Alameda County District Attorney Nancy E. O’Malley, Attorney General Xavier Becerra, and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) announced a $4.1 million civil settlement with Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc. (Schnitzer). The settlement resolves allegations that Schnitzer unlawfully caused hazardous waste from its metal recycling operations to be blown offsite into neighboring properties in West Oakland and the Oakland Estuary. The settlement also resolves claims that Schnitzer violated its air emissions permit and failed to adequately warn the community about exposure to lead and cadmium from the facility.

Schnitzer is located less than half of a mile from a West Oakland neighborhood designated as a disadvantaged community by the California Environmental Protection Agency. The company collects, processes, and sells recycled metals through use of a six-story tall scrap metal shredder which grinds cars and metal appliances into smaller pieces.

The settlement requires Schnitzer to significantly change its operations to protect the health of Oakland residents and the environment. Schnitzer has constructed and agreed to maintain equipment and containment structures that will mitigate future waste dispersal, and has agreed to install air pollution control equipment to eliminate potentially harmful air emissions. In addition, the company will conduct periodic inspections of the surrounding area for hazardous waste. The settlement also includes $4.1 million in civil penalties and investments in environmental projects in the West Oakland community.

“As a result of this settlement, Schnitzer will address a root cause of pollution that has impacted West Oakland for years,” DA O’Malley. “My Office will always take action and work collaboratively to protect the community from illegal operations that negatively impact the health of our community members and the health of our environment.”
The Alameda County District Attorney’s Office is excited to honor and celebrate February 2021’s Black History Month. Throughout February we will be sharing the perspectives and voices of esteemed African Americans reflecting on how their work with or within the DA’s office has shaped their current role in our evolving world.

We will also take a look back at the significant contributions of several African American employees and alumni, including Vice President Kamala Harris and California Supreme Court Justice Martin Jenkins, to our system of criminal justice.

Please see the video below to start off the month through honoring the great writer Toni Morrison. Check out our Facebook page for daily videos.
Avoid Scams Related to COVID-19 Vaccine

As Alameda County’s COVID-19 vaccination program progresses, be aware of vaccine-related scams

Indicators of possible scams may include:

- Offers for early access to a vaccine for a deposit or fee.
- Requests to pay out of pocket to obtain the vaccine.
- Unsolicited emails, telephone calls, or personal contact from someone claiming to be from a medical office, insurance company, or COVID-19 vaccine center requesting personal and/or medical information.
- Advertisements for vaccines through social media platforms, email, telephone calls, online, or from unsolicited/unknown sources.
- Individuals contacting you in person, by phone, or by email to tell you the government or government officials require you to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

The following tips may protect you from possible scams

- Do not share your personal or health information with anyone other than known and trusted medical professionals.
- Do not open attachments or click on links in emails or text messages from unsolicited/unknown sources.
- Only rely on trusted sources such as the Alameda County Public Health Department or your medical provider for vaccine-related information.

To find out more about obtaining the vaccine, see the Alameda County Public Health Department’s Vaccination Guidance & Resources web page.

REPORT suspected COVID-19 related scams to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Inspector General at tips.hhs.gov or 1-800-HHS-TIPS.

Help us STOP Hate Crimes

Make a report by calling:
(510) 208-4824

Outgoing messages in:
English, Spanish, Farsi, Cantonese, Mandarin, & Tagalog

CONNECT WITH US
QUICK LINKS

Alameda County Courts Case Portal: For information pertaining to specific cases.

Criminal Docket Finder: Find out when the next court date is for a particular case.

Inmate Locator: Find out the custody status of a person.

Alameda County DA's Office website: View up-to-date news and information about the office at our website.

Alameda County Family Justice Center (ACFJC) website: The ACFJC is a 1-stop location that provides victims of crime with legal, health, and support services, and the opportunity for physical and psychological safety, recovery and well-being.