

Carson City Councilman Mike Gipson announces campaign for State Assembly

From staff reports

CARSON—Carson City Councilman Mike Gipson announced his campaign for State Assembly on Aug. 16. Gipson will run in the new 64th State Assembly district, which includes the cities of Carson and Compton, and portions of Los Angeles, Long Beach and unincorporated Los Angeles County.

The race is expected to be an open seat contest because of Assemblyman Isadore Hall's campaign for Congress and Assemblyman Warren Furutani's campaign for Los Angeles City Council.

"Keeping kids out of gangs, improving our schools, and protecting frontline services has been my life's work," Gipson said. "I am excited about the opportunity to continue these fights in the California state Legislature. I have served this community as a councilmember and mayor pro-tem, a police officer, a union representative, and a representative for numerous local elected leaders. I feel these experiences, coupled with my work ethic and relentless determination will serve our district well in Sacramento."

Gipson was elected to the Carson City

Council in 2005 and re-elected in 2009. In 2009, Gipson received more votes than any municipal candidate in the city's 42 year history. Gipson also serves as vice president of the Advisory Board for the state Public Utilities Commission, chairman of the Board of Directors for Positive Imagery Foundation Inc. and former chairman of the California Contract Cities' Legislative Committee.

A former Maywood peace officer, Gipson left the police force and entered public service following the death of his partner in 1992. Gipson currently works as district director for Board of Equalization chairman Jerome Horton. Gipson has previously worked as an area organizer for the United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA), legislative and political director for Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 399, statewide political director for Justice for Janitors SEIU Local 1877 and a business representative for SEIU Local 99.

He has also served on the staff of Rep. Mervyn Dymally, state Senator Bill Greene, Los Angeles City Councilman Robert Farrell and Los Angeles City Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas.

Corporate donors come up big for Council candidates

By Chris Frost
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—The latest campaign statements for City Council candidates Janna Zurita and Barbara Calhoun showed large donations from local elected officials, as well as corporations that provide services to Compton residents.

Former Councilwoman Barbara Calhoun reported \$42,852 in total monetary donations for the calendar year from April 3 through June 30. Additionally, her campaign received \$4,239 in loans, and \$2,010 of in-kind (nonmonetary) donations for a total contribution amount of \$49,100.

Expenses for the Calhoun campaign list \$47,279 in payments that were made, a nonmonetary adjustment of \$2,010, and accrued expenses (unpaid bills) in the amount of \$5,097, for a total of \$54,386. The ending cash balance for the campaign is listed at \$554.

Key contributors for the Calhoun campaign included Pacific Coast Waste and Recycling, which gave \$5,500; DeMenno Kerdoon, advertised on its website as the largest used oil, wastewater and antifreeze recycler in the western United States, which contributed \$5,000; Base Architecture of Los Angeles, designer of the Compton Senior Housing Project, donated \$3,000; and Prism Realty Corporation in Costa Mesa and Prism-IQ Partners, also from Costa Mesa, donated \$2,500 each.

Newly elected Councilwoman Janna Zurita re-

ported \$46,871 in monetary contributions for the calendar year from April 3 through June 30, as well as \$18,745 in loans to her campaign. She listed \$5,000 in nonmonetary contributions, for a total contribution amount of \$70,346.

As of June 30, the campaign has made \$72,531 in payments toward expenses and has \$9,889 in unpaid bills. The total expenditures made amount to \$82,420.

Key contributors to Zurita's campaign include the Committee to Elect Micah Ali for Compton School Board, which gave \$5,000; DeMenno Kerdoon, which also contributed to the Calhoun campaign, donated \$5,000; and Hall for Assembly 2012 contributed \$8,000 to the effort.

Loans to the campaign list the Committee to Elect Micah Ali for the Compton School Board 2011, which loaned the campaign \$5,000 on April 18, and Hall for Assembly 2012 made two loans, one for \$5,400 on June 1, and another for \$7,000 on June 6.

Zurita said the rhetoric of the campaign was a driving factor for contributions to her campaign.

"At one point during the campaign," Calhoun made a statement, saying, "I beat her mother and her sister, (Delores and Satra Zurita) and I will beat her, too," Zurita said. "The day that statement came out, I received \$10,000 in donations."

The next meeting of the Compton City Council will be at 5:45 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 6, in the council chambers.

MLK

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situation," said MLK-LA interim CEO Melayne Yocum. "We will move forward with transparency, and residents will see that our efforts are in the best interests of the community."

The new facility will be licensed for a maximum of 135 beds, she said, but will probably only use 120 beds when it opens.

Los Angeles County will own the facility, which will be run by a private operator. The hospital will be opened as Martin Luther King, Jr.-Los Angeles (MLK-LA) Healthcare Corporation, a nonprofit entity with a board of directors consisting of two members appointed by the county, two by the University of California and three appointed by both. The nonprofit corporation is searching for an operator to run the hospital.

The county will provide ongoing funding to keep the hospital running. UC will provide staffing of medical personnel. The operator of the hospital will not necessarily be a nonprofit. "It could be a profit-making entity," county CEO William Fujioka said, "but I don't think there will be a lot of money to be made at the hospital."

"The public-private partnership approach we are taking is prudent, feasible, scalable and potentially catalytic in ways that improve the health care outcomes in the region," Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas said in 2009 when the plan was announced. "I commend the governor, the UC and County CEO for their hard and diligent work, and the board of supervisors for their critical support. I am hopeful that any remaining details can be successfully resolved in a timely manner. Time is of the essence as communities with very deserving patients impatiently await the reopening of this important medical center."

The group hopes to have an official groundbreaking ceremony in October depending on the county's schedule, Yocum said, but construction has already begun.

"We are just getting started," she said. "We have no employees and no offices. Currently we are working on our employment projec-

tions, and in the near future we'll be able to talk about how many jobs we will bring to the area."

A needs assessment was completed in 2008 and has recently been updated. The current study showed that an emergency room, women's services and general medical surgical operation would best serve the community.

"Our primary service area is a five-mile circle around the former MLK hospital, and we are reaching out to different community organizations and schools to introduce ourselves," Community Outreach Specialist Michael Chee said. "We've already begun that outreach and we will get more aggressive as we get closer to our grand opening."

The hospital will not duplicate services, Yocum said, but it is common for a community hospital to offer educational programs. She said this will play a large part in its overall success rate.

"Wouldn't it be wonderful if we didn't need to build another tower to meet the needs of the community?" Yocum said. "That would mean our educational programs have worked and patients are not dealing with things like diabetes, obesity, lung cancer and heart disease."

She said the focus at the start will be to help the community understand what the vision for the hospital will be. The hospital will always be there to provide care to those who need it, Yocum said, but living a healthy lifestyle and staying out of the hospital should be the first choice.

"We want to be the resource for health in the community," she said. "We are all going to have to think differently about going to the hospital."

Yocum said the MLK legacy will remain in the name of the hospital, but the full name will remind everyone that the hospital can be a source of inspiration for people who want to live a healthy lifestyle.

"We have a toll-free community number and a website that area residents can access to find out more about the types of services that we will offer," Chee said.

For more information about the new MLK Hospital, call 866-532-3959. Information on the web is located at newmlkcommunityhospital.com.



Bulletin photos by Chris Frost

Church members join in song at the Pastor Appreciation Service at Curry Temple C.M.E. Church on Sunday, Aug. 7.

Curry Temple thanks its pastor



The Rev. Byron L. Smith and wife Jill Smith were honored at a Pastor Appreciation Service held at Curry Temple C.M.E. on Sunday, Aug. 7.



Pastor's wife Jill Smith receives a pair of Stiletto heels from the congregation during the special recognition service at Curry Temple C.M.E. Church.

El Camino College Compton Center launches Career Advancement Academy

Training in machine tool technology/aerospace fastener manufacturing and welding to be offered this semester

From staff reports

Through a Career Advancement Academy, El Camino College Compton Center is providing students with the programs and training they need for careers in high-growth industries.

The academy offers programs in machine tool technology and aerospace fastener manufacturing and welding. Enrolling in one of these programs is a proactive first step for students wanting to gain valuable, marketable skills and set themselves up for

successful, new careers.

To be eligible for the Career Advancement Academy programs, students must meet a few basic requirements. They must be between 18 and 30 years old, have not yet earned a college degree, and be able to work in the United States.

The academy is part of a statewide initiative designed to increase the access to higher education that leads to jobs. The program combines career technical education with basic skills in high-demand career areas in which new workers are needed immediately.

Funded by a \$662,700 grant from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, the Career Advancement Academy also has technical support from the Career Ladders Project.

The aerospace fastener industry is centered in Southern California. More than 10,000 Southern Californians are currently employed by local aerospace fasteners, manufacturers and distributors, but many of these veteran workers are due to retire. It is anticipated that numerous local employers will need to hire skilled students for entry-level positions over the next five years.

Students enrolled in either the machine tool technology/aerospace fastener manufacturing or welding programs benefit from a

curriculum that combines a practical, technical education with classes designed to strengthen reading, writing, and mathematical skills.

The program includes career skills workshops covering topics like resume writing, interviewing, job retention, interpersonal skills relating to the workplace, industry-specific "green" classes, and total quality management.

Books and workplace safety boots are provided at no charge for those enrolled. The program culminates in an exclusive job fair with employers who are hiring.

For more information regarding ECC Compton Center's Career Advancement Academy and its programs call 310-900-1600, ext. 2779.