

The Bulletin

SERVING COMPTON AND THE INGLEWOOD TRIBUNE, CARSON BULLETIN, WILMINGTON BEACON, THE CALIFORNIAN & THE SOUTH L.A. VOICE

AN AMERICAN PRINT MEDIA PUBLICATION

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2011

VOLUME 41, No. 38 • 50 CENTS

CCCD Special Trustee Henry impressed by improvements at Compton Center

Cites new energy on campus and enrollment, down when he left district in 2008

By Cheryl Scott
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—Newly appointed Special Trustee Thomas Henry spoke last week to students and staff at the El Camino Community College Center, saying he was elated by “striking differences” he sees on the campus.

“When I left in 2008, student enrollment was so low that most classes only had five or six students in attendance,” he said. “I toured the campus when I first arrived, and I was pleasantly

surprised to find that every class I looked into was full.”

He said that while he was eating lunch in the cafeteria, students who spoke to him were enthusiastic about school and welcomed him warmly. “They all said they were happy I am there,” Henry told The Bulletin. “I sensed an overall excitement that was not there when I was here before.”

He also commended the operations and maintenance staff for the condition of the campus. “I can see that they have worked very hard

to improve the condition of the campus, from rest rooms to the upkeep of the grounds,” he said. “This is so important because you don’t get a second chance to make a good first impression.”

Henry served as special trustee to the CCCD from 2006 to 2007, replacing Dr. Charles Ratliff shortly after the college lost its accreditation. He was brought back to the Compton Community College District by Chancellor Jack Scott to replace Genethia Hudley-Hayes after El Camino CEO Dr. Thomas Fallo informed the Chancellor’s Office that he could not approve the proposed budget.

According to the terms of the partnership agreement between the Compton and El Camino Community College districts and the Department of Education, if El Camino’s CEO and the Compton district cannot agree on a budget, El Camino will withdraw from the partnership.

“When Dr. Fallo gave notice that El Camino would leave the partnership, the chancellor took action to remove Dr. Hudley-Hayes and I’ve been appointed interim special trustee,” Henry said.

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Bulletin photo by Chris Frost

NAEJA members protest the possible closing of the Willowbrook post office on Tuesday, Sept. 13.

City may evict NAEJA

By Chris Frost
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—Compton City Attorney Craig Cornwell has threatened to evict the National Association for Equal Justice in America (NAEJA) from its monthly community meeting site in the city’s Blue Room, located at 600 N. Alameda St.

NAEJA is a citizen advocacy group that seeks to eliminate racial discrimination and segregation from all aspects of public life by monitoring job opportunities for fairness and equality. It encourages promotions for all minorities and an open dialogue among the diverse populations and counteracts any traces of mob violence and signs of police brutality.

As requested by Mayor Eric J. Perrodin in response to the city’s growing crime rate, NAEJA’s Anti-Crime Committee meets on a monthly basis as a service to the community.

“At the City Council meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 13, Cornwell said we may have to move because all nonprofit groups meeting in city-owned properties are under review because of budget viola-

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27 ARRESTED IN PROSTITUTION STING

By Chris Frost
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—Prostitution in the Hub City has suffered a significant setback, as 27 female adults were arrested and one female juvenile detained for loitering with intent to commit prostitution during a sting conducted on Saturday, Sept. 10.

The operation was in response to a long history of citizen complaints regarding prostitution activity during both day and evening hours on Long Beach Boulevard and surrounding streets in Compton.

A sergeant and 11 deputies were involved in the operation. The Department of Chil-

dren and Family Services Multi Agency Response Team (MART Unit) detained juveniles in violation of this offense. Restoration Diversion, a nonprofit organization whose stated goal is “to rescue women from the life of prostitution and show them a better life,” also participated.

A Supplemental Law Enforcement Services grant administered by the city paid for the law enforcement salaries during the sting.

The females arrested reside in counties from Sacramento to Riverside. Many had at least one previous arrest for the same offense.

City Attorney Craig Cornwell said 20 to 30 percent of the prostitutes arrested received maximum penalties of 6 months in the

county jail. Most of the others received between 90 days and 5 months.

It was not a pleasant experience, he said, and most of the defendants were surprised when they were detained.

“They usually make bail immediately or receive two or three days for time served, then they are right back out on the streets doing it again,” Cornwell said.

After marching and having churches reach out to the prostitutes, he said, it came to the point where the only approach was punishment.

The coordinated efforts will continue, and will expand to include the incarceration of the customers of prostitutes.

“I would like to thank everyone who was involved in the sting and in helping us to get rid of prostitution in Compton,” Councilman Willie Jones said. “We need to make sure everyone understands that prostitution is not welcome in Compton.”

Councilwoman Yvonne Arceneaux also thanked those involved in the sting, and expressed pleasure that the customers will also be a focus of this “two-sided crime.”

“They create the demand,” she said. “If you stop them, the prostitutes have no one to sell to.”

The Compton Station plans to conduct more stings in the future. Those who witness prostitution activity should call 310-605-6500.

El Camino Compton Center CEO praises student success 3A

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