

# City reviewing nonprofit meetings

By Chris Frost  
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—The city of Compton has begun a review process that could mean the ouster of nonprofit groups using city facilities for their meetings.

The National Association for Equal Justice in America, or NAEJA, received notice of the potential action on Tuesday, Sept. 20. The group has begun searching for a new location for its meetings in case the city decides to evict them.

"I am going to review budget-related issues each week, so no one is surprised by our ac-

tion," Mayor Eric J. Perrodin said. "For several years, different groups have been using city property to host meetings, and most of the time, they do not have a contract or proper insurance. This exposes us to great liability. Fortunately, nothing has happened so far."

Perrodin said that organizations that have meetings in a city facility without a contract are technically in violation of the budget agreement.

If Compton does allow a nonprofit to use a city facility, that would be considered an in-kind contribution. Since the city manager's signature of authority has been reduced to \$4,999 and the value of the building is \$1,000 per

month, those contracts will need to be renewed more quickly than before.

Perrodin said that he would speak to City Attorney Craig Cornwell about groups that are critical of the City Council and its members holding meetings on city property.

"Politically speaking, you do not allow a group to have a meeting in a city facility when they are trying to overthrow you," Perrodin said. "I am not going to allow a block club that is calling for my recall to have a meeting on city property. That makes no sense. If three council people decide that is OK, I am fine with it, if it is OK with the city attorney."

He cited several block club commission pres-

idents who were advocating the defeat of a city councilor meeting at a city facility. "This is unacceptable," Perrodin said.

"You can have any opinion that you want but politically speaking, that person should have resigned," Perrodin said. "The city should not put someone in a position where you can promote something that is against the Council."

City Attorney Craig Cornwell informed the Council that the review process has been underway for the past two weeks.

"We will be contacting those groups individually to discuss the issue," Cornwell said.

As of press time, no timetables for evictions have been set.

## East Rancho Dominguez Library groundbreaking held Sept. 15



From left to right: Public Library Executive Director Margaret Todd, former senior deputy to retired 4th District Supervisor Dean Dana Mary Gray, E. Rancho Library Manager Betty Marlow, President of E. Rancho Dominguez Sinetta Farley, Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Compton City Councilwoman Janna Zurita, Lynwood Mayor Aide Castro and Assistant Director for County Public Works Jacob Williams wielded shovels at the groundbreaking ceremony for a new library in East Rancho Dominguez.

## Compton Center's First Year Experience Program provides students supportive environment

From staff reports

COMPTON—Like many Californians, Maria Rojas was struggling to find work. Rojas' cousin, who is an El Camino College Compton Center alumna, encouraged her to consider going to college.

After some initial trepidation, Rojas attended a registration assistance session where she was introduced to the First Year Experience program.

Rojas, a mother of four who had always struggled with staying in school, was a perfect candidate for this program and decided to enroll.

The FYE program is designed to help students be successful in their first year of college by providing a learning community that includes educational and career services.

"Before the FYE program my approach to life was that whatever is going to happen is going to happen and there's not much you can do about it," said Rojas. "Now I know that whatever effort I put forth matters. This next year my goal is to keep up my GPA and get straight As."

This new outlook represents a transformation that occurred in Rojas as a result of FYE. In 1993, just a couple months shy of graduating from Narbonne High School, Rojas dropped out.

Years later, in 2004, her coworkers at an alcohol and drug treatment center motivated her to go back to school and earn her high school diploma. It took less than a year, but after completing the process she decided to take some time off to raise her four children instead of continuing

on to college. Another six years would pass before she enrolled as a student at ECC Compton Center in 2010.

Looking back on the 2010-2011 academic year, Rojas said, "I became really close with all of the FYE students. We were all different ages and came from different backgrounds, but together we made such a great group. At one point, I remember wishing that all of my loved ones could have this same experience."

One of the classes responsible for bringing the 2010-2011 FYE students together was Human Development, taught by FYE Program Director Rebecca Mason. In addition to helping the students pinpoint their likes and dislikes in order to choose a major, Mason said the idea is that students need to become the creators of their own destiny.

Another focus of the program is to encourage the students to apply for scholarships. All of the recommendations and hard work paid off for Rojas, who was the recipient of the Behavioral Sciences Scholarship and the Robert Spieker Scholarship.

Rojas is looking forward to excelling in her classes this coming year and preparing to transfer.

She would like to go to California State University Dominguez Hills or California State University Long Beach to study history.

"I want to be a history teacher because I am inspired by my father's love of history," she said. "He's the type of person who will give you a history lesson anytime you ask him a question."

## Sheriff's Department offers Nixle alerts

From staff reports

COMPTON—Compton residents wanting to stay more informed about safety in the community can now access vital information through the Nixle messaging system.

Nixle is a community information service built exclusively for secure and reliable communications.

"About six months ago the Sheriff's Department began sending public service alerts through the Nixle messaging system," Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Jose Aguirre said. "Signing up for Nixle is free and easy."

Nixle connects municipal agencies and community organizations to Hub City residents in real time, in the same way that current services such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter provide users with an unauthenticated platform for connections. By signing up at Nixle.com, residents can receive immediate and credible neighborhood-level public safety and community information by text or instant message.

In addition to the website, residents can also sign up for alerts by sending the text LA SHERIFF to 888777. Once completed, users can text a zip code of interest, like 90220, and wait for confirmation. To add more zip codes, repeat the previous step.

For more information about the Nixle messaging system, call 1-855-649-5399 between 6 a.m. and 3 p.m.

### Melrose-La Brea Animal Hospital

7116 Melrose Ave.  
Hollywood, CA 90046



(323) 937-2334

**BIANCHI**  
STADIUM 11 THEATRES

**SUPER TUESDAYS**  
ANY MOVIE, ANY TIME  
**\$5.00**

bianchitheatres.com

7770 Rosecrans Avenue, Paramount, CA, 90723  
(562) 630-SHOW



**SEPPI ESFANDI**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

- Criminal Defense •
- Personal Injury •

Call for a consultation  
**310-496-1633**