



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 25, 2010  
Contact: Amy Alley (916-319-2016)

## **ASSEMBLY APPROVES ASSEMBLYMEMBER SWANSON'S BART PUBLIC SAFETY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT**

SACRAMENTO – A bill that addresses community concerns over the tragic killing of Oscar Grant, III by a Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) police officer passed the Assembly today with overwhelming bipartisan support. AB 1586, authored by Assemblymember Sandré R. Swanson (D-Alameda), passed the Assembly with a 67-0 vote. Following the floor vote, Assemblymember Swanson issued the following statement:

"I am excited about the bipartisan support for this bill as it moves from the Assembly to the Senate. This bill is the result of a broad coalition, including BART board members, churches, local law enforcement, and community members coming together to develop the substance of the legislation and assisting in moving it through the process.

"The bill's success is a testament to citizen concerns that were expressed during over 20 community meetings calling for an open and accountable process," said Assemblymember Swanson.

During an Assembly Public Safety hearing this month, Oscar Grant's uncle, Cephus Johnson, implored the committee to pass the bill, saying that he and his family are hopeful that the oversight agreements will prevent another tragic death.

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.

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.

The bill now advances to the Senate.

**###**