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## We Welcome Your Insights and Opinions

The IE Voice/Black Voice News invites you to raise your voice on subjects of interest. We would like to publish your ideas, insights and/or opinions on topics you feel are important.

We encourage you to submit your commentaries for potential publication to [myopinion@theievoice.com](mailto:myopinion@theievoice.com).

We respectfully request your submission be no more than 500 words. Any photo(s) included to accompany your writing should be at least 300 DPI.

**WE WANT TO  
HEAR FROM  
YOU!!!!**



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### 2023 Pictures: A Year in Review



*Jessica Mabson poses for a portrait while holding her four month old son, Ennis, on April 5, 2023. Jessica is a 31-year-old midwife student, veteran, mother of two, wife, and educator. As a babywearing educator, Jessica is trained in methods that help parents learn techniques for hands-free carrying and bonding with the baby. "I am very big on reproductive justice — that is my jam," Jessica said. "My work brings me joy, being able to bring accessibility to people of the global majority is really what does it for me; being able to educate people on options they have as far as birth and locations [for birthing] that people are not aware they have." (Aryana Noroozi for Black Voice News / CatchLight Local).*

**T**his year's Black Voice News and IE Voice Year in Photos provides a glimpse into the diverse moments that unfolded across the Inland Empire in 2023. Photographer Aryana Noroozi, a valued member of the Report for America corps and CatchLight Local Fellow who joined our team in 2022, collaborated with community members to capture their stories featured in Black Voice News and the IE Voice. In partnership with CatchLight, the visual narratives from the past year aimed to document and celebrate the resilience of the communities we serve.

In this second annual edition of the BVN and IE Voice Year in Photos report, we've continued to build our visual archive with stories encompassing joy, struggle, compassion, leadership, and the connections within our community and its families. Our narratives

showcase a diverse range of community members, including those working to make memorial services more accessible for veteran families, local restaurant owners bringing their native cuisines to the IE, individuals navigating modern redlining, and families graciously sharing their stories of Black maternity and joy at home. While the social issues depicted in each story are not unique to the Inland Empire, we're grateful for the opportunity to visually document how they unfold in our community's own way.

As we move into 2024, Black Voice News and IE Voice express appreciation for your ongoing support and feedback. Together, we look forward to growing our visual archive and providing a meaningful snapshot of the Inland Empire community.

*Photos continued on page 4*

# YEAR IN REVIEW



Left: Snow falls on West 11th Street in San Bernardino on February 25, 2023. San Bernardino County declared a local emergency on Feb. 27 after mountain community residents and tourists were trapped inside homes as a result of the winter storm, which was one of the largest of 2023. Right: Martinez and his sister, Nancy Sanchez, pose for a portrait after the Operation Green Light for Veterans ceremonial light-switch event at the Riverside County Administration Center building on November 7, 2023. Riverside County is part of the nation's 3,069 counties, parishes, and boroughs in Operation Green Light, which signifies support and appreciation for veterans. Martinez, who joined the Navy at sixteen and served in the Vietnam War, traveled to Japan, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia, and Singapore. He also took part in a covert mission in Cambodia and later Desert Shield. While he recalls those experiences fondly, he also faces the difficult memories from his service. Today he is 34 years sober. He credited the Riverside County Department of Veteran Services for his opportunity to seek treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and lung disease treatment from Agent Orange exposure. Sanchez lived with her husband overseas in Germany when he was drafted during the Vietnam war. She provides support to her brother after events like this where he talks about his service. "That's why I have my sister come with me because if I were to drive home right now and thinking about all this [it] wouldn't be good," he said.; Bottom left: On November 9, 2023, Mark McKay stands in a showroom that contains caskets, urns, and other afterlife options for families to pick for their loved ones. Located minutes from the Riverside National Cemetery and former March Air Reserve Base, McKay's Mortuary in Riverside serves many veteran families. He says his purpose in life is giving back to families so they can afford funeral costs to honor their loved one. McKay hails from a family of veterans, who modeled strong morals of public conduct, good citizenship and respect. McKay says that one of the largest obstacles to the memorial process for families is that many are unaware of what veterans' burial benefits they have and how to fully utilize them. (Aryana Noroozi for Black Voice News / CatchLight Local) Pictures continued on page 7.

**Phyllis Kimber Wilcox | Staff**

**G**as prices appear to be falling just in time for the holidays. Sounds good right? A few extra dollars for essentials. And while gas pricing fluctuates, the overall pattern shows something a bit different.

A press release published in early November 8, by the California governor's office, stated the unprecedented climb in gas prices, which occurred earlier this year, happened because "from July through September, Big Oil hiked gas prices at the pump, eventually peaking at \$6.08 per gallon in California."

As the chart indicates, this year's oil and gas prices peaked in the state in the month of September and then began to fall. This happened around the same time Governor Gavin Newsom announced the state's lawsuit against large oil companies for 'hurting the environment' as well as causing damage to the public health. This followed the appointment in March of a watchdog at the California Energy Commission(CEC) to keep an eye on the state's gas prices with the ability to create penalties.

**With every drop the prices rise higher than before**

While the price of gasoline in the state has fallen since the lawsuit was filed, the overall average price of gasoline is still higher than it was at this time last year. According to the Automobile Club of America, the statewide average is \$.579 per gallon today compared to \$4.349 this time last year. The price of gasoline in the Inland Empire has also shown an increase from last year overall. In Riverside County the current average is \$4.534 compared to \$4.286 last year and in San Bernardino County the current average is \$4.491 compared to \$4.275 in 2022.

According to the US Energy Information Administration (EIA) the overall pattern shows peaks and fall offs which then climb again, eventually going higher than the last peak before dropping again. Overall the picture is one of overall increasing prices.

**Why Higher Gas Prices Matter****California Gas Prices Still Higher than Last Year: Gas Thefts Continue**

*Graphic by Chris Allen, VOICE*

The American Automobile Association (AAA) has warned that as gas prices rise, so do reports of gas theft. It also noted that gas thefts typically increase as gas prices rise and so does the practice of drilling holes in the gas tanks of cars to steal fuel.

**Many Ways to Steal Gas**

The jump in prices has seen a disturbing trend in gasoline thefts. However, even as gas prices have fallen, such thefts continue. Some gas thieves have been seen parking over gas station storage tanks siphoning gas directly from tanks. There are also reports of other thieves stealing gas directly from vehicles parked on the street. On December 10, ABC News reported the search for two suspects in Agoura Hills California who drilled a hole in the gas tank of a work truck, the incident occurred on November 22. On September 22, in San Diego

County, a man went into a gas station and when he returned to his car, found thieves had drilled a hole in his gas tank. There are also reports of gas thefts on social media.

We are all familiar with the concept of siphoning gasoline seen in the movies and on television using something to pull gas out of a tank, but those days are over according to the American Automobile Association. So, imagine starting your day, walking out the front door not only to find that the gas from your gas tank has been stolen, but the gas tank itself has a hole in it.

"The old fashioned way that thieves would steal gasoline from a vehicle would be to siphon it out of the gas tank, but newer vehicles have a rollover valve in the gas tank, which prevents the gasoline from going out of the gas tank." So now, gas thieves drill holes directly into gas tanks

*continued on page 19*





# Fentanyl Crisis and Mental Health Issues Drive 2022 Increase in Deaths in Riverside County jails



by Prince James Story

*If you are having thoughts of suicide, you can call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 988 or the Inland SoCal Crisis & Suicide Helpline at (951) 686-HELP (4357). Other resources are available here.*

**L**ess than a month after he was placed in a mental health cell for hallucinating and expressing suicidal thoughts, Mario Solis swallowed a pencil, a toothbrush and two plastic bags of soap.

When corrections officers found him — minutes after they had checked on him, according to a Riverside County Coroner's report — he was lying behind the cell door, toilet water flooded the floor.

Solis, 31, was pronounced dead in the early hours of Sept. 3, 2022, at the Cois M. Byrd Detention Center in Murrieta. The coroner labeled his death an accident.

His mother is suing the county for wrongful death and other allegations. Sara Solis claims the jail's medical staff should have recognized that her son had mental health issues and placed him in a mental health cell when he was booked into jail in

April.

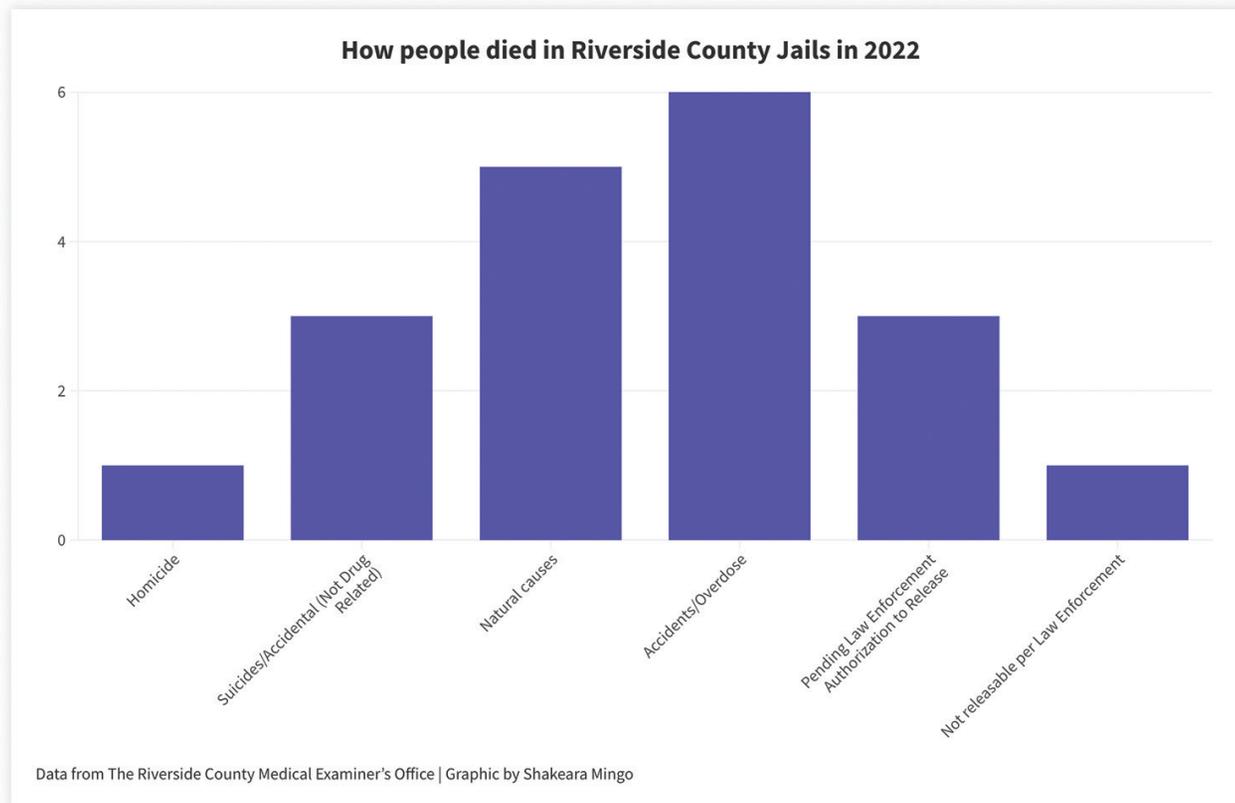
Several families of people who died in custody are suing the Riverside County Sheriff's Department for negligence and wrongful death. And the state attorney general is investigating the department for allegedly violating the civil rights of incarcerated people.

Mario Solis was among 19 people who died in Riverside County jails in 2022 — the third-highest in-custody death rate of any large California county, a Black Voice News and inewsourc analysis of state jail data found.

The Sheriff's Department contends that only 18 people died in custody, though it reported 19 deaths to state officials. At issue is whether to count the death of a man in a sobering cell who overdosed and later died in a hospital.

Coroner's reports, lawsuits and interviews reveal details about the deadliest year in a decade in the county's jails. Of the 15 coroner's reports reviewed by Black Voice News, nine of the deaths were listed as accidental overdoses or suicides, five as natural deaths and one as a homicide. The Sheriff's Department, which oversees the coroner's office, wouldn't release one report and three of the reports are pending

**Riverside jail deaths third highest among large California counties, a Black Voice News and inewsourc analysis revealed**



authorization for release.

Black Voice News also requested video footage, security logs and other records related to the deaths under the California Public Records Act. As of publication, the request was still being reviewed by the Sheriff's Department.

The people who died in 2022 were primarily Hispanic men, the largest group in Riverside County jails last year. All those who died were awaiting trial and had yet to be found guilty of the crimes that led to their confinement.

The spike in deaths — a jump from 12 in 2021 during the COVID pandemic — happened as Riverside County jails, like many correctional facilities, grappled with a national fentanyl crisis and a burgeoning mental health population.

But many of the questions surrounding the 2022 deaths — how corrections officers monitor people in custody and the quality of mental health care behind bars — are similar to issues in a 2013 federal lawsuit that forced Riverside County to improve the medical and mental health care of incarcerated people.

Nearly a decade after a court-monitored settlement in the case, the jails have yet to meet requirements under the ongoing consent decree, an agreement with

the plaintiffs in the lawsuit. The county has complied with only 13 of the roughly 80 provisions detailed in the consent decree. The court no longer monitors those 13 items; however, the plaintiffs still dispute whether the jails have satisfied about 67 other provisions in the decree, such as maintaining adequate medical and mental health staff to care for people in custody and effectively evaluating and housing people with the most severe mental health problems.

Sara Norman of the nonprofit Prison Law Office, which brought the lawsuit against the county, said jail officials have improved medical and mental health care for people in custody, but have more to do. Norman, who helps monitor the decree, said the increase in deaths last year is concerning.

“This points to something going on that must be addressed, or maybe multiple things going on that must be addressed,” said Norman, who has asked court-appointed experts to review how the jails investigated the deaths. “The problem lies not so much with medically avoidable deaths as with drug overdoses and suicides.”

Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco said his staff followed the same procedures last year as in past years when fewer deaths occurred.

“I don’t know why there were that many,” Bianco said of the 2022 deaths, adding that every death concerns him. “It was extremely unfortunate, but it certainly wasn’t at the hands of our deputies. It certainly wasn’t because we weren’t trying to prevent them and stop them.”

**Families question jail officials about fatal drug overdoses**

Richard Matus Jr., 29, was one of seven people whose deaths were listed as accidental drug overdoses by the Riverside County Coroner’s Office. He died at Cois M. Byrd Detention Center shortly after midnight on Aug. 11, 2022, his daughter’s first day of eighth grade.

After guards conducted a routine hourly check, records show Matus’ cellmate left the room. When he returned two minutes later, according to the coroner’s report, Matus was unresponsive and lying on the floor. Ten minutes later, his cellmate alerted correctional staff.

At the time of his death, four years into custody, Matus was preparing to represent himself on charges of robbery and attempted murder. He had dismissed his court-appointed attorney, who wanted him to accept a plea deal.

An autopsy concluded that Matus overdosed on fentanyl. But his mother, Lisa Matus, said her son would never knowingly take drugs.

In a wrongful death lawsuit, attorneys for his family claim that deputies didn’t notice he needed emergency treatment because they failed to conduct safety and welfare checks. The lawsuit also cites civil rights violations and medical malpractice, among other allegations.

In an interview with Black Voice News, Lisa Matus also said there were contradictions in the coroner’s report. The initial report didn’t note trauma or abrasions to his body; however, the final coroner’s report stated that there was blunt trauma to his head, abdomen and extremities.

“The autopsy report says there was blunt force trauma but not enough to cause death,” she said. “OK, so then what happened? Did somebody fight him and give him drugs?”

Michael Vasquez also died of a fentanyl overdose in the Cois M. Byrd Detention Center last year, according to a coroner’s report. He was one of three people who died of an overdose in the facility and one of two in his housing unit.

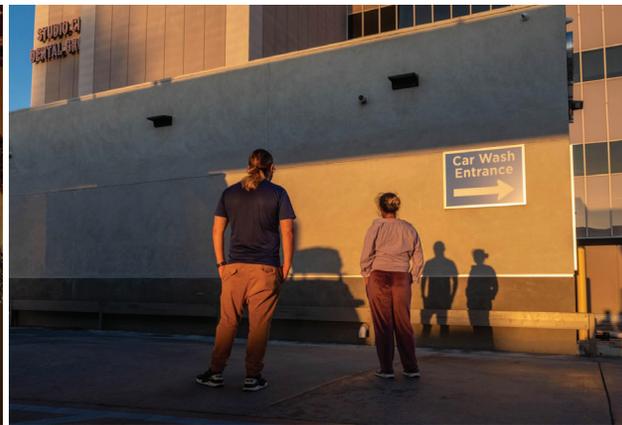
Vasquez, who died on May 26, 2022, had been in custody for only six days. At 20, he was the youngest

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# YEAR IN REVIEW



Left: A couple exits Cenaduría Oaxaqueña Donají after enjoying a meal on Saturday night. The couple, Johnny Toledo and his wife, are preparing to return to their hometown of Oaxaca, Mexico in their Riverside home almost 22 years after they left. Right: Johnny Toledo prepares a tlayuda in the kitchen of his family's restaurant. He has spent his entire life in Riverside, California, but he has a deep experience with the food to when he visited Oaxaca at nine-years-old. He has not been able to return to that original feeling. He helps his parents run their restaurant, Cenaduría Oaxaqueña Donají. The event was hosted by The Southern California Black Chamber of Commerce and featured a performance by Rialto natives, J.J. Fad.



Top: Truong adds crispy onions to the top of the Cơm chiên, Vietnamese fried rice, on May 13, 2023. He explained that people modify the recipe to suit their taste by adding various toppings and sauces. Growing up as a first-generation Vietnamese American, Truong's family made a pot of rice in a rice cooker each day. Rice was a staple for the family and used in a vast majority of the dishes they made. Truong recalled spending time at the heels of his grandparents, learning the various recipes and meals they cooked from start to finish. Truong said that the cơm chiên recipe was passed down to him by his grandfather who would make it for him in the early mornings before school.; Bottom left: Truong walks from his kitchen down the hall, passing a wall of family portraits taken over the years on May 13, 2023. He lives in a multigenerational home with his parents and grandparents, where he says their recipes like Cơm chiên make for "core Vietnamese memories."; Bottom right: Adam Garcia and his mother Nena Garcia pose for a portrait at a Studio City Chevron Gas Station, the first location he was taken in an unmarked vehicle on March 28, 2021, when he was kidnapped by a man who, according to Adam, claimed he was a sheriff. This is one of many incidents where Adams says he was targeted by the Riverside DA that have caused him to fear for his life. Previously, a longtime Riverside County resident, Adam was 33 years-old when arrested. He loves art, music, had dreams of owning an art gallery, and plans for his own signature hot sauce. Adam claims he is innocent, doesn't know the victim, and says the alleged events described by RCDA in the case, never occurred. Since his arrest, Adam has studied law and legal processes, representing himself (pro per) against what he views as "an illegal arrest and criminal charges." With the charges pending, Adam is unable to find employment, his life is on hold, and his future... uncertain. (Aryana Noroozi for CatchLight Local / Black Voice News)





On August 5, 2023, husband and wife Jose and Antonia Toledo began serving tlayudas at their backyard restaurant. Today, they run the restaurant, known as Cenaduría Oaxaqueña Donaji, with their backyard restaurant on August 5, 2023. Johnny can pinpoint his first tlayuda back in thirteen years but says he enjoys eating tlayudas at his family's backyard restaurant, Cenaduría Oaxaqueña Donaji, in their backyard.; Bottom: The San Bernardino Extravaganza at Arroyo Valley High School in San Bernardino on January 16, 2023. Featured guest appearances by the region's elected leaders, including Mayor Helen Ariana Noroozi, Black Voice News Newsroom/CatchLight Local)



Top: Founder and owner of Cellar Door Books, Linda Sherman-Nurick, talks with Steven Cason, one of her longtime customers on March 17, 2023. Cason is an essential part of the bookstore's community and upon learning of the lease termination, stepped in to support Sherman-Nurick with the move, from costs to logistics. Sherman-Nurick says when she posted about the situation on social media, the store was the busiest it had ever been in its 10 years of existence. "I think it hit something very visceral in people. [The customers thought] 'This is our bookstore, this is not her bookstore, and you [the property managers] just attacked.' So people came back very hard."; Bottom left: Brandi T. Biggles, known within the Southern California culinary community as Chef Brandi, shops for produce at Lazy Acres market in Hermosa Beach on February 28, 2023. Each month, she creates her signature fire-grilled vegan artisan pizzas at the Prosperity Market, a traveling farmers market featuring Black farmers, vendors and chefs. Biggles helped the founders develop the market as she shared a similar vision of a mobile market and recalled having the idea drafted on her vision board which she displays on her bedroom wall. Today, she calls it her results board because she wants the results to come to fruition and not remain a vision. Biggles hopes to soon purchase a vehicle to house a mobile kitchen and travel the country, serving food in cities across the U.S.; Bottom right: Yolanda Moses stands outside her parents' home in Perris on April 20, 2023. Moses said her father moved their family from Compton to Perris in 1959 when she was a child, partly because he did not want his four daughters to grow up around gang violence and crime. Their home became a centerpoint for community organization as well as a safe space for family members and close friends who moved from urban areas to Perris to begin a new life. Like the Moses', working-class families, migrated from Los Angeles to Perris and Moreno Valley. (Aryana Noroozi for Black Voice News / CatchLight Local)



# FEATURE STORY

*Fentanyl Deaths, continued from page 9*

person to die in Riverside County jails last year.

His mother, Kathy Nigro, is suing the county for failing to protect, wrongful death and other allegations. Like Lisa Matus, Nigro believes deputies weren't conducting hourly inspections of inmates' cells in general population, as required by state guidelines.

Without security logs or camera footage, Black Voice News couldn't confirm Nigro's and Matus' allegations.

Nigro recalled how she learned her son was dead.

"It was almost 1:30 in the morning, and I heard a knock on my door. It was an officer," she explained. "He asked, 'Were you aware your son was arrested last Friday?' I said yes. He said, 'I'm sorry. He's passed away.'"

As the oldest of seven children, Vasquez was considered "the man of the house." When he was charged with robbery, his mother said she wanted him to sit in jail for a little bit to contemplate his actions. Nigro never thought he would die there.

"I can't believe he's not going to come back," she said.

## The fentanyl crisis hits county jails

Nationally, drug overdoses are the third-leading cause of jail deaths. Seven of the 19 deaths in Riverside County jails in 2022 were accidental drug overdoses, according to the coroner's office.

Fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid, is a particularly deadly threat, Bianco said. Of the 116 fentanyl-related overdoses in 2022, he said jail staff prevented the deaths of 110 people. Black Voice News couldn't independently confirm the figures.

The jails purchased X-ray machines and hired drug-sniffing dogs to stop drugs from entering the jails, Bianco said, before adding that correctional staff shouldn't be expected to find everything.

"There is a market to purposely smuggle drugs into jail," said Bianco, claiming that people get arrested so they can bring drugs into the facilities. "They swallow it, they insert it, they're underneath their fingernails, their toenails. They do everything they can to try and get it in, and unfortunately, sometimes they make it."

When asked if he thought correctional staff could be selling drugs in the jails, Bianco said investigators have caught officers doing that twice in the past 20 years. In both cases, he said inmates reported them.

"We know for me to say employees would never bring drugs into the jail — I mean, that's silly," the sheriff said.

In September, Bianco dismissed two Riverside County deputies charged with drug possession — Brent



*Left: Lisa Matus holds a photo of her son Richard Matus on September 14, 2023. "If I could talk to him right now, I'd tell him I love him. We all love him. And we're gonna know what happened to him and we're gonna get justice," she said. Matus died on August 11, 2022, while awaiting trial at the Cois M. Byrd Detention Center in Murrieta, CA.; Right: Richard Matus' nieces and nephews, Alleena Morales, Maddie Morales, Willy Jr, and Bella Fuentes, and his sister and brother-in-law, Rachel and Willy Morales, his mother, Lisa Matus, and older brother, Andrew Cortez, pose for a portrait in Lisa's home, where Richard lived, on June 14, 2023. Matus was one of 19 deaths in Riverside County Jails in 2022. (Aryana Noroozi for Black Voice News / CatchLight Local)*



Bishop Turnwall, 22, and Jorge Ocegüera-Rocha, 25.

Neither was accused of distributing drugs in the jails. But Turnwall was arrested at work at the Cois M. Byrd Detention Center and charged with being under the influence of drugs.

Ocegüera-Rocha, who worked at the Larry D. Smith Correctional Facility, was charged with possession of narcotics for sale and transportation with the intent to distribute narcotics. When the department's Specials Investigation Bureau arrested him, he had more than 100 pounds of packaged fentanyl pills in his vehicle.

Riverside County jails didn't create the fentanyl crisis. Still, they are responsible for managing it behind bars, said Norman of the Prison Law Office.

The jails have improved how they respond to drug overdoses by equipping deputies with naloxone, which can reverse the effects of opioid overdoses, and doing preventive work, such as talking to people in custody about the dangers of fentanyl, she said.

Norman uses an analogy to explain the county's obligation to address the fentanyl epidemic. People come into jail with diabetes, which is an epidemic too. The county didn't cause the diabetes crisis, but it's responsible for treating inmates who are diabetics, no matter how difficult.

"In a similar way, there is a fentanyl epidemic. It's terrifying. It's not of the county's making, but it's their duty to address the health of the people in the system," she said. "And that includes both the security to keep fentanyl out and the mental health [care] to keep people from turning to drugs in despair."

## Improved medical care, but continuing issues with mental health care in jails

When the Prison Law Office sued Riverside County in 2013, the conditions in the jails were "shocking,"

said Norman. One plaintiff had been given mood-altering psychotropic drugs, even though he hadn't been evaluated by a mental health expert.

Another plaintiff suffered severe injuries in an accident shortly before she was incarcerated and didn't receive timely follow-up care, causing a medical device to become lodged in her body.

Ten years later, the Riverside County jails have significantly improved access to medical care for people in custody, said Norman, adding that the county is "putting a tremendous amount of work" into complying with the remaining 67 provisions in the consent decree.

The agreement, hammered out between county officials and representatives for the jail plaintiffs, requires Riverside County to provide incarcerated people with the same level of care the average person could find in the community. The decree also requires the jails to accommodate people with disabilities.

Among the most contentious issues in the decree are the medical and mental health staffing requirements, which have yet to be achieved. According to the agreement, the jails are required to hire 256 medical and mental health professionals, including doctors, behavioral health therapists and nurses, with different licenses, skills and expertise. To comply with the consent decree, each staff category — for example, psychiatrist or licensed vocational nurse — is required to achieve 90% of its mandated staffing goal.

Although the jails haven't met the goal, they have improved significantly, Norman said.

The jails have boosted medical staff in all five facilities — once they only had one doctor for all the facilities, now they have multiple people at each jail — and replaced paper health files with a more efficient electronic record-keeping system, she said.



Kathy Nigro poses for a portrait in her home next to a photo of her son, Michael Vasquez, on June 30, 2023. Vasquez was the youngest person to die inside a Riverside County jail. He was arrested for robbery in May. Nigro said she wanted her son to sit in jail for a little bit to contemplate his actions, but she never thought he would die while in custody. (Aryana Noroozi for Black Voice News / CatchLight Local)

“It takes a while to reform a system like this, to build from the ground up,” she explained. “I’m not happy with how long it’s taking, but I don’t find it surprising.”

Janet Zimmerman, a spokesperson for the Riverside University Health System, which provides medical and mental health care in the jails, wouldn’t provide staffing figures for medical professionals, but said there were about 150 behavioral health experts working in the jails.

Zimmerman argues that staff numbers don’t provide a complete picture of the quality of care in the jails. People in custody have access to telehealth options, on-site clinics and specialty care — important elements of quality care, she said.

She emphasized that the jails have met or exceeded standards set by the nonprofit National Commission on Correctional Health Care since 2017, proving that incarcerated people are receiving quality health care. The commission establishes national standards for correctional institutions; however, jails and prisons



Michael Vazquez’s uncle Anthony, brothers Manny and Richie Vazquez and mother Kathy Nigro pose for a portrait with a photograph of Michael who died from an alleged fentanyl overdose on May 26, 2022, after six days in custody at Cois Byrd Detention Center. (Aryana Noroozi for Black Voice News / CatchLight Local)

aren’t required to be accredited by the commission.

Bianco said the staffing goals in the consent decree are arbitrary.

“Ms. Norman knows that we are providing the care that we’re supposed to provide for the inmates. We are not deficient in the care that we’re providing them,” Bianco said. “But she also knows that we’re not meeting the [hiring] requirements. So, she can truthfully say that we are deficient in areas of mental health.”

The number of mental health cases in Riverside County jails has grown more than 50% over the past three years, climbing from 6,600 to 10,300, according to state corrections data.

Aside from staffing issues, the jails aren’t in compliance with other provisions in the consent decree affecting how correctional staff evaluate people with mental health diagnoses.

According to the decree, people housed in safety cells, which are designed for inmates who are a threat to themselves and others, should be evaluated daily by a clinical therapist or someone with more training. Safety cells are padded rooms that have multiple cameras and a door window but no furniture, sinks, standard toilets or objects that people can use to harm themselves or others.

People who are booked and sent to a mental health cell or transferred from the general population to a safety cell should be evaluated by a clinical therapist within 48 hours.

Supervisors are required to inspect safety cells and safety cell logs to ensure that policies are followed and that the cells are cleaned and sanitized. The agreement also requires the jails to develop plans to transition people from safety cells to mental health cells and back to general population cells, if appropriate.

Norman said the new court-ordered mental health expert will present a preliminary report on treatment

in the jails this month, she said.

Providing adequate mental health care for people in jails and prisons is a challenge across the country.

Jails and prisons aren’t set up to treat people with mental illness, said Craig Haney, a distinguished professor in the psychology department at the University of California Santa Cruz who studies the effects of incarceration. Yet they’re often forced to provide mental health care without enough staff to safely and effectively manage treatment, he said.

“We don’t have a functioning, adequate public mental health system in the United States,” said Haney. “As a result, people suffering from mental health problems often end up in the criminal justice system.”

## Suicides raise concerns about monitoring of incarcerated persons

The day before he died in a mental health cell after swallowing a toothbrush and other objects, Mario Solis refused to take his medication, according to a coroner’s report.

Solis’ death was deemed an accident, though attorneys for the family believe he killed himself.

“Typically on suicides they tell their cellmate or someone would say they were talking about killing themselves or they leave notes,” said Bianco, explaining why the death was labeled an accident. “For him, there was no indication that he was trying to commit suicide. He was just eating things.”

During a mental health evaluation when he was booked into jail, Solis denied having suicidal thoughts. So he was placed in general population, according to a coroner’s report. When he began displaying erratic behavior, the report said, he was evaluated again and placed in a mental health cell for closer observation where he died. (The coroner’s report said he was in a safety cell.)

Denisse Gastélum, who is suing the county on behalf of the families of Solis and Alicia Upton, who committed suicide last year, said the jails aren’t properly monitoring people with mental illness.

When a person is booked into jail, they’re screened to determine if they have mental health issues and to decide where to house them. The consent decree requires a registered nurse to ask them a series of questions, including whether they have attempted suicide in the past or are thinking about it. If they answer yes to any of the questions, they’re referred to medical and mental health staff for further screening.

Safety cells, the most restrictive housing, are reserved for people at risk of hurting themselves and

*continued on page 19*

# SPECIAL FEATURE

*Combating Racism Pt.4, continued from page 7*

our county, our community and our country — and whoever else — that we recognize [the] need. We don't [have] to wait for a George Floyd or something like that to come up."

## COVID-19 Pandemic Impacts Momentum of Equity Resolution

On June 23, 2020, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors passed the first resolution in the state declaring racism a public health crisis and pledged to take action to address it.

The Starling Lab for Data Integrity used Webrecorder technology to capture and store San Bernardino County's declaration, along with hundreds of other declarations and associated documents to establish a digital ledger of these promises and pledges.

In an age of mis- and dis-information, it can be hard for the public to trust what they see on social media or across some news websites. With growing use of artificial intelligence, the spread of fake information has also increased, according to Lindsay Walker, product lead at The Starling Lab for Data Integrity.

"We're trying to create even better tools and more comprehensive tools, so that we can have as much reliable information out there as possible," Walker said.

Among the county's actions as listed in their resolution is the commitment to "actively participate in the dismantling of racism by" establishing equity as an additional element as part of San Bernardino's Countywide Vision and creating an equity element committee. The Board adopted a Countywide Vision in 2011, which outlines the county's perception of the future.

Once the board of supervisors approved the resolution, they assigned it to the county administrative office to oversee. The county's Chief Executive Officer Leonard X. Hernandez requested Alexander begin taking steps to lay the foundation for making the resolution actionable.

At the community's request and with board approval, the county officially added Equity as the 11th element to their Countywide Vision.

The other elements include public safety, education, jobs & economy and wellness, among others. Members of the Equity Element Group (EEG) have been divided and integrated into the other 10 element groups to provide an equity lens across those decision-making processes.

County officials decided to reach out to roughly 16 Black-led organizations throughout the county



*Terrance Stone, founder and CEO of Young Visionaries Youth Leadership Academy, is a member of San Bernardino County's Element Equity Group. The group was added as the 11th element to the city's Countywide Vision. (Courtesy of Terrance Stone)*

and ask leaders within them if they were interested in participating in the group.

The first year was spent acclimating group members to the Countywide Vision. Alexander and her team brought individuals from the other element groups and new members of the equity group together to examine the different visions through an equity lens. A lot of time was spent teaching members of the equity group about how the county runs, what role everyone plays and what resources the county has available.

"After we'd done that for a while, one of the things that I really wanted to do was to bring in a consultant, because I recognize that just because I'm Black, [that] doesn't make me an expert," Alexander pointed out.

In the midst of this planning, the COVID-19 pandemic was ongoing. During the holiday season of 2020, the county experienced sharp increases in COVID-19 cases which continued into 2021. According to the county's data dashboard, there were more than 4,000 new cases per day from Dec. 14, 2020 through Jan. 5, 2021.

San Bernardino County's Community Indicator's Report showed COVID-19 case rates in the county "outpaced" state and national rates as of January 2021.

"It was difficult to focus," Alexander admitted.

Like most plans during the pandemic, the declaration fell to the wayside as COVID-19 became a greater priority. Counties across the state shut down and residents were ordered to shelter in place. At the time, Alexander was juggling several other jobs.

The resolution dropped lower on the county's list of priorities.

"It did take a hit to the momentum that we had as far as focusing on equity because we were so

focused on COVID-19 for the rest of 2020, and 2021," Alexander explained.

## San Bernardino County's Progress and Challenges

As the COVID-19 pandemic slowed following the release of vaccines, establishing the EEG again became a top priority. The county hired Equity & Results, a consulting firm who utilizes anti-racist principles "with a results-based framework."

Under the guidance of Anti-Racist Impact Facilitators Theodore B. Miller and Hyma Menath, the EEG has been working to establish goals and how to move forward to make an impact in the county.

"When you think of systematic racism, there's a lot of different arms — tentacles really — that are involved in that," said Terrance Stone, founder and CEO of Young Visionaries Youth Leadership Academy. Stone is one of the 16 members of the EEG, and is also part of the Education element group and the Jobs & Opportunities element group.

On June 22, 2023 — three years after declaring racism a public health crisis — San Bernardino County and the EEG hosted a community address to give residents an update about the progress of the resolution.

During the community address, members of the element group such as Pastor Samuel Casey of Congregations Organized for Prophetic Engagement (COPE) and Stone addressed residents and stakeholders about ongoing EEG plans.

"People say, 'Well, it's been three years, what have you done?'" Stone said. "I'm like, 'We're trying to break down a system that has been in effect for probably 100 years or so.' We're dealing with that. We have to deal with it systematically."

While people in the community may be concerned with individual issues such as getting contracts with the county and diversifying the county's workforce, the EEG is taking a systematic and structural approach such as examining practices and policies that will support Black and brown communities as a whole.

"We have to be willing to be bold and courageous to do what we've never done if we want to see what we've never seen," Casey emphasized.

As the county works to adopt an equity lens that will impact the greater community, they are also taking steps to examine their internal structure. They recently launched an inaugural Racial Equity Cohort in which six members were chosen from a selected few departments to participate. These individuals will explore how equity and diversity are defined, and

*continued on page 17*

# public notices

is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code, that the registrant knows to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1000)

s. Samina Renee Henry  
The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (sec. 1440 et. seq. b & p code) Statement was filed with the County of Riverside on 12/21/2023

NOTICE- In accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920, a fictitious business name statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except, as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., business and professions code). I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Peter Aldana, Riverside County Clerk,  
FILE NO. R-202318124  
**p. 12/28/23, 1/04/24, 1/11/24, 1/18/24**

The following persons) is (are) doing business as:  
**BABA'S BRICKS**  
**1259 Amaryllis Way**  
**Corona, CA 92882**  
**RIVERSIDE COUNTY**  
**Nadim Sherman Ahmad Al-Bayati**  
**1259 Amaryllis Way**  
**Corona, CA 92882**

This business is conducted by: Individual  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above. I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code, that the registrant knows to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1000)

s. Nadim Sherman Ahmad Al-Bayati  
The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (sec. 1440 et. seq. b & p code) Statement was filed with the County of Riverside on 12/18/2023

I certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

NOTICE- In accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920, a fictitious business name statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except, as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., business and professions code). I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Peter Aldana, Riverside County Clerk,  
FILE NO. R-202317907  
**p. 12/28/23, 1/04/24, 1/11/24, 1/18/24**

**DECLARATION OF EXPRESS TRUST**  
Est. October 1, 2020, 10:07AM

Schedule B: Trustee Minutes 6-1976

Other Property Exchange – Non-Real Property Assets  
Literary Minutes of Meeting of  
INITIUM NOVUM  
(An Irrevocable Express Trust Organization)

MISCELLANEOUS  
AFFIDAVIT OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

To The Governing Bodies of This Express Trust, ALL Corporation Soles but not limited to the State of California:

The Sole Trustee, called the meeting to order and affirmed that officially on December 09, 2023, the trustee received the  
Intangible Property, herein known as Affidavit of Fictitious Business Name Statement, to be held in trust, published in any local municipality newspaper filing, and but not limited to The County of LOS ANGELES Recorder Office.

Trustee approved the initial exchange of the specific property for one hundred (100) units of Beneficial Interest, known hereto as Trust Certificate Units (TCUs) to be held with this Indenture by the Trustees for the Beneficiaries also known as Members of INITIUM NOVUM EXPRESS TRUST d/b/a SENOR MANUEL, DUKE OF LOS ANGELES.

The TRUSTEE shall:

WE THE UNDERSIGNED, BEING DULY SWORN, DO HEREBY DECLARE UNDER OATH THAT THE NAMES OF ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE BUSINESS OR PROFESSION CARRIED ON UNDER THE NAMES OF THE INITIUM NOVUM EXPRESS TRUST ARE DOING BUSINESS AS THE FOLLOWING:

LIBERATED WEALTH TRUST ENTERPRISE d/b/a MANUEL FELIPE BARRIGA  
LIBERATED WEALTH TRUST ENTERPRISE d/b/a MANUEL BARRIGA  
LIBERATED WEALTH TRUST ENTERPRISE d/b/a BARRIGA, MANUEL  
LIBERATED WEALTH TRUST ENTERPRISE d/b/a LASTING LEGACY ENTERPRISES

AT: 6083 NORTH FIGARDEN DRIVE, STE 611, FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93722  
**p. 12/28/23, 1/04/24, 1/11/24, 1/18/24**

The following persons) is (are) doing business as:  
**SHINE A NAIL BOUTIQUE**  
**12930 Day St, Ste 105**  
**Moreno Valley, CA 92553**  
**RIVERSIDE COUNTY**  
**NTTL, LLC**  
**12930 Day St, Ste 105**  
**Moreno Valley, CA 92553**

**CA**  
This business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above. I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code, that the registrant knows to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1000)

s. Tiffany Tran, Manager  
The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (sec. 1440 et. seq. b & p code) Statement was filed with the County of Riverside on 12/12/2023

I certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

NOTICE- In accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920, a fictitious business name statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except, as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., business and professions code). I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Peter Aldana, Riverside County Clerk,  
FILE NO. R-202317686  
**p. 12/21/23, 12/28/23, 1/04/24, 1/11/24**

The following persons) is (are) doing business as:  
**KORI KRYOTHERAPY**  
**39400 Murrieta Hot Springs Rd, Ste 117**  
**Murrieta, CA 92563**  
**RIVERSIDE COUNTY**  
**KORI LLC**  
**39400 Murrieta Hot Springs Rd, Ste 117**  
**Murrieta, CA 92563**

**CA**  
This business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 08/01/2016

I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code, that the registrant knows to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1000)

s. Patrice James, President  
The filing of this statement does not of itself

authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (sec. 1440 et. seq. b & p code) Statement was filed with the County of Riverside on 12/14/2023

NOTICE- In accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920, a fictitious business name statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except, as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., business and professions code). I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Peter Aldana, Riverside County Clerk,  
FILE NO. R-202317782  
**p. 12/28/23, 1/04/24, 1/11/24, 1/18/24**

The following persons) is (are) doing business as:  
**IT'S JUST SOUND**  
**30919 Calle Pina Colada**  
**Temecula, CA 92591**  
**RIVERSIDE COUNTY**  
**It's Just Sound, Inc.**  
**30919 Calle Pina Colada**  
**Temecula, CA 92591**

**CA**  
This business is conducted by: Corporation  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1/15/2021

I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code, that the registrant knows to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1000)

s. Karie Reuther, Vice President  
The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (sec. 1440 et. seq. b & p code) Statement was filed with the County of Riverside on 12/20/2023

NOTICE- In accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920, a fictitious business name statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except, as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., business and professions code). I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Peter Aldana, Riverside County Clerk,  
FILE NO. R-202318087  
**p. 12/28/23, 1/04/24, 1/11/24, 1/18/24**

The following persons) is (are) doing business as:  
**REYNA'S SUPER CLEAN & CARE**  
**52999 Astrid Way**  
**Lake Elsinore, CA 92532**  
**RIVERSIDE COUNTY**  
**Reyna – Arroyo**  
**52999 Astrid Way**  
**Lake Elsinore, CA 92532**

This business is conducted by: Individual  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code, that the registrant knows to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1000)

s. Reyna Arroyo  
The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (sec. 1440 et. seq. b & p code) Statement was filed with the County of Riverside on 12/05/2023

I certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

NOTICE- In accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920, a fictitious business name statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except, as provided in

subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., business and professions code). I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Peter Aldana, Riverside County Clerk,  
FILE NO. R-202317364  
**p. 12/21/23, 12/28/23, 1/04/24, 1/11/24**

The following persons) is (are) doing business as:  
**CARNES SUPREMAS**  
**12125 Day St Bldg W**  
**Moreno Valley, CA 92557**  
**RIVERSIDE COUNTY**  
**6848 San Bruno Ct**  
**Fontana, CA 92336**  
**La Surtidora Management Group, Inc.**  
**12125 Day St Bldg W**  
**Moreno Valley, CA 92557**

**CA**  
This business is conducted by: Corporation  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on July 15, 2020

I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code, that the registrant knows to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1000)

s. Noemi Tovar, President/C.E.O.  
The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (sec. 1440 et. seq. b & p code) Statement was filed with the County of Riverside on 12/08/2023

I certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

NOTICE- In accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920, a fictitious business name statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except, as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., business and professions code). I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Peter Aldana, Riverside County Clerk,  
FILE NO. R-202317496  
**p. 12/14/23, 12/21/23, 12/28/23, 1/04/24**

The following persons) is (are) doing business as:  
**LAS COLINAS**  
**12125 Day St Bldg W.**  
**Moreno Valley, CA 92557**  
**RIVERSIDE COUNTY**  
**6848 San Bruno Ct.**  
**Fontana, CA 92336**  
**La Surtidora Management Group, Inc**  
**6848 San Bruno Ct.**  
**Fontana, CA 92336**

**CA**  
This business is conducted by: Corporation  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on July 15, 2020

I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code, that the registrant knows to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1000). Noemi Tovar President / C.E.O.

The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (sec. 1440 et. seq. b & p code) Statement was filed with the County of Riverside on 12/06/2023

I certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

NOTICE- In accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920, a fictitious business name statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except, as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other

than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., business and professions code). I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Peter Aldana, Riverside County Clerk,  
FILE NO. R-202317440  
**p. 12/14/23, 12/21/23, 12/28/23, 1/04/24**

The following persons) is (are) doing business as:  
**YUKAI**

**1201 W Blaine St, Apt 26**  
**Riverside, CA 92507**  
**RIVERSIDE COUNTY**  
**Freddy Zhou**  
**1201 W Blaine St, Apt 26**  
**Riverside, CA 92507**  
**Jaden Thai**  
**1201 W Blaine St, Apt 26**  
**Riverside, CA 92507**  
**Andy Tran**  
**9450 Gilman Dr Mailbox 55225**  
**La Jolla, CA 92092**

This business is conducted by: General Partnership

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above. I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code, that the registrant knows to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1000)

s. Freddy Zhou  
The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (sec. 1440 et. seq. b & p code) Statement was filed with the County of Riverside on 12/11/2023

I certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

NOTICE- In accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920, a fictitious business name statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except, as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., business and professions code). I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Peter Aldana, Riverside County Clerk,  
FILE NO. R-202317579  
**p. 12/21/23, 12/28/23, 1/04/24, 1/11/24**

The following persons) is (are) doing business as:  
**ESCAPE ROOM PALM SPRINGS**  
**2500 N. Palm Canyon Drive. #B3**  
**Palm Springs, CA 92262**  
**RIVERSIDE COUNTY**  
**68269 Pasada Road**  
**Cathedral City, CA 92234**  
**Dom & Mark, Inc.**  
**68269 Pasada Road**  
**Cathedral City, CA 92234**

**CA**  
This business is conducted by: Corporation  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above. I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant Business and Professions Code, that the registrant knows to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1000)

s. Dominique Fruchtman  
The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (sec. 1440 et. seq. b & p code) Statement was filed with the County of Riverside on 12/6/2023

I certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

NOTICE- In accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920, a fictitious business name statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except, as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new fictitious business name

statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., business and professions code). I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Peter Aldana, Riverside County Clerk,  
FILE NO. R-202317385  
**p. 12/14/23, 12/21/23, 12/28/23, 1/04/24**

**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME**

**File No. R-202007656**  
**SHINE A NAIL BOUTIQUE**  
**12930 Day St, 105**  
**Moreno Valley, CA 92553**  
**RIVERSIDE COUNTY**  
**Tiffany – Tran**  
**23402 Hemlock Ave #105**  
**Moreno Valley, CA 92557**  
**Nguyen Dac Phouc Tran**  
**23402 Hemlock Ave #105**  
**Moreno Valley, CA 92557**

This business is conducted by: Married Couple  
The fictitious business name(s) referred to above was filed in Riverside County on 07/22/2020

I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code, that the registrant knows to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1000,))

s. Tiffany Tran  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Riverside County on 12/12/2023  
Peter Aldana, County Clerk  
FILE NO R-202007656  
**p. 12/21/23, 12/28/23, 1/04/24, 1/11/24**

The following persons) is (are) doing business as:  
**VITAL RESPONSE AND SAFETY**

**1401 21 St Street**  
**Sacramento, CA 95811**  
**SACRAMENTO COUNTY**  
**Aisham A. Ballard**  
**1742 Arcus Ct**  
**Beaumont, CA 92223**

This business is conducted by: Individual  
Registrant has not yet begun transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code, that the registrant knows to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1000)

s. Aisham A. Ballard  
The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (sec. 1440 et. seq. b & p code) Statement was filed with the County of Riverside on 12/14/2023 I certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

NOTICE- In accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920, a fictitious business name statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except, as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., business and professions code). I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Peter Aldana, Riverside County Clerk,  
FILE NO. R-202317777  
**p. 12/21/23, 12/28/23, 1/04/24, 1/11/24**

The following persons) is (are) doing business as:  
**G.A PLUMBING**

**51075 Frederick St Apt 312**  
**Coachella, California 92236**  
**RIVERSIDE COUNTY**  
**Gerardo Aguilar Santillan**  
**51075 Frederick St Apt 312**  
**Coachella, California 92236**

This business is conducted by: Individual  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 7-13-2023

I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code,

# public notices

that the registrant knows to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1000)

s. Gerardo Aguilar Santillan

The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (sec. 1440 et. seq. b & p code) Statement was filed with the County of Riverside on 12/01/2023

I certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

**NOTICE-** In accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920, a fictitious business name statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except, as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., business and professions code). I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Peter Aldana, Riverside County Clerk, FILE NO. R-202317220

**p. 12/14/23, 12/21/23, 12/28/23, 1/04/24**

The following persons) is (are) doing business as:

**HAOTENG SUSHI**

**12880 Day St**

**Moreno Valley, CA 92553**

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

**Haonan Zhang**

**1102 Torero Dr**

**Oxnard, CA 93030**

This business is conducted by: Individual  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above. I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code, that the registrant knows to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1000)

s. Haonan Zhang

The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (sec. 1440 et. seq. b & p code) Statement was filed with the County of Riverside on 12/01/2023

I certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

**NOTICE-** In accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920, a fictitious business name statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except, as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., business and professions code). I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Peter Aldana, Riverside County Clerk, FILE NO. R-202317244

**p. 12/14/23, 12/21/23, 12/28/23, 1/04/24**

The following persons) is (are) doing business as:

**EL TITANIC CEVICHE SPORTS BAR**

**5667 Mission Blvd**

**Jurupa Valley, CA 92509**

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

**531 S. La Cadena Dr**

**Colton, Ca 92324**

**Mariscos El Camaron Loco Inc**

**5667 Mission Blvd**

**Jurupa Valley, CA 92509**

**CA**

This business is conducted by: Corporation  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above. I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant Business and Professions Code, that the registrant knows to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1000)

s. Nohemi Ondina Penicla, President

The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (sec. 1440 et. seq. b & p code) Statement was filed with the

County of Riverside on 11/6/2023

I certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

**NOTICE-** In accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920, a fictitious business name statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except, as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., business and professions code). I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Peter Aldana, Riverside County Clerk, FILE NO. R-202316415

**p. 12/14/23, 12/21/23, 12/28/23, 1/04/24**

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**

**CASE NUMBER CVCO2305703**

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: JULIA PANHAN filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: JULIA PANHAN to JULIA PANHAN DAVID. The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. **NOTICE OF HEARING:** DATE: 1/31/24 Time: 8:00AM Dept: C2. The address of the court is RIVERSIDE SUPERIOR COURT, CORONA BRANCH, 505 S. BUENA VISTA AVENUE, RM 201, CORONA, CA 92582 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: BLACK VOICE NEWS 1201 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, SUITE 210, RIVERSIDE, CA. 92507 Date: 12/13/23 **TAMARA L. WAGNER, Judge of the Superior Court**

**p. 12/21/23, 12/28/23, 1/04/24, 1/11/24**

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**

**CASE NUMBER CVMV2306510**

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: LOURDES PADILLA EHIRIM filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: LOURDES PADILLA EHIRIM to LOURDES PADILLA indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. **NOTICE OF HEARING:** DATE: 2/7/24 Time: 8:00AM Dept: MV2 . The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, 13800 HEACOCK ST. BLDG. D, MORENO VALLEY, CA 92553 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: BLACK VOICE NEWS 1201 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, SUITE 210, RIVERSIDE, CA. 92507 Date: 12/6/2023 **SAMRA FURBUSH, Commissioner of the Superior Court**

**p. 12/14/23, 12/21/23, 12/28/23, 1/04/24**

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**

**CASE NUMBER CVCO2305380**

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: PETRA BENITEZ SALAS filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: a. ROSA ALICIA MORAN to ROSA ALICIA MORAN BENITEZ b. BRANDI EVELYN MORAN to BRANDI EVELYN MORAN BENITEZ c. CAROL JACQUELINE MORAN BENITES to CAROL JACQUELINE MORAN BENITEZ d. NOEL ISIDORO MORAN BENITES to NOEL ISIDORO MORAN BENITEZ e. RUDI OSCAR MORAN to RUDI OSCAR MORAN BENITEZ indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person

objecting to the name changes above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. **NOTICE OF HEARING:** DATE: 1/10/24 Time: 8:00AM Dept: C2 . The address of the court is RIVERSIDE SUPERIOR COURT, CORONA BRANCH, 505 S. BUENA VISTA AVENUE, RM 201, CORONA, CA 92582 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: BLACK VOICE NEWS 1201 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, SUITE 210, RIVERSIDE, CA. 92507 Date: 11/17/2023 **TAMARA WAGNER, Judge of the Superior Court**

**p. 12/14/23, 12/21/23, 12/28/23, 1/04/24**

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**

**CASE NUMBER CVMV2305997**

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: OMARAH PALMER filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: ZARIYAH LEILANI DAGLEY – PALMER to ZARIYAH LEILANI LENYON PALMER indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. **NOTICE OF HEARING:** DATE: 1/10/24 Time: 8:00AM Dept: MV2 . The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, 13800 HEACOCK ST. BLDG. D, MORENO VALLEY, CA 92553 MORENO VALLEY, COURTHOUSE A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: BLACK VOICE NEWS 1201 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, SUITE 210, RIVERSIDE, CA. 92507 Date: 11/08/2023 **DAVID E. GREGORY Commissioner of the Superior Court**

**p. 12/14/23, 12/21/23, 12/28/23, 1/04/24**

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**

**CASE NUMBER CVMV2306268**

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: MALCOLM GREGORY SIMMONS and ERIKA THALA CESPEDES filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: a. ZOE AMERIE CESPEDES to ZOE AMERIE SIMMONS b. MICHAEL KAREEM CESPEDES to MICHAEL KAREEM SIMMONS indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. **NOTICE OF HEARING:** DATE: 1/24/24 Time: 8:00AM Dept: MV2 . The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, 13800 HEACOCK ST.BLDG. D, MORENO VALLEY, CA 92553 MORENO VALLEY, COURTHOUSE A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: BLACK VOICE NEWS 1201 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, SUITE 210, RIVERSIDE, CA. 92507 Date: 11/22/2023 **SAMRA FURBUSH, Judge of the Superior Court**

**p. 12/14/23, 12/21/23, 12/28/23, 1/04/24**

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:**

**ANDREW MACIAS**

**Case Number PRR12302723**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: ANDREW MACIAS. A Petition for Probate has been filed by ROSANNA VIVEROS AMADOR in the Superior Court of California, County of: RIVERSIDE.

The Petition requests that ROSANNA VIVEROS AMADOR be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

The Petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal

representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date: JAN 31, 2024 Time: 8:30 am Dept: 12 The Courts address is the SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, 4050 MAIN ST, RIVERSIDE, CA 92501. CIVIL. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California are available the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Petitioner: ROSANNA VIVEROS AMADOR, 7159 Foxcroft Street, Riverside, CA 92506

**p. 12/21/23, 12/28/23, 1/04/24**

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO**

**NOTICE FOR "Request for Proposal"**  
RFP PC1355 Landscape Services  
HACSB CONTACT PERSON: Brittany Cook, Procurement  
Housing Authority of San Bernardino  
715 E. Brier Drive, San Bernardino, CA 92408  
procurement@hacsb.com  
HOW TO OBTAIN BID DOCS: 1. Access www.hacsb.com  
2. Click onto the "Do Business With Us" tab  
3. Click on the "Planet Bids" link to download and submit a Proposal with instructions  
PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL RETURN: Bids submitted through Planet Bids website.  
PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DATE: January 31, 2024 @ 2PM.  
1/4, 1/11/24  
CNS-3768789#  
**p. 1/4, 1/11/2024**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**Eliminate gutter cleaning forever!** LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-424-7581

**AUTOS WANTED**

**DONATE YOUR CAR TO KIDS** Fast Free Pickup – Running or Not - 24 Hour Response - Maximum Tax Donation – Help Find Missing Kids! Call 1-888-491-1453.

**Tiene un vehiculo no deseado?** Donelo a Patriotic Hearts! Recogida rápida y gratuita en los 50 estados. Patriotic Hearts ofrece programas para ayudar a los veteranos a encontrar trabajo o iniciar su propio negocio. Llama ahora: 1-844-244-5441 (24/7)

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and a 2-night/3-day hotel stay at one of 50 locations. Call Heritage for the Blind to donate your vehicle today. CALL 1-844-491-2884

**AUTOS WANTED/LUXURY**

**WANTED!**  
Old Porsche 356/911/912 for restoration by hobbyist 1948-1998 Only. Any condition. Top \$ paid!  
PLEASE LEAVE MESSAGE  
1-707-339-5994. Email: Porscherestoration@yahoo.com

**FINANCIAL SERVICES**

**Over \$10K in Debt?** Be debt free in 24 to 48 months. No upfront fees to enroll. A+ BBB rated. Call National Debt Relief 1-888-231-4274.

**HEALTH/MEDICAL**

**Stroke** and Cardiovascular disease are leading causes of death, according to the American Heart Association. Screenings can provide peace of mind or early detection! Contact Life Line Screening to schedule your screening. Special offer - 5 screenings for just \$149. Call 1-888-892-5598

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**Jacuzzi** Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, we're waiving all installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 12/31/23 Call 1-833-985-4766

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**MISCELLANEOUS**

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244-5441 (24/7)

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Old Porsche 356/911/912 for restoration by hobbyist 1948-1998 Only. Any condition. Top \$ paid!  
PLEASE LEAVE MESSAGE  
1-707-339-5994. Email: Porscherestoration@yahoo.com

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**Prepare** for power outages today with a GENERAC home standby generator. \$0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Options. Request a FREE Quote -Call now before the next power outage: 1-844-439-5645

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**RETIRED COUPLE \$\$\$\$** for business purpose Real Estate loans. Credit unimportant. V.I.P. Trust Deed Company www.viploan.com Call 1-818-248-0000. Broker-principal DRE 01041073. No consumer loans.

**DONATE YOUR CAR TO KIDS** Fast Free Pickup – Running or Not - 24 Hour Response - Maximum Tax Donation – Help Find Missing Kids! Call 1-888-491-1453.

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**Combating Racism Pt.4, continued from page 14**

what equitable policies look like in San Bernardino County.

The County has spent three years strategizing and planning, and is now working to execute plans and consider proposals made by the EEG, but the group itself has been met with challenges.

“I think we underestimated the time and effort that it really would take to actually move a system because that’s what we’re really dealing with,” Stone admitted. “But if we can change the system, so that the system doesn’t benefit the racist, but benefits the people — that’s what we’re working on now.”

With the recent changes in leadership in San Bernardino County, Stone said it will take time for these element groups to establish meetings as new leadership prioritizes other duties.

On Sept. 12, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors appointed Luther Snoke as the county’s new CEO who replaced former CEO Leonard X. Hernandez. Previously, Snoke served as the chief operating officer (COO) where he “worked closely with county executive leadership and department heads to develop the Countywide Vision,” according to a county statement.

Since declaring racism as a public health crisis and the subsequent development of EEG, members of the group often get one question from community members: “What are you guys doing?”

“The simple answer to that is that we’re meeting, we’re trying to figure out how to collaborate effectively and work with the whole county of San Bernardino with 16 people [who are] representing all the Black people in the county of San Bernardino,” Stone said. “We’ve been meeting and strategizing.”

As the group surveys different communities across the county, they are learning about the difference in needs of Black residents who reside in Chino Hills or Rancho Cucamonga compared to those who live in the cities of San Bernardino and Victorville.

Across the county, Alexander has learned that there are a lot of Black business owners and community members who are interested in job and economic growth. Oftentimes, business leaders in the community lack the capacity or have no training on how to submit adequate requests for proposals (RFP) for open calls that will allow them to secure contracts with the county.

Alexander is optimistic and proud of what the county has accomplished, not only with their declaration, but with the plans they have coming down the pipeline including hiring a communications consultant and developing capacity building training for small businesses.

“It’s like, you plant the seed and you water it and it takes a while to grow,” Alexander described. “There’s been a lot of stuff behind the scenes that maybe people aren’t aware of, but now it’s starting to grow and it’s going to start producing fruit.”

**Riverside County’s Commitment to Equity and Health**

On June 30, 2020, the Riverside City Council declared racism a public health crisis, and called on the county to join them in doing so. On Aug. 4, 2020, Riverside County’s Board of Supervisors adopted a similar resolution.

The city’s resolution emphasized its commitment to promote equity by requiring equity training for city staff, to generate periodic progress reports on city goals and to support equitable policies. The city’s resolution offered relatively vague pledges that provided no specific details about funding, explicit goals or timeframes for when these pledges would begin. The declaration made no mention of police reform, but does employ an independent review of complaints against riverside police under the city’s Community Police Review Commission.

However, by August, the city hit the ground running as then Mayor Rusty Bailey and his team developed the Riverside Anti-Racist Vision. The vision includes a series of anti-racist principles and practices that promote racial equity such as having “courageous conversations,” using evidence-based analysis and supporting anti-racist actions.

In line with the city’s declaration, Riverside County pledged to increase diversity across the county workforce, address the social determinants of health and support the creation of a Riverside County task force to address implicit bias as it impacts health and wellness. In 2020, the county engaged the community in a series of listening sessions to understand residents’ lived experiences with racism and social injustice.

As part of their commitment to promoting equity across the county, both within county departments and in the community, Riverside County developed a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access (DEIA) Task Force. In October 2022, the county hired Barry E. Knight as the DEIA Officer. The task force has outlined upcoming plans as they continue to carry out the pledges currently in process such as making implicit bias training available to all county employees by Spring 2024 and publishing a county wide equity plan in 2024.

Several departments in the county are working to implement equitable policies and practices as a result of the declaration including Riverside County

Probation which assigned the Justice System Change Initiative division to examine internal processes and utilize data to make recommendations for improvement.

To further promote health equity, Riverside University Health System developed the health equity team to address the social determinants of health and barriers to health as it impacts communities of color.

“You can’t move forward on something until you recognize there’s an issue. It’s now countywide that we’re working together on challenges, to be more inclusive, to be more equitable, as a county,” said District 5 Supervisor Karen Spiegel.

**Some declarations more symbolic than substantive**

As dozens of local governments and counties across California passed resolutions to address racism as a public health crisis in the last three years, many of them committed to taking tangible actions that would transform their communities, their cities and their policies.

For other cities and counties, making the declaration was a symbolic act that didn’t include any commitments, changes or offer anything to the community other than a statement.

According to Mapping Black California’s (MBC) dashboard, Yolo County and the City of Fontana did not include any actions in their resolutions. While Fontana’s proclamation recognized that COVID-19 exacerbated existing racial inequity and declared racism a public health crisis, the city offered no solutions or statements of change.

“Based upon this Proclamation, the City of Fontana initiates and supports efforts that work toward promoting a fair and just society; ending racial and social disparities; eliminating barriers that reduce opportunities for residents of color; and meaningfully advancing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion,” the proclamation stated.

In the absence of specific actions listed in the declaration, the mayor’s office has recognized that promises without action are fruitless. Accordingly, the city has expanded on existing programs such as Fontana Mayor’s Education Coalition, which develops career pathway initiatives for students, and the Healthy Fontana Initiative, a program that promotes a healthy lifestyle in communities.

“We are committed to fostering a city where everyone, regardless of their background, can lead a healthy, fulfilling life. Fontana is leading the way, showing that change is not just a possibility

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# SPECIAL FEATURE

## *Combating Racism Pt.4, continued from page 17*

but a reality,” said Mayor Acquanetta Warren.

One concrete step Fontana took was addressing mental health crisis calls in the wake of George Floyd’s murder by launching the Police Chief’s Roundtable to foster “open discussions and enhance relationships throughout the community.”

The development of the Crisis Outreach and Support Team (C.O.A.S.T.) was a result of the roundtable. The team is composed of a Fontana Police Department officer, a social worker from the San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health and a firefighter from the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

Similarly, Yolo County offered no details on specific commitments or actions they would take to address racism as a public health crisis.

As some of these vague declarations fade into the background, there’s no way to hold these city and county officials accountable because they didn’t make any concrete commitments.

Without offering any specific pledges, Yolo County’s declaration stated, “The Board of Supervisors of Yolo County has committed to a course of action that recognizes and addresses racism and its attendant inequities in a manner that will endeavor to erase the pernicious and destructive damage of racism by ensuring meaningful progress in improving.”

Although not stated in the declaration, Yolo County created the Inclusions and Diversity Working Group in 2019. The group includes staff from all county departments who are tasked with examining current county practices and making recommendations to those practices so they benefit staff and community interests.

Part of the reason MBC researchers Alex Reed and Candice Mays developed a dashboard with a collection of all declarations made across California is to help communities stay informed about what their local officials said they would — or wouldn’t — do to address racism as a public health crisis.

“By having this collection of declarations, not only is the public able to access these declarations in perpetuity, to see what promises are made, they’re also able to assess whether or not where they live [declared] anything,” Mays explained.

The end goal of the dashboard is to illustrate that racism is still very real and impacts people in their daily lives, Reed emphasized.

“When you can break those numbers down, and you can present them plainly in front of people, it’s so much harder to refute. It’s so much harder to say [racism is] all in your head,” said Reed.

## **Public Safety Reform Absent in Resolutions Declaring Racism a Health Crisis**

When jurisdictions across the country declared racism a public health crisis after witnessing ongoing fatal instances of police brutality against Black people and witnessing the disparate way COVID-19 impacted Black and brown communities, many believed this to be a turning point.

With these one-of-a-kind declarations, it seemed as if government leaders and communities were on the same page about the pervasive nature of racism and came to a consensus that institutions must be transformed.

During a San Bernardino City Council meeting on Oct. 18, 2023, Amy Malone was verbally attacked by persons who used racist and hateful language through the Zoom audio feature, during the public comment section. Following the incident, community members and leaders called for more action — more than an apology by city officials — to be taken in response.

“The racist comments made during the October 18, 2023 City Council meeting by individuals connected remotely through Zoom were offensive and unacceptable, and the City of San Bernardino condemns what happened in no uncertain terms,” according to a city statement. “The City apologizes to anyone who heard what was said.”

In a letter addressed to Mayor Helen Tran and the city council, faith leaders in the community demanded tangible action from city officials, including passing a resolution declaring racism a public health crisis in the city. They also requested that the city take concrete steps such as collecting data, allocating resources, increasing access to mental health services and investing in affordable housing.

“Recognizing racism as a public health crisis is an important step in addressing these issues, unfortunately, solely declaring a resolution does not mean it takes any structural or even social changes,” the letter read. “The October 18th incident at the city council meeting calls for more than just words...”

Despite the intentions of these resolutions, addressing racism at the institutional, economic and social level is a heavier lift than most local governments realized. Transforming these resolutions into reformative actions is a long-term commitment that requires the participation of the community, government leaders, county department heads and community-based organizations.

Notably across many declarations is the absence of reform to public safety and police oversight. According to MBC’s dashboard, less than six jurisdictions included language committing to external/internal reform of police department



*Diana Alexander, San Bernardino County assistant executive officer, gives an update on the county’s racism as a public health declaration during a community address on June 22, 2023. (Photo by Breanna Reeves)*

policies or any public safety considerations.

Considering that violent police actions and flawed police procedures were, in part, the impetus for the declarations, there is a glaring absence of police or public safety reform in a majority of efforts. While some jurisdictions have addressed law enforcement reform like Santa Cruz County’s new Office of the Inspector General, other counties have not. County boards of supervisors have very little oversight of these independently elected sheriffs and how they manage their departments. As such, efforts related to potential reforms are primarily in the sheriffs’ hands.

While declarations recognizing racism as a public health crisis continue to develop and evolve, many believe it is essential that police or public safety be incorporated as an essential part of these efforts. If not, the narratives of King, Floyd and countless others will be replicated as history continues to repeat itself. With this in mind, although the well-intentioned efforts to address the public health crisis of racism will progress, many jurisdictions will fall short of their overarching goal by failing to address one of the key elements that sparked the movement initially — police use of deadly force.

**CA Gas Prices**, continued from page 5

which have to be replaced—costing hundreds of dollars. This scene is not only repeating itself all over California but across the nation.

## Check Your Car

If your car won't start, there are some things you can look for which may indicate your gas tank has been tampered with. Look for gas puddles under your car. If you smell gasoline and your car does not start or the gasoline fuel light comes on, or the gas gauge shows diminished fuel, your car may have been tampered with.

For insurance purposes you should call the police and report the theft as well as contact your insurance agent. Depending on your policy, comprehensive insurance may cover the damages. According to Sonia Medina spokesperson for AAA insurance. “For those who have comprehensive coverage the damage would qualify as vandalism.”

## How to Avoid Gasoline Theft

There are things experts say you can do to help avoid gasoline theft. Beginning with whenever possible, park in a driveway or assigned enclosed parking area. If you have to park on the street, try to park where there are lots of people or cameras and where it is well lit. You should also try to avoid routine such as parking in the same area everyday. Make sure if you have a locking gasoline cap that it is locked and if you do not have one, you should purchase one. Finally, check your comprehensive insurance policy to make sure that any damage to your vehicle is covered.

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**Fentanyl Deaths**, continued from page 13

others. State guidelines require deputies to check on people in safety cells every 15 minutes.

People with other “severe” mental health diagnoses are placed in mental health cells with cameras so they can be monitored. People with less critical diagnoses are placed in general population cells without cameras, where deputies check on them hourly as with all incarcerated people, said Riverside County Chief Deputy James Krachmer.

Upton, 21, was in a mental health cell at the Robert Presley Detention Center when she tied her bedsheet to the top bunk and hanged herself on April 28, 2022. According to a coroner's report, deputies didn't notice Upton's body on camera or start life-saving measures for 20 minutes.

Footage from a camera in the cell showed Upton looping the bed sheet around her neck, the coroner's report states. Four minutes later, she tied the sheet to the upper bunk and hanged herself

When she was booked into jail on April 19, Upton told jail officials she “always kinda [sic] wanted to die” and said she had multiple personalities, the report said. Two days after being booked, she was put in a safety cell after kicking other inmates' cell doors; later, she was moved back to the mental health cell, where she hanged herself.

“It's very clear that their mental health staff doesn't know what the hell they're doing in those jails,” Gastélum said. “Because Ms. Upton and Mr. Solis committed suicide in such tragic and obvious ways, they missed every single sign that you had a suicidal [incarcerated person] on your watch.”

Gastélum doesn't represent the family of Robert Robinson, who killed himself on Sept. 7, 2022. Still, his death also raises concerns about how well deputies monitor people and the quality of mental health care in the county jails.

Robinson, 41, died less than 24 hours after arriving at the Robert Presley Detention Center, where he was in protective custody in a single cell, according to the coroner's report. On the day of his death, he warned jail personnel that he would kill himself. But after consulting with a mental health professional, he was returned to his cell in general population housing.

A video shows him hanging himself right after an hourly cell check, according to the coroner's report. Deputies didn't discover his body until more than an hour later. A toxicology report detected amphetamines and morphine in Robinson's system.

Referring to the suicides, Bianco said there's a limit to what jail personnel can do.

“We do everything in our power to prevent suicides. The bottom line is if someone's going to kill themselves,

they're going to find a way to kill themselves,” he said. “And usually, it's not the first time they try. They keep trying until they're successful.”

## Questions about accountability

But before last year's spike in jail deaths, the Sheriff's Department had been under scrutiny for years for its treatment of people in custody and officer-involved shootings.

“These things have been happening in Riverside for a long time. The only difference is that the numbers have spiked to a ridiculous level,” said Luis Nolasco, senior community engagement and policy advocate at the ACLU of Southern California, which urged Attorney General Rob Bonta to investigate the Sheriff's Department.

Since 2014, several Riverside County grand juries have investigated the department, recommending a range of changes, some of which are relevant to issues surrounding the 2022 deaths. The department rejected most of the recommendations, according to grand jury records.

A grand jury suggested that medical or psychiatric staff conduct routine rounds in holding and sobering cells to ensure people are receiving timely mental health support.

On Aug. 26, 2022, Octavio Zarzuela Jr., 30, died at a local hospital after being held in a sobering cell for public intoxication. His family is suing the county alleging corrections officers failed to properly assess or monitor him.

Another grand jury recommended that the department improve how it maintains incident logs, providing a more accurate, detailed description of what happened and identifying who wrote the report. The jury also proposed that the reports be screened for continuity and reviewed by a supervisor. Families suing the county have challenged the accuracy of jail records.

Lisa Matus and other family members of people who died in custody last year are waiting for answers from Bianco.

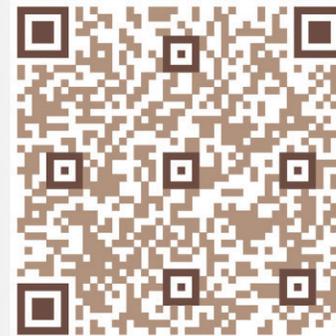
“All we want you to say is, ‘Let me look into it. Let me see what happened.’ Because obviously, [the sheriff] wasn't there,” she said. “So how can he say he knows that everything's good across the board if he's not in all the jails all the time watching what people do.”

*Gail Fry contributed to this report.*

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# COMBATING RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS



“*Combating Racism as a Public Health Crisis*” is a 4-part series created by BVN’s own Mapping Black California Team. This MBC project created an interactive map of official declarations by local and regional government officials establishing racism as a public health crisis. Funded in partnership with Starling Lab for Data Integrity at Stanford University.

To read the 4-part series and view the interactive map scan the QR code.