

# The Bulletin

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AN AMERICAN PRINT MEDIA PUBLICATION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 2012

VOLUME 42, No. 22 • 50 CENTS

## Community stands up for Batiste

By Chris Frost  
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—The city manager selection process may be ongoing by Council members, but residents made their plea for interim City Manager Bryan Batiste in a show of support during the Tuesday, May 15, meeting.

Many of the speakers took part in the Concerned Citizens of Compton monthly meeting on Saturday, May 19, where Batiste spent more than two hours answering questions about how to lead the city out of its fiscal crisis.

“He gave us direct and pointed answers, and never pointed a

finger at anyone,” President Marie Hollis said. “I shake my head and wonder where we would be if we had someone like him in place years ago, before the city got into the muck.”

Member Patricia Simpson said when Batiste spoke at the group’s meeting on Saturday, May 20, attendees could hear a pin drop for two hours.

“Thank you for coming and speaking at our meeting,” she said. “This is the first time a city manager has ever come in and answered our questions. This is a good man.”

Respect for citizens is the way Val Dudley described Batiste. “We need you, so hang in there,” she said. “The majority of the people I know do not want you to go.”

Joyce Kelly said rumors of the city preparing a five year contract at \$225,000 per year for someone else are ridiculous.

“You have a city manager who is standing on his own two feet and you are trying to get rid of him,” she said. “Some people think they own the city but do not. Those same people do not own the county either.”

Union Coalition Chief Lee Wax said changing city managers could have a devastating effect on potential employee layoffs.

“We have a level of comfort with Mr. Batiste, and he shows a lot of integrity,” he said. “If he is no longer city manager, we do not

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### Biggest losers ... biggest winners!



Photo courtesy of Compton Unified School District

Bunche Middle School’s Lady Bulldogs won first place in Compton Unified School District’s “50 Million Pound Challenge,” on Friday, May 11. The team worked together to achieve the biggest collective weight loss against 17 teams in the district.

## 50 MILLION POUND CHALLENGE BRINGS HEALTHIER LIFESTYLES, CASH PRIZES

From staff reports

COMPTON—Compton Unified School District staff members can now boast of trimmed waistlines and victory after being announced as the district’s “50 Million Pound Challenge” winners on Friday, May 11.

Sponsored by the district, the “50 Million Pound Challenge” is designed to promote health and fitness district-wide in an effort to lower health costs. Founded in 2007 by nationally

renowned dietary expert Dr. Ian Smith and State Farm Insurance, the competition has been held throughout the country in an effort to combat obesity and encourage healthier lifestyles.

The competition included more than 90 staff members from throughout the district, who competed individually or in groups of five. Prizes included \$225 per person for first place, \$175 per person for second place and \$125 per person for third place. Individual winners each received \$100.

The top three teams are: first place, Lady Bulldogs; second place, OSE Troopers; and third place, Lady Lions.

The top individual male competitor is CUSD Special Education Program Specialist A. Todd Overton, and the winner of the individual female competition is CUSD Health Services Counselor Carmen Torres.

Additional information is available from CUSD’s Office of Communications at 310-604-6529 or by visiting [www.compton.k12.ca.us](http://www.compton.k12.ca.us).

## FISHER RETURN SPARKS CUSD BATTLE

By Chris Frost  
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—The Skyy Fisher-Compton Unified School District controversy took an unexpected turn during the Tuesday, May 22, Board of Trustees meeting, as the embattled board member returned from his self-imposed 60 day leave of absence after missing only one meeting.

Fisher announced his leave of absence on Friday, May 4, after his public remarks about Trayvon Martin, interim School Superintendent Karen Frison and a CUSD student and family who accused a Davis Middle School teacher of sexual misconduct.

He returned during the closed session and participated in the remainder of the meeting.

In a statement, Fisher said numerous residents want him to get back to work and continue on the path of accomplishing the goals they elected him to carry out.

“I want to thank the community for giving me the opportunity to be a member of this governing board,” he said. “Over the course of the past few weeks I’ve had numerous discussions with community members about the recent statements I made on PigzRadio. I apologize again for those statements.

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## Jack Scott to speak at Compton Center commencement

From staff reports

COMPTON—California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott will deliver the keynote speech at El Camino College Compton Center’s 2012 commencement ceremony on Thursday, June 7, at 5:30 p.m. in the Tartar Stadium. Scott is planning to retire in September and will use highlights from his 58-year career in higher education and public service to inspire ECC Compton Center graduates.

In May 2008, Scott was unanimously selected as the 14th chancellor of the nation’s largest system of higher education and has held the office since January 2009. Prior to his role as California Community Colleges chancellor-

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### Long-awaited Oversight Committee convenes 3A

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FLYING HIGH!  
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NEWS BRIEFS

2 arrested after deputy-involved shooting

LOS ANGELES —The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said two men are under arrest following a deputy-involved shooting in Wilmington. The department said the suspects fired at the officers from inside a home on May 25 where the deputies were serving a search warrant for narcotics and illegal weapons violations. Deputy Peter Gomez said when the deputies returned fire the suspects surrendered and were taken into custody. Gomez said two members of the sheriff's special weapons team were struck by bullet and stucco fragments and one of the rounds hit a deputy's weapon. The deputies were treated at the scene for minor injuries. The suspects were not hurt. They were not identified.

Man arrested for allegedly pointing laser

PASADENA—A man has been arrested for allegedly pointing a laser at a Pasadena police helicopter, injuring an officer on board. A Pasadena police statement said 23-year-old Rafael Juarez of San Gabriel was taken into custody on May 24 and booked on suspicion of discharging a laser at an aircraft and possession of a controlled substance. Police said the incident occurred about 9:30 a.m. as the helicopter flew over the city of San Gabriel. The helicopter crew was not wearing their protective eyewear at the time, but identified the suspect's location. With the help of San Gabriel police ground units, Juarez was arrested without incident. The flight crew landed safely at the Pasadena Heliport and the injured officer was taken to a hospital for evaluation. His condition is not known.

Court orders woman to stay away from Jeff Goldblum

LOS ANGELES—A judge on May 25 granted Jeff Goldblum a temporary restraining order against a woman who has been repeatedly ordered to stay away from the actor in recent years. Goldblum's attorneys obtained the order against Linda Ransom, 49, after she went to the actor's home three times this month. A previous stay-away order against Ransom from 2007 has expired and police claimed she has told them that she will not stop trying to meet Goldblum unless a restraining order is in place. The filings state Ransom has been arrested three times for violating previous restraining orders. Goldblum first alerted authorities to her in 2001 after she attended one of his acting classes and then started waiting outside his home. "Over the past decade, I have experienced substantial emotional distress due to Ms. Ransom's continuous stalking, harassing, and threatening behavior," Goldblum wrote in a sworn court declaration. Ransom did not immediately return a phone message seeking comment. A judge will consider whether to grant Goldblum, who has starred in films as "The Fly," "Jurassic Park" and "Independence Day," a three-year restraining order during a hearing on June 12.

AME Church Bishop Hartford Brookins dies at 86

LOS ANGELES—Hamel Hartford Brookins, a bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church for 30 years and a longtime civil rights activist, has died in Los Angeles. He was 86. A church statement said Brookins died Tuesday at his home. The son of Mississippi sharecroppers, Brookins was min-

ister of a country church in Arkansas and became acquainted with future President Bill Clinton. Before becoming bishop, he served 13 years as pastor of First AME Church of Los Angeles and led the congregation through the construction of a multimillion-dollar cathedral. Brookins helped found Jesse Jackson's Operation PUSH and was involved in the campaigns of Tom Bradley, the first Black mayor of Los Angeles.

Ex-sheriff's sergeant gets 9 years for sex assault

LOS ANGELES —Prosecutors said a former Los Angeles County sheriff's sergeant has been sentenced to more than nine years in state prison for sexually assaulting a woman and inappropriately searching two others. A Los Angeles judge sentenced 42-year-old Mark Fitzpatrick on May 25. A jury convicted him in October. Charges stemmed from three traffic stops in May 2008 while Fitzpatrick was working out of the sheriff's Compton station. He was convicted of penetration under threat to arrest or deport, sexual battery by restraint, and other sexual assault charges.

Latino car wash workers sue Santa Monica employers

LOS ANGELES—Latino car wash workers at three Santa Monica facilities are suing their employers for allegedly refusing to give workers breaks and overtime pay. The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund filed the lawsuit May 21 on behalf of employees at Santa Monica Car Wash and Detailing, Lincoln Millennium Car Wash and Bumble Bee Car Wash. Employees claim they were often forced to work off the clock without overtime pay resulting in thousands of hours of free labor.

CSU chancellor Charles Reed retires

From staff reports

SACRAMENTO—California State University Chancellor Charles B. Reed announced that he will retire as chancellor of the CSU following a 14-year tenure with the university system.

In a statement sent to CSU campuses and employees, Reed said that he came to the CSU because of his belief in its mission. "It has been an incredible honor to serve as chancellor of the California State University during such a dynamic period in the university's history. Over the past decade and a half, the CSU has emerged as a national leader in providing access and support to students from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds. Our campuses have continued to flourish even in the face of budgetary challenges and tremendous growth. Throughout my time here, the CSU has grown by more than 100,000 students, and I have been honored to sign more than a million diplomas. I take great pride in the CSU's mission to serve California's students, and I am proud to have played a role in carrying out that mission during these critical years."

Including his 13-year tenure as the chancellor for the Florida State University system, Reed has spent more than a quarter-century as the leader of the country's largest higher educational systems. He has earned national and international recognition as an innovator, problem-solver and strategic thinker. He has defended the mission of public higher education, and has earned a reputation as one of the country's premier experts on P-16 collaboration, institutional aid, and outreach to underserved student populations.

"Nobody has cared more about the mission of the university, worked harder despite overwhelming challenges or advocated more passionately on behalf of the CSU than Charlie Reed," said CSU Trustee Bill Hauck. "His leadership over more than 14 years has been invaluable, and he has managed the institution through some of the most difficult times in its history. Charlie leaves a legacy that puts students first, and clearly positions CSU as a place that offers hope and opportunity to a whole generation. As one of the board members who hired Charlie, I want to express my deep gratitude for his commitment and service."

Under Reed's leadership, the CSU has pursued strategies to serve more students from traditionally underserved backgrounds, including students from minority groups who come from homes where English is not spoken or who are the first in their families to attend college. Recognizing that these students would require more outreach and support, Reed launched a series of initiatives to recruit and retain more students from underserved populations. The CSU now works closely with community organizations to assist Latino, African American, Asian Pacific Islander, and Native American students and parents, as well as veterans to attend the CSU.

Over the past four years, Reed has had to manage severe state budget cuts to the CSU totaling more than \$1 billion, or 35 percent, while addressing increased enrollment demand, particularly from students from underserved groups. Since he arrived at the CSU, the system has grown by 100,000 students to 427,000 and added a new campus, Channel Islands.

"As chair of the board of trustees, I have seen up close the difficult decisions Charlie has to make every day, and the enormous job of serving as chancellor of a university system serving more than 420,000 students," said CSU Board Chair Bob Linscheid. "Charlie has persevered through the worst budget crisis in the history of California, and has had to deal with deep budget cuts to the CSU. He has a deep desire to do what is best for students. Charlie's management of the institution is something to behold, and on behalf of the board, I would like to thank him for his unending energy and dedication to the CSU."

SCOTT

Continued from Page 1A

lor, Scott was an influential lawmaker in both the State Senate and State Assembly. Scott has always been a champion for education issues and served as chair of the Senate Committee on Education. As a result, he authored many key bills important to California's community colleges.

In addition to serving in the state legislature beginning in 1996, Scott has also held leadership positions at several institutions of higher education in Southern

California. He was president of Pasadena City College (1987-95), president of Cypress College (1978-87), dean of instruction at Orange Coast College (1973-78) and a teacher and administrator at Pepperdine University (1963-73).

Scott is the former chair of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). He is a Distinguished Professor of Higher Education at Pepperdine University and is the first person to be honored as president emeritus of Pasadena City College.

Scott was born in Sweetwater, Texas. He earned his doctorate in American history from Claremont Graduate University, a Master of Divinity degree from Yale University, and a bachelor's degree from Abilene Christian University.

For more information on the commencement, contact the ECC Compton Center Student Life Office at 310-900-1600, extension 2800, or visit the website at [www.compton.edu](http://www.compton.edu).

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# Council rejects budget shortfall

By Chris Frost  
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—Council members rejected a resolution declaring a financial shortfall during its May 22 meeting, sending a directive to interim City Manager Bryan Batiste that salary increases are not going to be tolerated during this budget season.

Mayor Eric J. Perrodin, along with Councilpersons Yvonne Arceneaux and Janna Zurita rejected the proposal. Councilman Willie Jones cast the lone yes vote. Councilwoman Lillie Dobson did not attend the meeting.

The city approved a similar action on Tuesday, Jan. 3, and kept working with representatives of the Compton Coalition of Unions for a side agreement, ratified on Tuesday, Jan. 19.

The vote protected the city financially in the event of employee layoffs, which required 30 days' notice.

"The city has to be proactive," Batiste said. "Last year we laid people off, and labor costs carried over into this fiscal year. We do not want it to happen again."

He said the action does not mean layoffs are imminent.

"We are not proposing any layoffs for the next fiscal year," Batiste said. "We plan on taking advantage of the concessions made by the unions, and balancing the budget with no additional reductions in service."

Batiste said the next fiscal year budget is a work in progress, and needs an additional \$8 million in cuts.

"There is an additional \$4 million deficit carrying over from this year, along with unbudgeted bills from the current budget," Batiste said.

He said department heads brought 10 percent cuts to the last budget workshop, but a Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) increase negated that reduction.

"We are working on restructuring some departments to save money, in addition to the furlough days, and insurance reductions," Batiste said. "This is all preliminary."

Additional cuts would come from the direction of the City Council, Batiste said, and that could mean layoffs.

"We are trying to be transparent," he said. "If the Council does not want to roll additional deficits over to next year, layoffs may still be possible."

City Treasurer Douglas Sanders said the reality is the state budget crisis can still affect Compton.

"The governor said California had a \$9 million deficit," he said. "That ballooned to almost 17 million, despite taking away city CRA money to fill the gap. The general fund is stretched badly, and we are barely keeping up with things like payroll and vendors."

Councilwoman Janna Zurita said the budget should not propose raises and workforce reductions at the same time.

"Salary increases are budgeted top step raises, based on their time and seniority," Batiste said. "There is no additional burden on the general fund. Some of these increases are overdue."

The budget team will make salary adjust-

ments, he said, but not until the Council imposes a freeze.

Perrodin said he discovered one department head who gave himself a \$40,000 increase in the new budget.

"I do not think Batiste has anything to do with this," he said. "But if we passed this, that person would make a lot more money next year."

Perrodin said another department more than doubled its overtime budget.

"It makes me wonder if we are in a deficit, or do we have a money tree outside that the city can shake," he said. "Some department heads who do not live in Compton are giving themselves raises because they are ready to retire. That means their payout will be larger. It frustrates me."

Perrodin said there should be no increases anywhere until the city resolves its fiscal crisis.

"I look at the budget and ask questions," he said. "I also do not understand temporary appointments. Week after week people go to the personnel board and ask for temporary employees. People cut back on things like bottled water and cable if they have a budget crisis at home. The city has to do the same thing."

The department head in question did receive support from Batiste because of an increase in job responsibilities.

"This began last year," he said. "I support this increase because this person now manages two departments, and I added additional work."

The next budget workshop is on Saturday, June 2, at 10 a.m.

# County denies funding for Meals on Wheels

By Chris Frost  
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—A landmark program benefiting seniors in Compton reached the end of the road on Tuesday, May 22, as the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors rejected a funding extension for the Dickson Lighted Schools Senior Meals on Wheels Program.

The program offers in-house dining at 600 N. Alameda Ave. and meal delivery services to local seniors.

Meals on Wheels began in 1968 and took care of everyone from preschool to senior citizens. The group shifted to just seniors in 1972.

The service fell victim to an administrative error when needed documentation was not submitted on time.

"Unfortunately, we were three minutes late with our proposals and the Department of Senior Services would not accept them," Program Director Delores Zurita said.

She said the rejection felt like a kick in the stomach.

"I respect being on time," Zurita said. "The next day I called the county and inquired as to whether someone else submitted a proposal to serve Compton. The guy I spoke to said, 'Oh that is OK, somebody else will serve them.'"

Everyone assumed the new nonprofit group would retain the current staff members.

"Last Thursday (May 17), they let us know that they would not be using the current staff," Zurita said. "They are going to use their own employees from another city."

The news caused her concern, she said, because staffers who had been serving seniors for years would no longer have their jobs.

"Unemployment is very high in Compton," Zurita said. "I am not speaking and begging for myself because I am 76 and retiring. I am asking if the supervisors can save the employees for seniors in Compton."

Councilwoman Janna Zurita said the county would save more than \$100,000 because of grant funding from Compton and in-kind office space.

"The agency that is coming in to take over is not familiar with the special needs of the seniors," she said. "We have served over 500 meals every day for the last 30 years. I know the proposal was late, but I am begging for a one-year funding extension."

Compton Unified School District Trustee Satra Zurita said she would be remiss if she did not recognize the supervisors all for the exciting work happening in the second supervisory district.

"It's not often that we have the opportunity to thank you all together," she said. "Dickson Community Lighted Schools Inc. has already received \$90,000 in Community Development Block Grant funding. I am sure the county could use that money somewhere else."

An impassioned plea from resident Sallie Valade did not persuade the supervisors.

"I am a proud, proud resident of Compton and also a recipient of the Meals on Wheels program of nutrition," she said. "I am legally blind and have a spinal injury."

Valade moved to Compton in 1953 and met the staff during the 1960s.

## RELIGION

# I cry at weddings, too

By Rev. James L. Snyder

June is quite famous for the variety of nuptial activities. I am not sure exactly why June is the month of choice for these couples; I just go along with the flow. Consequently, through the years, I have officiated at many weddings during the month of June.

I must confess that weddings are not my favorite form of activity. I had much rather be doing something else, anything else, than officiating at the wedding ceremony of a young couple who are in love.

When I first began this area of my pastoral work, I was very nervous. I was concerned that people were watching and judging me and therefore I needed to have everything perfect. The day of the wedding found me an absolute nervous wreck. If it was not for several apple fritters that morning, I am not sure how I would have gotten through the day.

I feel that my personal inconvenience at these nuptial ceremonies qualified me to indulge in eating several, if not many, apple fritters. Everybody needs something to help endure the inconveniences of life. The apple fritter is my chosen remedy.

I remember when I came to the shocking conclusion that nobody at the wedding ceremony was watching me. The wedding ceremony was concluded and the reception was over and I was in the restroom washing my hands when I happened to look into the mirror. There to my chagrin I discovered that the back of my collar was not covering my tie. Nobody even hinted that I had a wardrobe malfunction.

It was then I realized that nobody was paying any attention to me. I could come to the wedding ceremony in a swimsuit and nobody would notice. Not that I have been tempted in this area, mind you. After all, the focus of the whole affair is the bride.

Since this amazing discovery, weddings have not been quite so difficult for me. I do not worry about my appearance because nobody else is worrying about my appearance.

I often counsel young grooms who seem

**One reason I am not so very fond of weddings is the premarital counseling involved. Of all the counseling I have given through the years, I am wondering if anybody ever paid attention to what I said. I think I could do the whole counseling session in pig Latin and the couple would sit there smiling at me as though they understood every word I was saying.**

quite nervous that nobody is even aware of their presence. Nobody comes to a wedding to see the groom. The only thing that really matters is the bride.

After a wedding everybody always says, "Wasn't the bride beautiful?" Or, "Didn't the bride look beautiful in her wedding dress?"

I have yet to hear somebody say, "Wasn't that groom handsome?" Or, "I loved the groom's tuxedo." It just never happens. This is the reason why every groom wears a rented tuxedo. Nobody is admiring him or his attire.

The wedding dress is something altogether different. Very few brides rent a wedding dress. Even though they are only going to wear it, supposedly, once in their lifetime, they all want to buy that special wedding dress.

One reason I am not so very fond of weddings is the premarital counseling involved. Of all the counseling I have given through the years, I am wondering if anybody ever paid attention to what I said. I think I could do the whole counseling session in pig Latin and the couple would sit there smiling at me as though they understood every word I was saying.

With that in mind, I have tried through the years to make the counseling sessions as long and painful as possible. If they can survive a series of premarital counseling sessions from me, then they deserve a lifetime of holy matrimonial bliss.

One strange phenomenon I have seen in weddings throughout the years is the number of

people who cry at weddings. For some it may be that they are overwhelmed with happiness. Others may be overwhelmed with memories of their own wedding. But the father of the bride is the one I watch.

It is very hard for some of these fathers to keep back the tears, not because they are losing a daughter, or because they are gaining a son-in-law, but because they are losing a whole lot of money on this wedding.

Then it got me thinking. Most weddings cost a small fortune. Of course small is a relative term. A young bride coached by her mother will find ways to burn through the father's bank account. "No price is too much to pay for this daughter of ours," the mother explains. "She's worth everything it costs."

And the father weeps some more. Especially if there is the younger daughter in the wings.

Looking into the situation the more I discovered just how much people pay for their weddings.

When anybody asks me about performing the wedding ceremony and how much I charge, I always say that I do not charge anything. What I am really saying is that I would prefer cash. I always leave that to the discretion of the groom. Usually, the groom is so discreet in paying me that I actually never see any money.

When I discover how much the wedding has cost and how much I was not given as an honorarium for my services, I too, weep at weddings.

Occasionally, I meet a young couple who understand the importance of a Christian marriage. Although it is viewed as old-fashioned, I like to reflect what the Bible says. "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Genesis 2:24 KJV).

This kind of a wedding calls for tears of joy.

**The Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamessnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.**

## College offers Career, Technical Education program

From staff reports

COMPTON—El Camino College Compton Center's Career and Technical Education (CTE) program offers curriculum and training for certification in a variety of fields. The program also assists students with the job search process. At the end of the fall 2011 semester, eight students from the welding program became certified welders and 13 Aerospace Fastener Manufacturing program graduates found jobs at either PB Fasteners or Alcoa.

Eugene Benson has served as a Welding Technology Instructor in the CTE program for more than 30 years. He believes the CTE program is especially valuable in this tough economy. To keep students motivated, Benson and other CTE instructors often introduce students to applicable job experiences by taking them on field trips to the facilities of potential employers and invite representatives from various companies to speak to the class.

Last semester, Career Advancement Academy students took an industry tour at Northrop Grumman. Washington Iron Works hosted welding students for a tour of their Gardena facilities. Machine tool technology students toured PB Fasteners. Automotive students attended the annual Los Angeles Auto Show at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

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# Oversight Committee convenes in Compton

By Chris Frost  
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—The long awaited Oversight Committee began its mission of deciding what is best for the Hub City on Thursday, May 10, as it approved the recognized obligation payment schedule (ROPS) proposed by the city's successor agency.

On Dec. 30, the California Supreme Court invalidated Assembly Bill 27, allowing cities the right to pay a fee to continue redevelopment efforts, while upholding AB26, protecting the state's right to end redevelopment. The committee reviews and approves successor agency ROPS (work done before AB26 was passed), and submits it to the California Department of Finance for approval.

Successor agencies wind down redevelopment agency projects and return proceeds from property liquidations to the county auditor and controller for distribution to the taxing entities.

The seven member group includes Jesenia Sanchez and Jose Martinez, appointed by Mayor Eric J. Perrodin; Deborah Willard, representing the Compton Unified School District; Los Angeles County Library District representative Alice Harris; Compton College President Dr. Keith Curry; and two appointees from Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas, Jesus Escandon and Harold C. Williams.

Sanchez was selected as chairperson. The group expressed concern about next getting an appropriate amount of time to review the ROPS document, and former Community Redevelopment Agency Deputy Director Michael Antwine stepped in and gave an overview of the plan.

"Due to time constraints for this budget, the successor agency had to give you a spreadsheet with all the expenses," he said. "The group will receive summary reports at future meetings."

The group only disputed notary services for the agency, and approved payment for committee member and notary Jose Martinez, who dismissed himself from the vote because he was the financial beneficiary of the action.

Former Community Redevelopment Agency Director Dr. Kofi Sefa-Boakye said the ROPS approval represents a milestone of the Successor Agency's revitalization agenda for Compton, despite the end of the agency.

"The former CRA had already set the stage for transforming Compton into a model of urban revival," he said. "The master plan entails the use of tax allocation bonds issued in 2010, transforming downtown into a safe, vibrant, efficient pedestrian-oriented retail, commercial and civic center. It carries out critical infrastructure improvements to complement massive land assembly projects and will generate affordable housing in the community."

ROPS will enable the Compton Successor Agency to fulfill the duties and financial obligations of the former CRA through the agency expected tax increment receipts contained in the ROPS, meet pre-existing debt service obligations under tax allocation bonds, and undertake critical administrative functions, including maintenance activities, of agency-owned parcels in connection with their disposition for economic development projects.

The two reporting periods approved by the group span from February 1 through June 30, and July 1 until December 31.

"The Successor Agency has resumed negotiations with blue chip developers and tenants, including Big 5 Sporting Goods, Walgreens, Maxi Foods, El Super, Chase Bank, Smart & Final and several other national credit retailers," Sefa-Boakye said. "These projects will transform over 270,000 square feet of blight into job-generating, service-providing neighborhood centers, enhancing the state and Compton's tax base through job creation, increased retail sales and property tax revenues for public improvements."

He said removing blight and enhancing the quality of life for residents and stakeholders in the community remain the agency's main objectives.

# COUNCIL OKS ENERGY EFFICIENCY UPGRADE

By Chris Frost  
Bulletin Staff Writer

COMPTON—City Council members unanimously approved a resolution at its Tuesday, May 22, meeting authorizing interim City Manager Bryan Batiste to appropriate funding for programs, activities, services and expenditures not adequately funded during the preparation of the current fiscal year budget.

"A number of grant and award programs were not appropriately funded," Planning and Economic Development Director Derek Hull said. "The 2002 Resources Bond Act Per Capita Grant, Roberti-Z'berg Harris Block Grant, Lease Revenue Gonzales Park bonds, Section 108 Loan Program, Energy Efficiency Grant and the Los Angeles County Compton Creek funds did not receive the full amount of money allocated for the current budget year."

The misallocated awards and grants go back to the section 108 loan program, issued in 2000.

"That money was originally for the Oasis Entertainment Complex," Hull said. "That project never occurred."

The loan has \$3 million remaining, which

is available for economic development projects.

"The money is available but parts of the funding did not reach their bank accounts," Hull said. "Last November, former interim City Manager Lamont Ewell told the Council that corrective budget amendments would be forthcoming."

Councilwoman Yvonne Arceneaux, chairman of the Compton Creek Task Force, wanted to know how more money was available for the effort.

"The fund received \$150,000 this year," Hull said. "This resolution puts the remaining \$350,000 into the account."

Part of the funding will go toward creek construction between Greenleaf Parkway and the 91 Freeway.

"The Mountains, Recreation and Conservation Authority acquired land to finish the trail in 2006," Hull said.

Mayor Eric J. Perrodin expressed concern for the consequences if the city does not spend the money by the end of the fiscal year.

"The city does not need to spend all the money this year," Hull said. "This cleans up the current budget, which does not reflect the available funding."

The Gonzales Park Lease Revenue Bond money could not be itemized by Hull.

"That money was put into the budget at the end of last year," he said. "There may still be outstanding project invoices affecting the total."

The work includes drainage and grading work, currently in progress.

"Council approved the contract in 2011, and I expect the work to be completed by the end of this fiscal year," he said.

The \$497,000 Department of Energy Efficiency Block Grant funds the replacement of obsolete quarter-inch glass with new energy-efficient, one-inch glass.

The grant, executed by the former city manager in 2011, can only be used for glass and weather stripping at City Hall and the Council chambers.

"The bid came back lower than expected so we asked if the money can be used on other city buildings," Hull said. "We anticipate that it will save the city a significant amount of money."

Hull said the city can save up to 40 percent on its electrical bill because of the upgrade.

The next City Council meeting is on Tuesday, June 5.



## Assemblyman Isadore Hall III named legislator of the year

From staff reports

SACRAMENTO—The California Beer and Beverage Distributors (CBBD) have named Assemblyman Isadore Hall III of Compton as its 2012 Legislator of the Year.

"Assemblyman Hall shares the beer distributors' public policy interest in maintaining an effective system of state alcohol control," said CBBD President Victoria Horton. "During his tenure, Assemblyman Hall has demonstrated an impressive understanding of the three tier system and understands the jobs, infrastructure investment and value beer distributors bring to the state of California, the most diverse beer market in the nation."

"When people think of beer they think of large companies with thousands of employees and corporate executives," Hall said. "Beer distributors aren't these companies. They are independent, family-owned and operated businesses working hard to succeed in California. I am flattered that they have selected me as their 2012 Legislator of the Year."

## Compton Community College District track and football stadium to close June 1 through 7

From staff reports

COMPTON—This year, El Camino College Compton Center's Commencement Ceremony on June 7 will be held at the Tartar Track and Football Stadium. The Compton Community College District will temporarily close the track and football stadium between June 1 and June 11 in preparation for the ceremony. The track and stadium are located at 1111 E. Artesia Blvd.

While the commencement ceremony preparation is taking place, the soccer field, immediately adjacent to the football field, will be available as an alternative location for walking and running. Additionally, walking the perimeter of the

CCCD property is another option. Signs have been posted at all entrances to the track and football field notifying the public of the temporary closure.

The decision was made to move the 2012 Commencement Ceremony from the Tartar Quad to Tartar Stadium in order to accommodate a larger graduating class and their guests. The temporary closure is necessary to allow for the proper set up and post-event dismantling of the stage and seating areas. In order to ensure the proper maintenance and safety of the stadium, community members are asked to respect the temporary closure.

For more information contact the Office of Student Development at 310-900-1600, Ext. 2802.

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