

Perrodin asks for Council pay cut, transparency for finances

By Chris Frost
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—Mayor Eric J. Perrodin wants answers for the city's fiscal crisis, and is asking for pay cuts from council members, a complete accounting of general fund expenses and increased transparency.

Perrodin made the comments at the Nov. 1 City Council meeting, after media reports detailed the city's financial woes, and the Council approved a round of layoffs earlier this year.

"It is tough when someone takes a pay cut, and worse when someone has to lose their job," Perrodin said.

"I have been quiet about this issue, but I am

now asking the Council to take a 25 percent pay cut to show solidarity with our employees."

Perrodin said he wants to demonstrate that Compton is an ethical and transparent city.

"It has been insinuated that certain people spent money without the approval of the Council or city manager," Perrodin said. "Sometimes, the city manager did things that were not kosher."

The mayor also asked that all funding from the general fund that is not authorized by the city charter be eliminated.

"I am a big history buff, and we need to learn from the past so we do not commit the same mistakes in the future," he said.

Perrodin asked City Controller Stephen Ajobiwe for a complete report of the city finances

and purchase orders from every department for the last five years.

"At one time anything that cost \$5,000 or more required Council approval," Perrodin said. "In the past people took advantage of that. We increased it to \$25,000, but then the council reduced it to \$4,999."

He instructed Ajobiwe to bring back every purchase order for the city, even if it was for one penny.

"I need you to give me a time frame to get this done," Perrodin said. "I am going to ask the state auditor to perform an independent audit, and those documents are going to be necessary."

At the City Council meeting on Oct. 18, interim City Manager Lamont Ewell reported that

the City Manager had the right to use revenue reserves without the permission of the City Council.

"City Attorney Craig Cornwell and I are working on a resolution that requires the city manager to get Council approval, before spending reserve funds," Ewell told The Bulletin. "Talks are also underway with a bank to establish a line of credit, which will improve the city's ability to pay its bills on time."

Ewell feels Compton is "too important to fail," and efforts continue to improve the short-term and long-term financial prospects for the city.

"I want our residents to offer feedback as well," Perrodin said. "If you have ideas call my office at 310-605-5597."

Compton Community College District accepting applications for Special Trustee Advisory Committee Members

From staff reports

COMPTON—The Compton Community College District is currently accepting applications for the Special Trustee Advisory Committee. Interested applicants may obtain an application beginning Nov. 9 at www.district.compton.edu, or by calling 310-900-1600, Ext. 2000. Applications must be submitted to the Office of the Interim CEO by Dec. 9, at 4:30 p.m.

There will be an information session for potential applicants on Wednesday, Nov. 30 at 6 p.m. in the CCCD Boardroom, 1111 E. Artesia Blvd.

Advisory Committee members will be appointed by interim Special Trustee Thomas Henry. The committee will provide advice and recommendations on matters pertaining to district policy and operations. Members will also promote community awareness of and support for the district's efforts to positively impact quality instruction, fiscal stability, educational mission, and ultimately accreditation.

As outlined in AB 318, the Special Trustee Advisory Committee members will be provided with a wide range of resources to enable them to assist in addressing issues affecting the district. The Special Trustee Advisory Committee will meet a minimum of four times per year. All committee meetings are open to the public.

The Special Trustee's Advisory Committee of the Compton Community College District is organized exclusively to provide advice to the special trustee regarding policy matters that affect the district and its operations; promote community awareness of the district's efforts, focus on quality instruction, educational mission, fiscal stability and, ultimately, accreditation; foster community support for the district.

The Special Trustee Advisory Committee will consist of seven members. Of the seven members, four may be residents of communities served by of the Compton Community College District; one may be a current or former community college educator; and one may be an ECC Compton Center student who is active in the Associated Students' Organization or another recognized student group. Four members will serve a two-year term, while three members will serve a term of one year. No member shall receive compensation or benefits for service on the committee. Members serve at the request of the interim special trustee and may be removed at special trustee's sole discretion.

Applications for consideration are welcome from the business, labor and professional communities; representatives of social service and nonprofit organizations (including churches and other recognized religious organizations); as well as representatives of civic organizations or taxpayer groups.

District board meetings are usually held the third Tuesday of each month and are open to the public.

American Wings comes to Hub City



Photo by Shon Smith of D'Angelo's Photos
Councilmember Janna Zurita welcomes American Wings owners Doris and Emmy to Compton. American Wings is located at 1900 N. Long Beach Blvd. next to the Compton Swap Meet.

Block club celebrates Oktoberfest

By Chris Frost
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—As summer gives way to autumn, the 136th Street Block Club stopped to celebrate their community on Oct. 29, with its second annual Oktoberfest.

The event featured food, music, home-cooked meals, a train ride for the kids, card games and old fashioned neighborhood camaraderie.

The club covers the area from Central Avenue to Elva. The group works together to build a positive message in the community.

"This event took about a month to put together," Block Club Coordinator Brenda Bolton said. "We wanted to do something for our children, and everybody pitched in and donated money to bring the train ride here today. They are having a great time."

Neighbors contributed food and beverages to the event, she said, and it was a tremendous success because of their efforts.

"This is the second year of the 136th Street Block Club," President and Founder Ginell Butler said. "There was a club in the past, but people lost interest. The new club inspired some of the former members to get involved again, and this party is a celebration of our efforts."

The club works hard to reach out to other neighborhoods and try to inspire them to organize on their own.

"We also reach out to our neighborhood seniors with food giveaways and events involving the Los Angeles County Sheriff's department," Butler said. "It is a lot of work, but we need to keep them engaged."

NEWS BRIEFS

Report: Officer charged in death gets L.A. pension

LOS ANGELES—Los Angeles officials are calling for a review of the pension paid to one of the two Fullerton police officers charged in the death of a mentally ill, homeless man during a violent arrest. The Los Angeles Times reported Sunday that Jay Cicinelli, a former Los Angeles Police Department officer injured on the job, receives \$39,625 annually as a disability pension. Cicinelli lost an eye when he was shot during a traffic stop in 1996. After leaving the LAPD, Cicinelli was hired by the Fullerton Police Department, where he went on to earn \$88,544 a year on top of his benefits from L.A.

The board of the L.A. Fire and Police Pensions Department will vote soon on whether to review his award. Cicinelli and Officer Manuel Ramos have pleaded not guilty in the killing of 37-year-old Kelly Thomas.

Coast Guard searches for boat lost off California

SAN DIEGO—The U.S. Coast Guard is searching for two fishermen reported lost and adrift some 60 miles off the Southern California coast. Coast Guard spokesperson Allyson Conroy said on Nov. 6 that a family member of one of the men contacted authorities after receiving a message that the fishing vessel was out of fuel. The 23-foot center console fishing boat left Ensenada, Mexico, Saturday morning. A Coast Guard cutter and two aircraft were dispatched Saturday afternoon and searched through the night. Conroy said the fishermen did not have any survival equipment on board with them.

OC hospital evacuated because of gas-like odor

SANTA ANA—Patients are being returned to a small Orange County hospital that was evacuated because of a gas-like odor. City News Service reported that rescuers and hospital staff were able to evacuate Santa Ana's Western Medical Center in about 20 minutes Saturday night. Between 75 and 100 people were inside at the time of the evacuation. Capt. Ben Gonzales of the Santa Ana Fire Department said that hazardous materials crews were trying to determine the cause of the odor. Gonzalez said patients were being returned to the emergency room within about two hours.

Feds bust phony document manufacturing operation

LOS ANGELES—The suspected Los Angeles ringleader of phony document manufacturers has been indicted with more than a dozen others for producing bogus Social Security cards, driver's licenses and immigration cards for distribution nationwide. Federal grand jury indictments unsealed on Nov. 3 allege 45-year-old Alejandro Morales Serrano is behind several false document manufacturing networks in the MacArthur Park area of Los Angeles and elsewhere. The indictments say Serrano's operation manufactures raw materials that are then used to manufacture false documents on a large scale from California to Nevada, Oregon, Texas, Illinois, and Michigan. The Los Angeles FBI office said in a news release that more than 300 federal and local law enforcement officers on Nov. 3 executed dozens of arrest and search warrants in Los Angeles and Riverside counties, Northern California, Illinois and Texas.

Neo-Nazis rally in Southern California

POMONA—Neo-Nazis were outnumbered by counter-protestors at a rally in Southern California where both sides ended up yelling at each other under the watchful eyes of police. About 75 members of the National Socialist Movement gathered on Nov. 5 near Pomona City Hall. The group is opposed to illegal immigration and California's version of the Dream Act, which allows undocumented students to access financial aid. Mark Gluba, a city spokesman, told the Los Angeles Times that the Detroit-based neo-Nazi group was confronted by several hundred protesters. Gluba said except for demonstrators and counter-protestors screaming back and forth, the event was generally peaceful and no one was arrested.

Christmas tree for US Capitol on way from Calif.

SONORA—A 65-foot white fir tree selected as the U.S. Capitol Christmas tree was cut down and removed from a picturesque setting in the Sierra Nevada mountains on Nov. 5, then loaded on a truck for the 4,500-mile journey from Northern California to Washington, D.C. When crews arrived at the tree Saturday morning they found it covered in snow, said Jeff Crider, a spokesman for U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree Tour, a nonprofit project overseen by the U.S. Forest Service. The Stanislaus National Forest tree was selected based on its shape, fullness and color, officials said. Work crews boxed it up on Sunday, with a portion encased in Plexiglas so that people can view it during its upcoming nationwide tour. A bladder bag attached to its base will be filled with

water on a daily basis to keep the tree fresh, Crider said. The tree is scheduled to arrive in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 28, with a lighting ceremony at the front of the U.S. Capitol on Dec. 6. It will be decorated by 5,000 ornaments handmade by California residents, and House Speaker John Boehner and a child from California will light it.

Hundreds protest banks in LA

LOS ANGELES—Several hundred protesters marched through the financial district in Los Angeles on Nov. 5 to protest the banking industry as part of "Bank Transfer Day," a grassroots movement that has been championed by the nation's Occupy Wall Street protests. Organizer Jacob Hay said that before Saturday's march, several dozen people gathered at California Plaza for an en masse cancellation of their accounts at Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Chase and other large banks in favor of credit unions and smaller institutions.

Two violent incidents at Occupy Los Angeles worry police

LOS ANGELES—Two violent incidents at the otherwise peaceful Occupy Los Angeles encampment at City Hall are causing concern among law enforcement officials. Police said one woman was arrested for setting another person's clothes on fire and another for hitting a man over the head with a tent pole. Police Commander Andrew Smith told the Los Angeles Times story that he was troubled by the two felonies on the same lawn in the same day, and it raises concerns about the camp's future, which Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa has said "cannot continue indefinitely."