BART Board of Directors has scheduled a special meeting to discuss creating an oversight committee that would have responsibility for monitoring police-related incidents.

On Monday, BART officials said that they had completed their preliminary investigation shooting and forwarded the results to the

district attorney.

BART Police Chief Gary Gee would not say whether his department recommended that charges be filed against Johannes Mehserle.

BART officials said their report includes interviews with seven officers and 14 witnesses at the scene. Mehserle, who has resigned from the force, filled out a basic incident report after the shooting but has refused to be interviewed by investigators, Gee said.

"We urge the district attorney to expeditiously review all the evidence available to him and bring this investigation to a conclusion," said BART general manager Dorothy Dugger.

Pictorial Highlights Of BLEAW's Holiday Gala Dinner & Dance



The Black Law Enforcement Association Of Washington recently held their Holiday Gala Dinner and

Dance, after rescheduling the event due to the snow, at the Renton Holiday Inn.

Top Photo: Joe Staten, executive director of CAYA(right), receives a special award from BLEAW

Bottom Photo: Dr. Norward J. Brooks (center), executive director of SVI, receives a special award from BLEAW.

Photos/Flyright Productions.

Free Inauguration Celebration At The Royal Esquire Club

The Royal Esquire Club invites members and guests to join them to witness the inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama on Tuesday, January 20th from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Royal Esquire Club - 5016 Rainier Ave. S. in Seattle.

Hors D'oeuvres will be served. Adults only. This is a free event. For more information call (206) 723-2811.

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The school board contact information: schoolboard@seattleschools.org or you can leave a message on their phone at (206)252-0040