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by S.E. Williams



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Hate Speech in San Bernardino and a Message About Accountability



San Bernardino Councilmember Ben Reynoso speaks at the SB Community Stand Against Racism gathering in front of SB City Hall, October 23, 2023.

The incident of hate speech that occurred during last week's San Bernardino City Council meeting by a faceless, unknown coward who spewed his vile comments via telephone, certainly raised the ire of the community to a fever pitch with passion not seen since the uprising of 2020.

In its wake, the city has offered an official apology, the community has gathered together in solidarity and the police are pulling out all the stops to identify the racist culprit— and with the IP address it is possible they just might identify the individual... and then what?

How do you change people's hearts and minds? That is the operative question and certainly if we knew the answer to it, then as a community, as a state, as a nation, we would have applied it long ago and such incidents would be a thing of the past. That being said, positive things are happening in the wake of the incident.

In addition to community dialogue and acts of solidarity as experienced during the San Bernardino Community Stand Against Racism

held Monday, October 23, we are looking to apply the law that may not be able to change hearts and minds, but can certainly impose accountability. In this instance, the accountability option is California Penal Code 403 which makes it a crime for a person to willfully disturb or break up a public meeting. CA Penal Code 403 is the best option for accountability in this instance because hate speech is not a crime.

In June, Black Voice News, in partnership with Mapping Black California, released a report, Mapping Hate, where we examined incidents of hate in California by county across a five year period, 2016 to 2021. What stood out was firstly, that Anti-Black or African American hate crimes continue to be the largest bias incident victim category and secondly, the majority of offense types during this period were verbal slurs. But again, I must reiterate that hate speech is not a crime though it is considered a hate incident which is defined as "an action or behavior motivated by hate but which, for one or more reasons, is not a crime."

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Riverside Community Outreach Efforts: Understanding Medi-Cal Unwinding



Marivel Castaneda and Adriana Magana of the Riverside County Department of Public Social Services, pose for a portrait at the Civil Rights Institute on October 14, 2023. They are working to help residents navigate the unwinding of Medi-Cal. (Aryana Noroozi for Black Voice News / CatchLight Local)

Aryanna Noroozi | Staff

Marivel Castaneda and Adrianna Rodriguez of the Riverside County Department of Public Services in partnership with Black Voice News shared information about MediCal (California's version of Medicaid) unwinding to community members at the Civil Rights Institute of Southern California on Saturday, October 14.

The community outreach effort was in partnership with Black Voice News as part of the publication's Pop-up Newsroom initiative, a new strategy designed to bring important news and information directly to members of the community at local events.

More than 15 million beneficiaries are at risk of being disenrolled from Medicaid nationally and more than 225,000 California residents

having already lost their Medi-Cal coverage during this process due to several challenges such as not returning Medi-Cal renewal paperwork, not receiving their mail due to an address change, or benefit eligibility issues.

At least 439,000 households in Riverside County depend on Medi-Cal benefits and there are about 456,527 households in San Bernardino County subscribed to the health care service, making the need to understand the Medi-Cal unwinding process critical to the many inland area residents who rely on it for their health care coverage.

"We are out in the community helping individuals complete these packets, so they can retain benefits," explained Castaneda, emphasizing the importance of making the

registry window and being able to receive preventative care.

It is important that beneficiaries respond to renewal forms they receive in the mail indicating they need to submit information. They are required to complete and return the form as soon as possible in the pre-paid return envelope provided. The form can also be submitted online, in-person or by phone. The renewal process can take up to 90 days.

If a resident is no longer eligible for Medi-Cal, they should consider other affordable insurance options like Covered California, the free online marketplace for low-cost health insurance plans.

If you have questions or would like further support with this process visit the Riverside County Department of Social Services.

Asante-Ra | Staff

The Val Verde Unified School District's board president, Matthew Serafin, is facing mounting pressure to step down from his position following his second DUI arrest in less than five years.

Serafin's behavior extends beyond his legal troubles, with complaints of foul language and unprofessional conduct during board meetings.

As the controversy deepens, concerned parents and board members are demanding accountability and change in the 19,000-student

“

I came here today to let you know that all the decisions made by you affect my children, the children of our community, and my family. Yes, we all make mistakes and deserve a second chance, however, not the same mistakes over and over again... I'm a believer that our words and our actions encourage or discourage people. Do you really think you are encouraging positive attributes to our students as our president?

- Dolores Holmes
Concerned Parent

”

district located in Riverside County.

Serafin's most recent encounter with the law occurred on August 27 when he was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence after reportedly colliding with a parked car.

This incident marked the second DUI arrest for Serafin, as court records reveal he was previously convicted in 2018 for driving under

Controversy Deepens Over Val Verde Board President's Conduct and Legal Issues



As the controversy deepens related to alleged DUI charges and other issues involving Val Verde Unified School District's board president, Matthew Serafin, concerned parents and board members are demanding accountability. (source: facebook.com)

the influence, with a blood alcohol level of .08 or higher. In addition to his DUI history, Serafin also faced misdemeanor vandalism charges in 2015 related to purported vehicle burglaries.

During a recent board meeting, nearly a dozen individuals expressed their concerns about Serafin's continued presence as board president. Dolores Holmes, a concerned parent, made a heartfelt statement, emphasizing the impact of Serafin's actions on the community and children. She questioned the appropriateness of Serafin's behavior, both as a school board member and in his personal life, asking whether he truly represented positive attributes for the students.

"I came here today to let you know that all the decisions made by you affect my children, the children of our community, and my family. Yes, we all make mistakes and deserve a second chance, however, not the same mistakes over

and over again," stated Holmes. "I'm a believer that our words and our actions encourage or discourage people. Do you really think you are encouraging positive attributes to our students as our president?"

In response, Serafin acknowledged his imperfections but maintained his resolve to become a better person. "I am not a saint. I take responsibility, and I pray daily to the creator, to my ancestors, to the sun and to the moon. I strive to be a better person and will be a better person," he declared.

Serafin's troubles extend beyond his legal issues. Concerns have also emerged about his conduct during board meetings, including his use of foul language. School board member Melinda Young called for Serafin to resign due to his history of using inappropriate language

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VOICE Staff

California Hospital Medical Center (CHMC) has announced a new partnership with Morehouse School of Medicine seeking to expand and diversify the health care workforce. With Morehouse School of Medicine as the program's academic sponsor, post-graduate residents and fellows will benefit from training focused on addressing health inequities and underserved patients.

The announcement launches the first phase of the More in Common Alliance, a

“

California Hospital Medical Center is excited to be selected as a Graduate Medical Education site for the More in Common Alliance... We are well-positioned for this initiative given our location in the heart of Los Angeles, serving one of the most diverse patient populations within CommonSpirit Health.

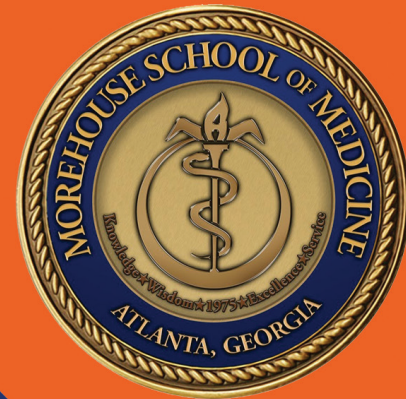
- Alina Moran
President, CA Hospital Medical Center

”

historic partnership between CommonSpirit Health/Dignity Health's parent company, and Morehouse School of Medicine.

"California Hospital Medical Center is excited to be selected as a Graduate Medical Education site for the More in Common Alliance," states Alina Moran, Hospital President. "We are well-positioned for this initiative given our location

CHMC and Morehouse School of Medicine Work to Increase Diversity in Healthcare



California Hospital Medical Center announces new partnership with historic Morehouse School of Medicine for family residency program (Source: Lysa Barry, Dignity Health)

in the heart of Los Angeles, serving one of the most diverse patient populations within CommonSpirit Health."

Our mission is deeply rooted in health justice, focused on removing barriers to access and creating the infrastructure to support truly equitable care for future generations. This partnership will help build the pipeline of healthcare providers who are representative of our diverse city while providing world-class, culturally competent care to all people in our

community, no matter their background."

California Hospital was chosen as one of seven sites that will address two of the most pressing challenges in healthcare – a shortage of diverse clinicians and the need for more equitable health care.

"The transfer of the Family Medicine Residency Program at CHMC to the Sponsorship of Morehouse School of Medicine will position the hospital to execute the mission and vision of

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NAACP Demands Investigation Into San Bernardino City Council Meeting Hate Incident



Screenshot of Amy Malone at the San Bernardino City Council meeting on October 23. (Source: YouTube.com)

Manny Otiko | California Black Media

The San Bernardino Branch of the NAACP is calling on the City of San Bernardino to investigate a racial incident that occurred last week.

During the public comments section of a council meeting on Oct. 18, Amy Malone, a Black resident of San Bernardino was interrupted by racial slurs from a commenter who was viewing the meeting remotely.

The anonymous commenter told Malone to “go back to Africa” and called her the N-word. She was also called a “bitch.”

Malone was shocked by the comments and insisted that they be addressed immediately.

“You should apologize for what just happened,” said Malone to the city council members present.

The local branch of the NAACP also reacted to the incident, calling it “disgusting.”

“It is with a heavy heart that we must deal with racial insults being tossed at the Black community on 10/18/23 as they cautioned the mayor and council not to hire Mr. Charles Montoya as City Manager because of his public legal issues cause from being fired by the Mayor and Council from Avondale, Arizona,” wrote

Chache Wright, NAACP San Bernardino Branch President.

“A letter signed by Mayor Kenneth N. Weise (Avondale, AZ) lists these five alleged reasons for Montoya termination. 1. Montoya did not live in Avondale as required by his employment contract. 2. Demanding funds from the city he was not entitled to according to his contract. 3. Failing to make timely payment on a loan he had borrowed against his retirement account. 4. Receiving tuition reimbursement payments beyond what his contract allowed. 5. Refusing to repay vehicle reimbursement funds that he was paid in error,” the NAACP statement continued.

Before she was interrupted, Malone was expressing her objections to the hiring of Montoya because of past misconduct and his questionable professional past. She was one of several residents who opposed his hiring because of his checkered employment history. According to some of the protestors, Montoya also has a history of filing lawsuits against previous employers.

According to news reports, Montoya clashed with Avondale board members and raised concerns about nepotism prior to his dismissal. He was terminated for not living within the city

limits. However, his attorney argues that the city unlawfully terminated him without giving him adequate time to address the problem.

Montoya said he was fired out of spite. During an appearance at the meeting, he said he had no regrets about his decision. The case is currently proceeding to federal court.

Despite these concerns, the city council approved Montoya’s hiring. Montoya has previously worked as a city manager in California

“

It is with a heavy heart that we must deal with racial insults being tossed at the Black community on 10/18/23 as they cautioned the mayor and council not to hire Mr. Charles Montoya as City Manager because of his public legal issues cause from being fired by the Mayor and Council from Avondale, Arizona...

*- Chache Wright
NAACP San Bernardino Branch President*

”

and Arizona.

A statement posted on the city’s website says that the official recording of the meeting has been edited to remove the offensive language.

“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

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Amy Maxmen | California Healthline

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends new covid-19 booster vaccines for all — but many who need them most won't get them. About 75% of people in the United States appear to have skipped last year's bivalent booster, and nothing suggests uptake will be better this time around.

"Urging people to get boosters has really only worked for Democrats, college graduates, and people making over \$90,000 a year," said Gregg Gonsalves, an epidemiologist at Yale University. "Those are the same people who will get this booster because it's not like we're doing anything differently to confront the inequities in place."

As the effects of vaccines offered in 2021 have diminished over time, boosters have been shown to strongly protect people against severe covid and death, and more modestly prevent infection. They can have a dramatic impact on those most likely to die from covid, such as older adults and immunocompromised people. Public health experts say re-upping vaccination is also important for those in group housing, like prisons and nursing homes, where the virus can move swiftly between people in close quarters. A boost in protection is also needed to offset the persistent disparities in the toll of covid between racial and ethnic groups.

However, the intensive outreach efforts that successfully led to decent vaccination rates in 2021 have largely ended, along with mandates and the urgency of the moment. Data now suggests that the people getting booster doses are often not those most at risk, which means the toll of covid in the U.S. may not be dramatically reduced by this round of vaccines. Hospitalizations and deaths due to covid have risen in recent weeks, and covid remains a leading cause of death, with roughly 7,300 people dying of the disease in the past three months.

Tyler Winkelman, a health services researcher at Hennepin Healthcare in Minneapolis, said outreach of the intensity of 2021 is needed again. Back then, throngs of people were hired to tailor communication and education to various communities, and to administer vaccines in churches, homeless encampments, and stadiums. "We can still save lives if we are thoughtful about how we roll out the vaccines."

Complicating matters, this is the first round of covid vaccines not fully covered by the federal government. Private and public health insurers will get them to members at no cost, but the situation for some 25 million-30 million uninsured adults — predominantly low-income people and people of color — is in flux. On Sept. 14, the CDC announced a kickoff of plans to temporarily provide vaccines

A New Covid Booster Is Here. Will Those at Greatest Risk Get It?



for the uninsured, at least partly through \$1.1 billion left over in pandemic emergency funds through the Bridge Access Program.

Costs are probably an issue, said Peter Maybarduk, at Washington-based advocacy organization Public Citizen. Moderna and Pfizer have more than quadrupled the price of the vaccines to about \$130 a dose, compared with about \$20 for the first vaccines and \$30 for the last boosters, raising overall health care costs. Maybarduk pointed out that the U.S. government funded research involved in developing mRNA vaccines, and said the government missed an opportunity to request price caps in return for that investment. Both companies earned billions from vaccine sales in 2021 and 2022. Moderna's latest investor report predicts another \$6 billion to \$8 billion in covid vaccine sales this year and Pfizer expects \$14 billion. Maybarduk suggests the government would have more funds for equity initiatives if so much weren't being spent on the boosters through Medicare, Medicaid, and its access program. "If these vaccines had been kept at the same price, what decisions would be made to expand

the response?"

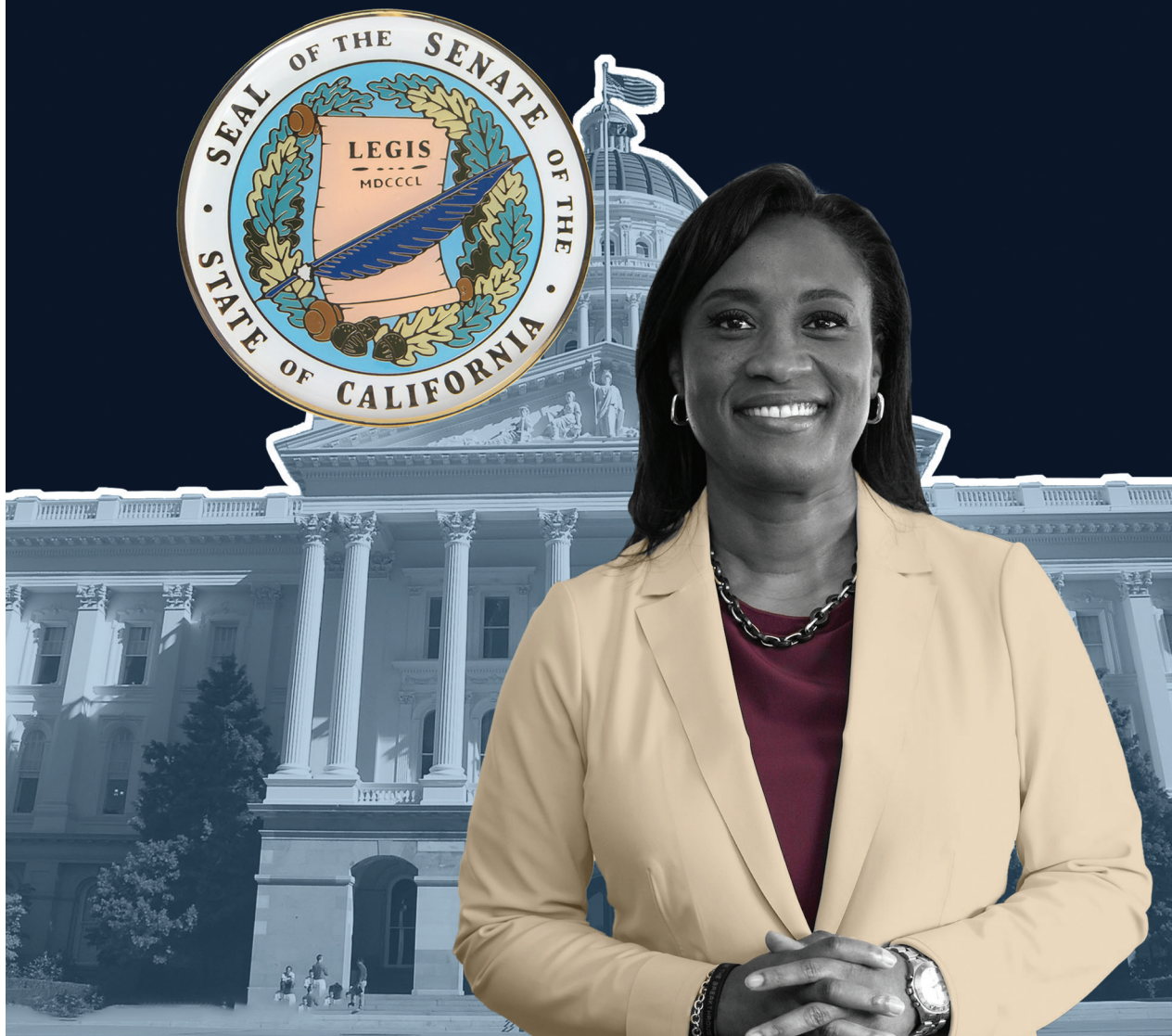
People age 75 and up have accounted for more than half of the country's pandemic deaths. But whereas the first vaccines were quickly taken up in nursing homes, boosters have been less popular, with fewer than 55% of residents in Arizona, Florida, Nevada, and Texas getting the bivalent booster released last year. At some facilities nationwide, rates are below 10%.

Jails and prisons have seen some of the largest U.S. outbreaks — yet booster uptake there often appears to be poor. In Minnesota, just 8% of incarcerated people in jails and 11% in prisons have gotten last year's booster, according to analyses of electronic health records by the Minnesota EHR Consortium. About 38% of people in prisons in California are up to date on boosters. Boosters make a difference. A study of California prisons found that among incarcerated people, the effectiveness of the first two doses was about 20% against infection, compared with 40% for three doses. (Prison staff saw

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Senator Laphonza Butler Opts Out of 2024 Senate Race

by S.E. Williams



Recently appointed Senator Laphonza Butler (D-CA) will not seek election in 2024 to fill the Senate seat for a full term.

The only Black Senator currently serving in the U.S. Senate, Butler was recently appointed to the seat by CA Governor Gavin Newsom to complete the term left open with the passing of Senator Dianne Feinstein on September 29, 2023.

The first openly LGBTQ, the second Black Senator to represent the state of CA and only the third Black woman to serve in the U.S. senate in the nation's 247 year history, Butler's appointment was celebrated by a cross-section of communities across the state and around the nation.

Newsom had previously committed to appoint a Black woman should Feinstein be unable to complete her term and Butler proved a worthy choice with her long history as a Democratic strategist, union leader and further political experienced gained having served as an advisor to Vice President Kamala Harris' 2020 presidential campaign.

Her decision not to enter the race may be viewed as prudent by some considering the field is already crowded with a slate of well-known and popular Democratic candidates including, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, a member of the House Democratic leadership team and former chair of the Congressional Black Caucus; Congressman Adam Schiff, former chair of the House Intelligence Committee; and Congresswoman Katie Porter, who represents parts of Orange County and is the former deputy chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. These, however, are just some of the Democrats who have already entered the field. Some of these candidates have already secured millions of dollars in campaign donations according to reports.

On the Republican side, at least two candidates have declared their intention to enter the Senate race including Steve Garvey a retired

Explaining why she decided not to run for the Senate in 2024, Senator Laphonza Butler stated on X (formerly Twitter) "It may not be the decision people expected but it's the right one for me." (source: senate.gov)



Laphonza Butler sworn in by VP Kamala Harris, October 3, 2023. source: Wikipedia.org

professional baseball player and attorney Eric Early. Some of these candidates have already added millions of dollars to their campaign coffers.

Butler's Decision

Explaining her reasons for choosing not to enter the race on X Butler offered, “I’ve spent the past 16 days pursuing my clarity – what kind of life I want to have, what kind of service I want to offer and what kind of voice I want to bring forward,” she began. “After considering those questions I’ve decided not to run for Senate in the upcoming election. Knowing you can win a campaign doesn’t always mean you should run a campaign. It may not be the decision people expected but it’s the right one for me.”

Butler also cited concerns for family during an interview with FOX last week, where she

highlighted the reality of harassment. “My mother is 70 years old, she didn’t sign up for this. My daughter is 9, she didn’t sign up for this and so I’m thinking about my family and my family’s safety,” she opined. “I have already gotten my first piece of hate mail and a stranger has shown up at my door and so that is a real contemplation for me.”

As Butler made her future plans clear regarding CA’s 2024 Senate bid, the race was already being highlighted as one of the highest profile contests to watch in the coming year.

On November 5, 2024, there will be two ballot items for the same Senate seat—a special election to fulfill the final weeks of Feinstein’s seat in the 118th Congress that ends January 3, 2025 and a general election for a full term Senate seat in the 119th Congress that begins January 3, 2025.



Laphonza Butler

@LaphonzaB

“I have spent my life working for working men and women whether I was fighting to win more pay for their labor, strengthen their communities or help them get elected. I’ve always believed elected leaders should have real clarity about why they’re in office and what they want to do with the responsibility and power they have.

I’ve spent the past 16 days pursuing my own clarity - what kind of life I want to have, what kind of service I want to offer and what kind of voice I want to bring forward.

After considering those questions I’ve decided not to run for a full term in the US Senate. Knowing you can win a campaign doesn’t always mean you should run a campaign. I know this will be a surprise to many because traditionally we don’t see those who have power let it go.

It may not be the decision people expected but it’s the right one for me.

California voters want leaders who think about them and the issues they care most about. I now have 383 days to serve the people of California with every ounce of energy and effort that I have.

Muhammad Ali once said, ‘don’t count the days, make the days count.’

I intend to do just that.”

Op Ed: The Success of Community-Centered Strategies in Reducing Crime and Violence



Communities are boldly asserting what they need to be safe—and building solutions to achieve it thanks to the historical recent investments in community-centered public safety.(dsp.delaware.gov)



Will Simpson
Equal Justice USA

This week, we saw a narrative that dominated 2022 get thoroughly debunked. Last year, political candidates, and much of the media that covers them, practically shouted about a murder and crime wave.

The FBI just released its 2022 data. Homicides are down. Violent crime is down. While property crime is up, it's still well below a decade ago.

Violence is far too complex to point to a single reason for trends. But we shouldn't let this moment pass without recognizing the historical recent investments in community-centered public safety.

Communities are boldly asserting what they need to be safe—and building solutions to achieve it. The work is producing tangible reductions of violence.

Unfortunately, our backing of these transformative strategies hasn't matched their potential. Our nation's response to violence has always been punishment, which intensifies the

root causes of violence and acts as a multiplier of harm. We have poured money into policing and prisons for years; isn't it time to fully support successful community-driven strategies?

California recently took a stride in this direction when Gov. Newsom signed AB 28, which will tax manufacturers of guns and ammunition, sending \$75 million into community-centered public safety.

That amount might feel substantial until you contrast it with how our country funds public safety: a 2019 DOJ report showed spending of \$300 billion annually on police, prosecutions, prisons, and supervision across the entire justice system.

Meanwhile, all levels of government have invested approximately \$250 million annually, over the past two years, into community-centered strategies, a stark contrast in how we prioritize and invest in safety.

Given the proven success of community initiatives against the harms of traditional strategies, we have to wonder: Could we be investing differently and have greater impact?

These community initiatives take many shapes. The solutions to violence require a collective strategy that addresses the root causes. Right now, much of that \$250 million goes to community violence intervention (CVI) — and not nearly enough to organizations on the ground.

This historic investment in CVI is a critical step to achieving safety in all of our communities. But it is just the “tip of the spear,” according to Eddie Bocanegra, senior advisor in the U.S. Office of the Assistant Attorney General. He's pointing to a larger thinking — our investment needs to expand beyond singular efforts. Our communities deserve more than just CVI.

A more diversified approach is having undeniable success. Look at Newark, NJ, where Mayor Ras J. Baraka has launched initiatives that center community in formal public safety strategies. One result: a 60-year low in homicides. Organizations like the Newark Community Street Team, The HUBB Arts and Trauma Center, and New Direction are aligning efforts in allyship with the city's Office

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POWER OF THE PRESS

BVN@50 EXHIBIT

SAN BERNARDINO
COUNTY MUSEUM



Power of the Press Black Voice News @ 50 Exhibit

Open through March 3, 2024

Commemorating 50 years of service as a source for community news and information in the Inland Empire, **Power of the Press: Black Voice News @ 50**, documents the transformation of the **Black Voice News** from a printed community weekly newspaper to a digital solutions focused, data reporting news organization.

The exhibit highlights not only the organization's work as local government watchdogs but as recorders of Black life in the Inland Empire, including profiles of leaders making a difference in communities across the region, coverage of community events, mapping community assets, and reporting on the fight for social justice and racial equity.



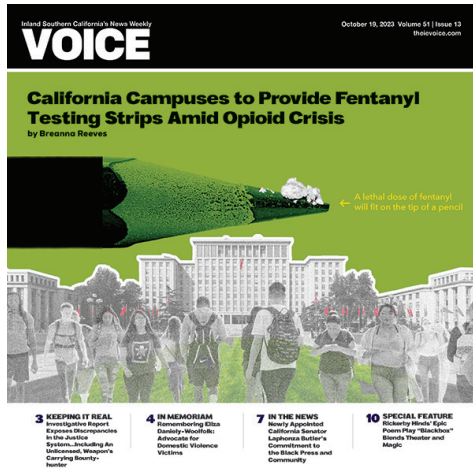
San Bernardino
County Museum



VOICE

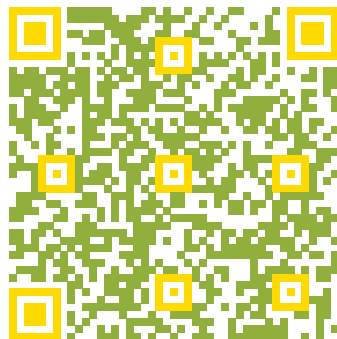
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EDUCATE ENGAGE INFORM

Scan the QR Code to read
last week's issue online.



KEEPING IT REAL

Hate Speech, continued from page 3

Although there is currently a lot of passion in the community among those angry about what occurred and who are pressing for accountability, I would ask that instead we consider this in the equation. During the five year period of our Mapping Hate report, among the things that stood out were that the majority of racial hate crimes during this period were Anti-Black (28%). The data also revealed there is little consequence for bad behavior as it relates to such hate crimes. Generally, only 35% of hate crimes are referred for potential prosecution and of those, only 50% (18% off all crimes) are filed. From there 58% of cases filed are disposed, and of those, 49% are convicted as a hate crime.



*Accountability is when you accept
responsibility for the consequences of
your actions, words, and decisions.*

- Emily May



The other 51% are either not convicted of a hate crime, or not convicted at all. When you crunch the numbers, what this means is that of all the hate crimes committed in the state of California during the five year study period, less than six percent resulted in a hate crime conviction.

The quest for accountability is a word used ad nauseam in relation to criminal justice. For example, how often do we hear officials—especially law and order enthusiasts who never saw a jail they did not want to fill—talk about the need for those who commit crimes to be held accountable—especially Black folks. But when it comes to crimes, hate crimes in particular

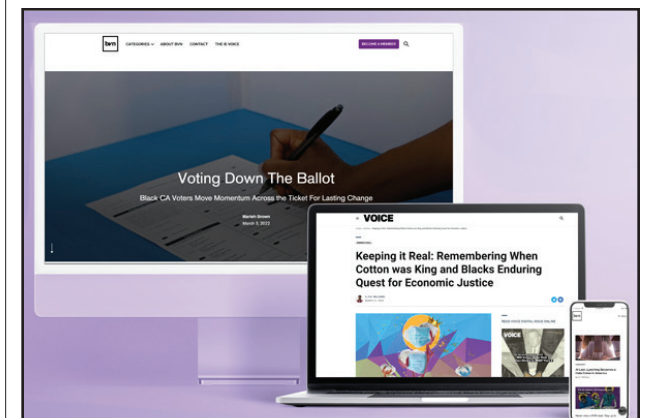
committed against Black people we have to stop and ask: Where is the accountability?

Hate speech as experienced during the San Bernardino City Council meeting last week is hurtful and should not be tolerated, but again, it is not a crime. However, there are real hate crimes being perpetrated against Blacks and other minorities that continue to go unpunished with very little notice.

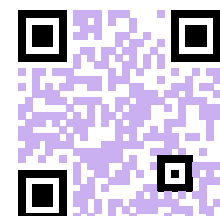
One of the ways we can truly channel frustration over what happened and make a difference is to demand that police agencies put as much energy into holding perpetrators of hate crimes accountable as they do in over arresting, over-charging and over-convicting Black people far out of proportion to their presence in the population.

Of course this is just my opinion. I'm keeping it real.

S.E. Williams
Executive Editor



TheIEVoice.com
BlackVoiceNews.com



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. Dorian Kinoo Crutcher

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 09/14/2023

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-202313659

p. 10/05/23, 10/12/23, 10/19/23, 10/26/23

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

SPRINGS PAINTING
31220 Via Las Palmas
Thousand Palms, CA 92276
RIVERSIDE COUNTY
31220 Via Las Palmas
Thousand Palms, CA 92276
Maria Carole Yeakel
31220 Via Las Palmas
Thousand Palms, CA 92276

This business is conducted by: Individual Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on January 04, 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, that the registrant knows to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1000) s. Maria Carole Yeakel

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 09/05/2023

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-202313112

p. 10/05/23, 10/12/23, 10/19/23,

10/26/23

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER CVM2305039

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: MARISA PONCE MEDINA filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: LEVI LEONARDO COLYER PONCE to. LEVI RAIN PONCE. The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the 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: 12/15/2023 Time: 8:00AM Dept: MV2. The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, 13800 HEACOCK STREET. D#201, 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: 9/25/2023
BELINDA A. HANDY, Judge of the Superior Court
p. 10/12/23, 10/19/23, 10/26/23, 11/02/23

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER CVSW2307523

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: RICHARD GEORGE filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: JACKSON MICHAEL FORD to. JACKSON MICHAEL FORD-GEORGE. The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the 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: 11/2/2023 Time: 8:00AM Dept: S101. The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, 30755-D AULD ROAD, MURRIETA, CA 92543 . 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: 9/15/2023
James Hodgkins, Judge of the Superior Court

p. 10/05/23, 10/12/23, 10/19/23, 10/26/23

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER CVM2305038

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: MARISA PONCE MEDINA filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: MARISA PONCE MEDINA to. MARS PONCE. The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the 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: 12/15/2023 Time: 8:00AM Dept: MV2. The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, 13800 HEACOCK STREET. D#201, 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: 9/25/2023
BELINDA A. HANDY, Judge of the Superior Court
p. 10/12/23, 10/19/23, 10/26/23, 11/02/23

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER CVMV2305040

To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: ALEXANDER DARKO ADDISON filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: ELISABELLA APPOH to. BELLA AFARIWAA ADDISON. The Court orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the 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: 12/15/2023 Time: 8:00AM Dept: MV2. The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, 13800 HEACOCK STREET. D#201, 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: 9/25/2023
BELINDA A. HANDY, Judge of the Superior Court
p. 10/05/23, 10/12/23, 10/19/23, 10/26/23

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
DOROTHY MAE STOREY
Case Number PRR12302150

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: DOROTHY MAE STOREY. A Petition for Probate has been filed by NANCY GALVAN in the Superior Court of California, County of: RIVERSIDE. The Petition requests that NANCY GALVAN 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: DEC 05, 2023 Time: 8:30 am Dept: 11 The Courts address is the SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, 4050 MAIN ST, RIVERSIDE, CA 92501. CENTRAL JUDICIAL DISTRICT. 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. Attorney for Petitioner: SHAWN PATTERSON, 149 N. SAN GORGONIO AVE, BANNING, CA 92220

p. 10/12/23, 10/19/23, 10/26/23

PUBLIC NOTICES

San Bernardino International Airport Authority Notice Inviting Bids
Prospective bidders are hereby notified that the San Bernardino International Airport Authority ("AGENCY" and/or "Agency") will receive sealed bid proposals for the AOA VEHICLE ACCESS ROAD PROJECT (the "Project"). The complete Bid shall be submitted in a sealed envelope with the Bidder's name, the project name, project number, and the words "Sealed Bid - Do Not Open" clearly marked on the outside of the mailing envelope. Bids may not be submitted by facsimile or electronic telecommunication . Bids submitted via USPS or other courier service must have the project name and project number and the words "Sealed Bid - Do Not Open" clearly marked on the outside of the mailing envelope . All Bids shall be submitted by delivery to the AGENCY at the address provided below and will be received until 10:00 AM on November 28, 2023 . Bids will be publicly opened and read at that time. Any bids received after the specified date and time will be rejected and returned unopened. The address for delivery of Bids is: San Bernardino International Airport Authority Attention : Assistant Secretary of the Commission 1601 E. 3rd Street San Bernardino, California 92408 The selected CONTRACTOR shall construct all improvements in accordance with the Project plans and specifications and the request for proposals specific to this bid package and the award of the Project will be based upon the Base Bid . Time for completion is as follows: 1. Base Bid= 120 calendar days. Any questions or communications shall be in writing. Written questions regarding details of the project will be accepted until November 16, 2023 at 10:00AM. Written questions must be directed to Jeff Barrow, Director of Development, San Bernardino International Airport Authority at jbarrow@sbdairport.com, or the street address for submitting bids. Contract Documents may be obtained from the AGENCY at 1601 E. 3rd Street, San Bernardino , California 92408, upon payment of a \$350.00 nonrefundable fee and are also available for free download on the AGENCY's website, www.sbiaa.org . Make all checks payable to

"San Bernardino International Airport Authority ." A full list of all requirements regarding this project can be found in the project specifications. All information , addendums , and notices regarding this Project will be posted to the AGENCY website. It is the sole responsibility of all perspective respondents to check the website for any pertinent information that may be issued. A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held at 1601 E. 3rd Street , San Bernardino, CA 92408 on November 9, 2023 at 10:00 AM . Each Bidder must be licensed in the State of California and qualified to perform the Work described in the project specifications. Pursuant to Public Contract Code Section 3300 , the CONTRACTOR must possess the following classification of CONTRACTOR's license: CLASS "A". Each Bidder, and each subcontractor listed by the Bidder in the bid proposal, must be registered and qualified to perform public work pursuant to Labor Code§ 1725.5. Registration number for the prime contractor and each sub-contractor must be included as required with the bid proposal. Bidders are advised that SBIAA has established an overall Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) race-neutral goal for this solicitation to ensure equal participation of DBE groups in accordance with Title 49 CFR Part 26.51. The DBE participation goal for this solicitation is 6.8%, this is expressed as a percentage of the total dollar value of the resultant agreement. No contractor or subcontractor may be awarded a contract for public work on a public works contract unless registered with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1725.5. Each Bidder, and each subcontractor listed by the Bidder in the bid proposal, must be registered and qualified to perform public work pursuant to Labor Code § 1725.5. Each proposal must be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check or bid bond for ten percent (10%) of the maximum amount of the bid. Said check shall be made payable to the San Bernardino International Airport Authority and when delivered with a proposal, shall constitute a guaranty that Bidder will, if an award is made to them in accordance with the terms of said Bidder's proposals: execute a contract on the AGENCY's standard form, together with Labor Code Certification thereon; furnish contract performance and payment bonds with a corporate surety or sureties satisfactory to the AGENCY, each for not less than one-hundred percent (100%) of total bid price; furnish certificates of insurance evidencing that all insurance coverage required by the contract has been secured. This is a "public work" project and each CONTRACTOR to whom a contract is awarded must pay the prevailing rates and post copies thereof at the job site. In addition, it is also the responsibility of each CONTRACTOR to follow all requirements of the State of California Labor Code as it relates to public works contracts. Before work can begin on a public works contract, the CONTRACTOR shall submit a Public Works Contract Award Information Form (DAS 140) to an applicable apprenticeship program that can supply apprentices to the site of the public work. The CONTRACTOR must request dispatch of required apprentices from an Apprenticeship Program for each apprenticeable craft or trade by giving the Apprenticeship Program. The CONTRACTOR is to use a Request for Dispatch of an Apprentice Form (DAS 142) to submit his/her written request. Bidders are hereby notified that the prevailing rate of per diem wages, as determined by the Director of Industrial Relations, applicable to the work to be done for the locality in which the work is to be performed in compliance with Section 1773 of the Labor Code of the State of California are on file in the AGENCY's principal office at the address listed above and will be made available to any interested party upon request. Bidders are hereby notified that

this Project is subject to the payment of prevailing wages as determined by the United States Secretary of Labor, pursuant to the Federal Davis-Bacon Act. The requirements of 49 CFR Part 26, Regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation, apply to this contract. It is the policy of the San Bernardino International Airport to practice nondiscrimination based on race, color, sex or national origin in the award or performance of this contract. All firms qualifying under this solicitation are encouraged to submit bids/proposals. This project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations. The AGENCY reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals , to waive any irregularity or to award the contract to other than the lowest bidder consistent with the award of the contract to the lowest responsible bidder. Bidder may not withdraw their bid for one hundred and twenty (120) days after bid opening . San Bernardino International Airport Authority San Bernardino, California By: \s\ Jennifer Farris, Assistant Secretary of the Commission 10/26, 11/2/23 CNS-3748301# p. 10/26, 11/2/2023

NOTICE
INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB-MNT24-26

Omnitrans is accepting Bids for: Bus Tire Lease Bids are due 3:00 p.m. PST, on November 21, 2023. Bids must be submitted electronically using Omnitrans' Procurement online bidding system at www.omnitrans.com. The IFB documents can be obtained via download at Omnitrans' Procurement online bidding system at www.omnitrans.org. Omnitrans affirmatively ensures that Small and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin. Omnitrans 1700 West Fifth Street San Bernardino, CA 92411 Sr. Contract Administrator: Frank Holland Phone: (909) 379-7186 Email: frank.holland@omitrans.org 10/26/23 CNS-3749181# p. 10/26/2023

NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP-SSR24-23

Omnitrans is accepting Proposals for: Card Access Program Proposals are due prior to 3:00 p.m. PST, November 30, 2023. Proposals must be submitted electronically using Omnitrans' Procurement online bidding system at www.omnitrans.org. The RFP documents can be obtained via download at Omnitrans' Procurement online bidding system at www.omnitrans.org or https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/18046/portal-home Omnitrans affirmatively ensures that Small and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin. Omnitrans 1700 West Fifth Street San Bernardino, CA 92411 Contract Administrator: Samantha Torigan Phone: (909) 379-7246 Email: samantha.torigan@omitrans.org 10/26/23 CNS-3750397# p. 10/26/2023

Notice Inviting Bids
Bid No. 23-02
Sensory Equipment and Furniture

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the San Bernardino City Unified School District of San Bernardino County, State of California, acting through its

CHMC and Morehouse, continued from page 7

the More in Common Alliance,” shares Chinedu Ivonye, MD, Morehouse School of Medicine, Associate Dean of Graduate Medical Education. “The community will be served by mission driven physicians and administrators committed to the unique needs of our diverse community.”

Announced in December 2020, The More in Common Alliance is a 10-year, \$100 million initiative between CommonSpirit Health and the Morehouse School of Medicine will increase medical education opportunities for more Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC). The More in Common Alliance was established as the partnership name because research demonstrates that patients consistently fare better when treated by clinicians of similar backgrounds who share lived experiences.

About Dignity Health – California Hospital Medical Center

Founded in 1887, Dignity Health - California Hospital Medical Center is a 318-bed, acute care, nonprofit hospital located in downtown Los Angeles. The hospital offers a full complement of services including a Level II trauma center, the Los Angeles Center for Women’s Health, obstetrics and pediatric services, and comprehensive cardiac and surgical services. The hospital shares a legacy of humankindness with Dignity Health, one of the largest health care systems. Visit dignityhealth.org/californiahospital for more information.

About Morehouse School of Medicine

Founded in 1975, Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) is among the nation’s leading

educators of primary care physicians, biomedical scientists, and public health professionals. An independent and private historically-Black medical school, MSM was recognized by the Annals of Internal Medicine as the nation’s number one medical school in fulfilling a social mission—the creation and advancement of health equity. MSM faculty and alumni are noted for excellence in teaching, research, and public policy, as well as exceptional patient care. MSM is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award doctoral and master’s degrees. To learn more about programs and donate today, please visit www.msm.edu or call 404-752-1500.

About More in Common Alliance

The More in Common Alliance is a partnership
continued on page 18

public notices

Governing Board, hereafter referred to as the “District”, is soliciting electronic bid submittals through its OpenGov e-Procurement web portal in response to Bid No. 23-02, Sensory Equipment and Furniture. Bids must be submitted electronically up to but not later than November 15, 2023 at 11:00 a.m., at <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/sbcsud>

Bid forms on which the Bid must be presented, specifications, terms, conditions, and instructions required for responding may be secured at the District’s e-Procurement website at: <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/sbcsud>.

Contract award is contingent upon availability of funds. Local, Minority and Disabled Veterans Businesses are specifically encouraged to respond. The District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, and to accept or reject any item, to withdraw a line item or entire Bid, and to waive any irregularities or informalities in the Bid document(s). The District may award any, all, or none of this Bid.

Buyer: Corey DeBrule
Publication: October 26, 2023
Request for Clarification: November 6, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.
Virtual Bid Opening: November 15, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. meet.google.com/tvo-bqmi-jkf
10/26/23
CNS-3750556#
p. 10/26/2023

Said sale is for the purpose of satisfying lien of the undersigned for towing, storage, labor, materials, and lien charges, together with costs of advertising and expenses of sale.
p. 10/26/2023

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NEW AUTHORS WANTED! Page Publishing will help you self-publish your own book. FREE author submission kit! Limited offer! Why wait? Call now: 1-855 667-0380 (Cal-SCAN)

GOT AN UNWANTED CAR??? Your car donation to Patriotic Hearts helps veterans find work or start their own business. Fast free pick. Running or not! Call 24/7: 1 877-529-0495. (Cal-SCAN)

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) (Cal-SCAN)

SAVE BIG on HOME INSURANCE! Compare 20 A-rated insurance companies. Get a quote within minutes. Average savings of \$444/year! Call 1-844-410-9609! (M-F 8am-8pm Central) (Cal-SCAN)

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installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 12/31/23 Call 1-833-985-4766 (Cal-SCAN)

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VEHICLE SALES

NOTICE OF SALE OF VEHICLE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 3071 of the Civil Code of the State of California.
The undersigned will sell the following vehicle(s) at lien sale at said time(s) 11/3/2023 at 10:00 AM
Make/Yr: 2018 FORD MUSTANG
Lic.: 8COT851
Vin. 1FA6P8TH9J5123134
Location: 11819 HADLEY ST, WHITTIER, CA

IN THE NEWS

OpEd: The Success, continued from page 12

of Violence Prevention and Trauma Recovery to make community needs the foundation of its public safety efforts.

In Baton Rouge, LA, a community that for years has been one of the country's most violent cities, community and elected officials have united to truly address violence as a public health issue. They are investing in community-driven violence intervention and prevention strategies, leading to double-digit reductions in homicides, shootings, and violence this summer.

It is vital that we create a comprehensive approach to building safety that includes reentry programs, non-carceral crisis response teams, diversion initiatives, youth programs that deliver opportunities, domestic violence initiatives addressing domestic violence, and substance abuse or misuse support programs.

Conventional policing, which is largely reactive, relies predominantly on punitive responses. This approach fails to address the underlying causes of community violence and harm. But cities like Newark, Baton Rouge, and many others nationwide are seeing significant gains in public safety by tackling root causes of violence head on: poverty, the housing crisis, substance abuse, and much more.

As our understanding of safety evolves, we must prioritize and invest in these community-centered interventions that focus on health, well-being, and opportunities for all.

Our goal of a holistic and non-punitive approach to safety is becoming a reality in policy and implementation. U.S. Rep. Cori Bush's "People's Response Act" embodies this changing landscape, redefining our thinking of public safety in our country by placing community well-being over punishment.

Coalitions like the Community Safety Working Group and Invest in Us are at the forefront in advocating for federal policies that include a wide-ranging view of safety. Their endeavors highlight the fact that this work transcends isolated efforts. The goal is a cohesive strategy to create safety centering strategies that resonate with the diverse communities they intend to serve.

As we move forward toward true community

safety, we stand at a defining moment. The success stories attest to the real benefits of putting community at the heart of our safety strategies.

This shift requires more than a "commitment." It requires a profound reevaluation and investment. Our shared vision of a more equitable and secure future demands no less.

Will Simpson is Director of Violence Reduction Initiatives for Equal Justice USA

CHMC and Morehouse, continued from page 17

between Morehouse School of Medicine and CommonSpirit Health. Morehouse School of Medicine is a historically Black medical school and one of America's leading educators of primary care physicians, and CommonSpirit Health is one of America's largest health systems with locations in 21 states from coast to coast. Knowing patients consistently fare better when treated by clinicians of similar backgrounds who share lived experiences, the More in Common Alliance seeks to address critical gaps in care by increasing cultural competency and expanding representation. Together, we are leading a 10-year, \$100-million initiative to expand undergraduate and graduate medical education to build a more diverse and dynamic workforce that reflects the communities we serve. Learn more about More in Common Alliance: www.moreincommonalliance.org.

NAACP Demands, continued from page 8

uncertain terms," according to the statement.

"The city apologizes to anyone who heard what was said. Our community will not tolerate this type of hateful language in our public meetings, or anywhere. The city is working to identify the individuals who made the comments. The City Clerk and her staff, along with our IT department, are working with the San Bernardino Police Department on this. We have identified all the IP addresses that were in the queue at the time and are working to identify those that were involved. SBPD is investigating this as a violation of California Penal Code 403."

The offensive comments are part of a



"Go back to Africa. Calling me a B-I-T-C-H word. Calling me the 'N' word over and over. It wasn't said once to me. It was said over and over, and they said it with such anger that it was just disturbing," said Amy Malone during an interview with a local television station.

phenomenon known as Zoom bombing, which gained prominence during the coronavirus pandemic when many groups and businesses were forced to conduct most meetings via the videoconferencing platform. When these meetings were not properly secured, unauthorized individuals could join the chat and make inappropriate comments.

The San Bernardino NAACP says it plans to file a formal request for an investigation into the hate incident and the hiring of the city manager with the city. It will also share that request with State Attorney General Rob Bonta and the U.S. Department of Justice.

"The NAACP Legal Redress Committee is currently in the process of compiling relevant information and plans to transmit this information to the appropriate authorities next week, accompanied by their official request," Wright concluded.



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Controversy Deepens, continued from page 5



Val Verde Unified School District's board president, Matthew Serafin being sworn in as Val Verde Unified School Board Member on December 9, 2016. (source: facebook.com)

at public meetings, echoing the sentiments of parents who had previously complained about his unprofessional behavior behind the dais.

Although Young proposed Serafin's resignation during a board vote, the motion failed by a tied 2-2 vote.

Serafin's supporters argue that the DUI arrest should not impact his role on the board, while others, including Erika Zamora, have expressed that it's time for a change as Serafin's actions do not align with the district's values.

Despite growing calls for his resignation, Serafin has given no indication that he plans to step down from the board. In his first public statement after his most recent arrest, he described it as a "personal matter" and remained tight-lipped on the issue. Serafin cited personal challenges, including the recent deaths of his great-grandmother and grandfather, as a contributing factor to his actions.

The controversy surrounding Matthew Serafin's behavior and legal issues is undeniably

shaking the Val Verde Unified School District, raising critical questions about leadership, accountability, and the representation of community values in the education system.

A New COVID Booster, continued from page 9

larger benefits from three doses, an effectiveness of 72%, presumably because the chance of infection is lower when not living within the facilities.)

Low-income groups are also at heightened risk, for reasons including a lack of paid sick leave and medical care. In surveys of homeless people in California, about 60% reported chronic health conditions, said Tiana Moore, the policy director at the Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative at the University of California-San Francisco. Studies have found that members of this community age more rapidly, with people in their 50s experiencing strokes, falls, and urinary incontinence at rates typical of people in their late 70s and 80s.

Booster rates among people who lack housing are largely unknown, but Moore is concerned, saying they face high barriers to vaccination since many also lack medical providers, knowledge about where to go

for vaccines, and the means to get there. "Many of our participants talked about concerns about leaving their belongings when unsheltered since they don't have a door to lock," she said. "That underscores the need to meet people where they are in an effective booster campaign."

Black and Hispanic people have faced higher hospitalization and death rates than white people throughout the pandemic. And these groups are significantly less likely to be treated with the covid drug Paxlovid than white patients. (Hispanic people can be of any race or combination of races.)

Uneven rates of booster uptake may exacerbate these inequalities. An analysis of Medicare claims across the U.S. found that 53% of Hispanic people and 57% of Black people age 66 and older had received a booster by May 2022, compared with about 68% of their white and Asian counterparts. Disparities were most dramatic in cities where booster uptake among white people was above average. In Boston, for example, 73% of white people were boosted compared with 58% of Black people.

People opt out of vaccination for many reasons. Those living farther from vaccine sites, on average, have lower rates of uptake. Misinformation spread by politicians may account for disparities seen along political lines, with 41% of Democrats having gotten a bivalent booster compared with 11% of Republicans. Lower vaccine coverage among Black communities has been found to stem from discrimination by the medical system, along with worse health care access. However, many Black people who hesitated at first eventually got vaccines when given information and easy access to them, suggesting it could happen again.

But Georges Benjamin, executive director of the American Public Health Association, said the downturn of reporting on vaccination and covid rates makes it harder to tailor outreach.

"If we had the data, we could pivot quickly," he said, adding that this was once possible but that reporting lapsed after the end of the public health emergency this spring. "We've gone back to the old way, re-creating the conditions in which inequities are possible."

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Big Tobacco's "smoke-free" future is a dangerous reality for us all.



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The world's deadliest industry is trying to rebrand itself as your friend. Big Tobacco wants to be put in charge of, get credit for, and profit off solving the number one cause of preventable death and disease – the smoking epidemic *they* created. Their dangerous and hypocritical rebrand promises a "better tomorrow" and "smoke-free future" with dangerous, addictive vape products while they continue selling six trillion cigarettes each year, including launching new cigarettes in California just last year.

When Californians voted to end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes, Big Tobacco quickly rolled out new cigarette brands to keep their deadly products on the shelves and pull in profits. These new cigarettes are marketed specifically to Californians through online promotions, catchy marketing, and deep discounts. This, from the same industry that says cigarettes are a thing of the past and new, "safer" tobacco products are the future.

Big Tobacco claims they are driven by product innovation to help people quit smoking but they've conveniently ignored the growing body of research that shows vaping increases the risk of serious long-term diseases like lung cancer and stroke and amplifies mental health conditions like anxiety and depression. Research shows that many people who use vapes to quit smoking cigarettes end up using both products, making Big Tobacco a killing.

The tobacco industry has spent decades funding studies to give their claims the illusion of credibility, paying big bucks to influence public perception, securing 'special editions' of scientific journals, and releasing self-funded research that says their vape products are safer.

Vape use is an urgent public health concern in California, especially among young adults. Currently, 11.2% of young adults use vapes, the highest among any age group. These young adults were among middle and high school students during the height of the tobacco industry-created youth vaping epidemic. Big Tobacco actively preys on youth to be "replacement" customers because their products kill their existing ones. And research shows kids who vape are three times more likely to be daily cigarette smokers in the future.

The *real* best way to undo the damage of Big Tobacco is by helping people who are addicted quit and prevent kids from starting. As Big Tobacco kills 110 Californians each day, and 30 more suffer from tobacco-related diseases, it's critical that people who are addicted have access to free, proven quitting methods, including medical support. Using counseling and medication together gives you the best chance of quitting for good.

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