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### **ASSEMBLYMEMBER SWANSON'S BART PUBLIC SAFETY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT PASSES THE ASSEMBLY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

SACRAMENTO – Assemblymember Sandré R. Swanson's Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) Public Safety Accountability Act passed the Assembly Public Safety Committee and is headed to the Assembly Floor. Assemblymember Swanson issued the following statement after the vote:

"It has been over a year since the 2009 New Year's Day shooting of Oscar Grant III by a BART police officer. Recognizing the need for greater internal and external oversight of the BART police department, the BART Board of Directors spent several months fine tuning this proposal through extensive discussions with the community and law enforcement.

"Importantly, the Board has already agreed to establish the citizen oversight board and determined funding sources for the independent police auditor. This legislation is necessary to authorize the Board to go forward with these agreements," said Assemblymember Swanson.

The Act authorizes BART to establish an Office of Independent Police Auditor to investigate complaints of misconduct filed by members of the public against BART police officers. The Auditor would have the authority to investigate complaints, make independent findings as to the validity of each complaint, and recommend disciplinary action. AB 1586 would also authorize the Board to establish a citizen review board to participate in recommending appropriate disciplinary action.

Carole Ward Allen, BART Director, made the following statement in support of AB 1586: "Last year, BART made a promise to the Legislature that we would reach out to the public, get critical input, and move quickly to implement a citizen oversight process that best suits our specific local needs.

"It is of the utmost importance to BART and the Bay Area community that we have the ability to implement these positive changes as soon as possible. AB 1586 will give us the authority to implement the citizen oversight structure we promised last year," said Allen.

Oscar Grant's uncle, Cephus Johnson, implored lawmakers to vote for Assemblymember Swanson's bill, saying that he hopes the oversight agreements will prevent another tragic death.

The bill now advances to the Assembly for a vote.