

# ONME NEWS

Central Valley's Urban News & Current Affairs Spot

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## Monthly News Post



### African-American organizations and CLB condemn 'Racist' Judicial Council Party pics

July 17, 2017 | [By Manny Otiko | California Black Media](#)



**SACRAMENTO, CA--**People getting busted for hosting parties based on racial stereotypes is nothing new. But it's not something that one would expect from a legal organization that's supposed to stand for impartiality in the law. But that's what happened when photos leaked of a Halloween party thrown by the Judicial Council of California. The Judicial Council is the policymaking arm of the California courts. Its goal is to be an independent and impartial administration of justice.

According to a report from the San Francisco ABC

affiliate, the party featured stereotypical images of people of color depicted as prisoners. Some of the male staff members dressed as a transgender character from the TV show, "Orange is the New Black."

News of the Judicial Council's party has sparked a political uproar from Black organizations and legislators.

"I am deeply disturbed by the reprehensible, racist and poor judgment the Judicial Council displayed at a Halloween party last year," said Assemblymember Mike Gipson (D- Carson), a member of Legislative Black Caucus and Chair of Democratic Caucus. "For a public policymaking body that is equipped with the responsibility of fair access to the courts, it is highly disappointing that a group of judicial staff members would put down a race simply to win a contest. It is never okay to engage in stereotypical behavior or homophobic mockery, all while distributing offensive photos over a public server for ridicule."

"I stand with the NAACP and am calling on the Judicial Council for a sincere public apology and an immediate reprimand of these senseless actions. This is demeaning, discriminatory, and sends the negative message that black people and members of the LGBTQ community are bad people. Although the damage is done and the seed is planted, and quite possibly for years to come, we will not tolerate bias from a department whose responsibility is that of justice for all. This action will not go unchallenged," said Gipson.

The California Capitol Black Staff Association released a statement condemning the images.

"As public servants who work for a public body created to provide equitable access to California's courts, it is shameful that these individuals chose to engage, on state time, in a type of hate speech that depicts dangerous stereotypes that have haunted the Black population in America since slavery," said the California Capitol Black Staff Association.

According to the ABC report, Michael Roosevelt, an employee of the Judicial Council, said the images make a mockery of the organization's goals.

"Here you've got the image of people who work for and support the courts who are dressed in prison garb, darkening their faces, depicting a prison setting where disproportionately those people who are incarcerated are people of color," said Roosevelt.

The Alliance of California Judges said the incident proves the Judicial Council needs to be reformed.

"If the Chief Justice won't restructure the Judicial Council, so its judicial members are elected by their peers, then it's high time for the Legislature to take control of the judicial branch funds away from the Judicial Council and place those funds in the hands of a trial budget commission consisting of trial judges elected by their peers," said the Alliance of California Judges in a press statement.

The pictures were also condemned by Assemblymember Chris Holden (D-Pasadena,) chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus.

"The racist actions of those associated with the Judicial Council are shameful!" said Holden.

Dr. Amos Brown, national board member and president of San Francisco NAACP, who first learned about the incident from a Bay Area reporter said, "This should be a wake-up call for Blacks in this state. Blacks make up 6 percent of the California's population but 45 to 50 percent of the inmate population." Brown suggested an "ignorance of Black history" was the reason these employees could host a party in such poor taste.

Brown said he credited the executive director for the

written apology discipline actions that have not been announced, but still feels like the damage has been done.

Third Baptist Church in San Francisco will be meeting with judges from the San Francisco Superior Court area on Aug. 23 to discuss how to work together so the criminal justice systems can embody justice and restorative justice for the African American community and the greater community.

## Will a tax increase make California's housing more affordable?

July 14, 2017| [By Manny Otiko CBM](#)



**SACRAMENTO, CA** --State lawmakers are in the midst of trying to solve California's ongoing housing affordability crisis.

According to the non-partisan Legislative Analyst's Office, California has had historically higher rent and home prices than the rest of the nation, but the gap is widening at a worrying rate.

In some areas of Los Angeles, renting a one-bedroom apartment can cost up to \$2,000 per month. According to the Associate Press, over 1.5 million Californians lack access to affordable housing, and a recent report from the Public Policy Institute shows 31 percent of homeowners and 46 percent of renters spend 35 percent of their incomes on housing.

Senate Democrats say they can solve the housing crisis by increasing taxes.

Senate Bill 2, also known as the Building Homes and Jobs Act, seeks to raise more than \$200 million per year to fund affordable housing development. Proponents of SB 2 say the bill will create more than 20,000 new and rehabilitated homes while generating roughly 57,000 jobs, by raising fees on housing documents such as deeds and notices.

The bill recently passed the Senate 27-12 along partisan lines, and will now be reviewed by the Assembly.

However, Sen. Joel Anderson (R-Alpine) didn't think raising taxes on homeowners or people looking to get into the housing market would solve the affordable housing problem. He says the proposed tax increase puts an unfair burden on one segment of society.

"The costs of fighting homelessness should be born across all Californians, not on the backs of homeowners in foreclosure proceedings, refinancing their home, or mothers trying to collect child support," said Anderson.

"The state budget has increased 45 percent over the last six years, and legislative leaders didn't think housing was an important enough issue to prioritize in our budget so they fall back on their default solution to every problem in California: new taxes."

All Senate Democrats voted to in favor of the bill. Sen. Toni Atkins (D-San Diego), who authored SB 2, was pleased with the bill's progress.

"On behalf of the thousands of California families who will benefit each year from SB 2 and the housing stability it will bring, I want to thank my Senate colleagues who voted for this important bill," Atkins said. "I am increasingly hopeful that relief is coming soon for many hard-working people."

## **Compton politician accuses fellow council member of using racist language: Dropping 'F' bombs to calling board members monkey's**

July 13, 2017 | [By Manny Otiko | California Black Media](#)

**COMPTON, CA**--Emma Sharif, a member of the Compton City Council, has accused fellow council member of using racist and abusive language.

According to Sharif, the incident happened at the recent Independent Cities Association conference in Carlsbad. She said Galvan accused of not thanking him for his support during a past race. But Sharif said that she did not appreciate some of the tactics Galvan used. Apparently, he sent out a flier against her opponent that included some negative information. And her opponent, Dr. Willie Jones, was a well-respected member of the community.

"I had to apologize for that piece," said Sharif.

Sharif detailed her complaints in a letter read during a recent city council meeting, but she never received an apology from Galvan. In the letter Sharif alleges that Galvan told her to f-herself and also said, "I told Councilman Galvan that I had a problem with his comments he previously made with other elected officials that he believed his colleagues and the Mayor were monkeys."

According to Sharif, Galvan needs to be held accountable for his words.

"To this day Councilman Galvan has never apologized to this council and this community for his hateful comments and racist attitude. I will continue to work every day in a manner of respect and dignity to serve the constituents of my district and the people of Compton," said Sharif in her letter.

Galvan's office never responded to repeated requests

for a comment.

Sharif also had an issue with a meeting held at a community center on immigration. The meeting was conducted in Spanish, although Sharif, who was there, was provided an English translator. Sharif said she felt the entire meeting needed to have an English translation because immigration is a problem that also affects non-Spanish speaking people.

"There are other people dealing with immigration, who don't speak Spanish," said Sharif.

Compton is a suburb of Los Angeles that has traditionally been known as a mainly Black city. But the ethnic makeup of the city has changed over the last few decades as more Black people move out, and Latinos move in.

According to the U.S. Census, the city is 32 percent Black and 25 percent Hispanic.



## Civil Rights groups accuse legislator and AG of stalling police accountability bill

July 12, 2017 | [By Manny Otiko - CBM](#)

[\(Download the free ONME app!\)](#)



**SACRAMENTO, CA** --Civil rights leaders descended on the Capitol on Tuesday, to express their frustration with the language change on Assembly Bill 284 (also known as the Deadly Force Evaluation Act.) The bill would require all police shootings to be investigated by a team from the Attorney General's Office.

Betty Williams, president of the Sacramento NAACP, said the bill had been gutted during what she calls the "July 3 massacre." (The bill was revamped on the eve of the July 4 holiday.)

"They gutted it and bled it to death," she said, referring to how the teeth had been taken out of the bill.

The Rev. Shane Harris, president of the San Diego National Action Network, was also upset at how the bill had been held up and deprived of its power. He also questioned California's priorities. He said the state was willing to spend \$60 million on immigration issues, but taking action against police shootings was held up for "further study."

"We didn't need a research plan for some of the issues around education," he said. "But we need a research plan for policing?"

Police shootings continue to be a problem in California. According to the Guardian, the Los Angeles Police Department lead the nation in officer-related shooting deaths.

Other high-profile California shootings include Alfred Olango, an unarmed black man shot dead by El Cajon police, and Oscar Grant, who was shot dead after a Bay Area Rapid Transit officer confused his taser with a gun.

And last year Sacramento also dealt with police shootings. Last year, Joseph Mann, a mentally ill man, was shot 16 times by Sacramento police officers, who also tried to run him down before shooting him. The Sacramento District Attorney's Office cleared both officers involved in the shooting. According to the Sacramento Bee, the city of Sacramento paid more than \$700,000 to settle a lawsuit involving Mann's death.

According to advocates the appointed prosecutor language is one of the central problems that AB 284, authored by Assemblymember Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento,) needed to address. Since district attorneys often work alongside police and depend on their support during local elections, they can't be objective when it comes to prosecuting officers. Harris

compared it to expecting students to grade their own work. However, the Police Officers Research Association of California (PORAC) called AB 284 a "waste of taxpayers' dollars" and removed their opposition from the amended bill.

Robert Mann, Joseph's brother, was also present at the Capitol. He said the original version of the AB 284 was good, but "a lot of the good parts of the bill have been taken out." He said he is hopeful he can work with legislators to make the bill stronger.

Earlier during a hearing to evaluate AB 284 State. Sen. Steven Bradford (D-Gardena) said California's record on prosecuting police shootings was embarrassing. He said there had been hundreds of police shootings in California, but only five officers had been prosecuted, and only two convicted, but acknowledge it is a tough job.

"We as a legislative body should be troubled at the number of unarmed individuals who been killed (by police) over the last couple of years," said Bradford.

In May, Al Sharpton held a press conference at the State Capitol alongside the Rev K.W. Tulloss, NAN western regional director, and the Rev. Shane Harris, San Diego president of NAN, to urge legislators to pass AB 284 which passed with the original language.

Sharpton said although California claimed to be a progressive state, it leads the nation in police shootings.

"California has this image of progressivism but is not up to par with other states in the union, like New York, like Wisconsin, who have made toward a special prosecutor," said Sharpton.

"How is it that California leads the nation in officer involved shootings but is behind eight states behind in creating a solution for officer-involved shootings?" Harris asked.

## Chyna and Maia: Is there a double standard for shaming and exploiting Black women on social media?

July 12, 2017 | [By Jasmyne A. Cannick](#) | [Special To CBM Partners](#)



### *Picture compliments of Rifinery29*

In the span of one week, two Black women were viciously demoralized and exploited on social media.

One got caught up in his feelings and used his white privilege to publicly shame his baby momma while the other exploited a drug addiction and mental state for hood glory. And like a bad car accident that it hurts to look at—America couldn't turn away.

Look—I am not a fan of former stripper turned model, entrepreneur and eventually reality television star Blac Chyna. That said, her baby daddy Rob Kardashian should not get a pass and a slap on wrist after last week's digital temper tantrum that saw him post personal information and sexually explicit images of his former fiancée on social media all the while calling her out for cheating on him and using him for his money.

Anyone who even unconsciously followed the Rob and Blac Chyna train wreck knew what that was all about. Rob Kardashian has always been the weak link in the Kardashian clan. And you know what? Kudos to Blac Chyna for being willing to go the distance and pull off the ultimate coup. Not only did Chyna get revenge on Kylie Jenner over Jenner's relationship with Chyna's baby daddy Tyga—for her troubles she came out on top with a daughter who will be well provided for and got Rob to pay to put her body back in tip top shape for the next dude. Gangsta. One could say that the Kardashians got beat at their own game—and by a Black woman at that.

Now it's over—at least for Blac Chyna. Instead of licking his wounds and retreating back into his bedroom, Rob Kardashian decided to hide behind the Internet and bully Chyna by putting all of their personal drama out there for Generation Information. And as would be expected, the Internet broke.

But what's good for the goose is good for gander.

The same folks that went all in when a white woman was body shamed on social media by former Playboy Playmate Dani Mathers should be upset when a Black woman experiences the same—even if that Black woman is Blac Chyna. You don't have to like Chyna to recognize that what Rob did was morally wrong but quite possibly criminal as well.

Rob Kardashian doesn't get a pass because he got played and his feelings are hurt. He doesn't get a pass because he's wealthy and white and he certainly doesn't get a pass because he's a Kardashian.

The Kardashian clan has never been known for their love of or even respect of Black women. In fact—it's quite opposite. They are known for idolizing the features of Black women, impersonating Black women and stealing from Black women. Their muted silence on Rob's cyberbullying of Blac Chyna has been blamed on caring about Rob and Chyna's daughter Dream and the effect all of this might have on her one day—but most Black women see it as more of the same from a group of women who privately envy them

for their looks and culture while publicly trying to mimic them and being celebrated in the media for it.

Then there's Maia Campbell. The former co-star of *In The House* which also starred rapper LL Cool J was the focus of conversation after a video was posted online showing her dressed in nothing but a bra and panites, seemingly strung out but definitely missing a tooth and wanting crack.

The video wasn't posted as a way to find help for Maia. It was posted to exploit her while at the same time obtaining some social media hood glory and to seemingly shame her for the state that she's currently in.

The man who posted the video is an Atlanta based rapper who calls himself "T Hood" and "One Dread."

When the Internet clapped back, T Hood took to Instagram to say that he didn't care and wasn't sorry for sharing the video.

So, T Hood, a saint he is not. Like your garden variety pimp or drug dealer, T Hood is just another brotha in a long line of brothas who come from a generation of folks who are increasingly morally bankrupt and have no problem exploiting others to come up—even if that come up amounts to nothing but hood glory, likes, shares, and retweets which increasingly seem to hold the same power as money itself for some.

T Hood aside, what about all of the people who shared the video not because they were infuriated or upset about Maia's situation but to continue to exploit her state for social media glory?

How come society doesn't get offended and react the same way to shaming people on social media for their mental health issues and addictions in the same way that it does fat shaming and body shaming, etc.?

Black America can keep all of their Black women empowerment social media hashtags celebrating everything from our bodies to our hair and shades of blackness if all they really amount to is internet pseudo pride. You don't have to like Blac Chyna or even sympathize with Maia's current situation to understand

that what was done to them on social media was wrong. Having pride in ourselves as Black women should extend beyond our latest selfie and that hashtag and include standing up for other Black women who are being wrongly exploited and turned into social media fodder. If we don't stand up for ourselves we can't expect or demand anyone else to.

## **Black peace officers and former inmate create a bonding image in art at African-American Museum exhibit**

July 11, 2017 | [ONME News Wire](#)



**FRESNO, CA --**The opening reception this past weekend at the African-American Historical & Cultural Museum of the San Joaquin Valley (AAHCMSJV) proved to be a spectacle of irony, filled with life lessons, being grateful, and new beginnings.

The reception was a precursor to the exhibit, *A tribute to Jack Kelley and the African-American Law Enforcement Officers of the Central Valley* also featuring former inmate artist *Marion Meux*.

Artist Meux told a compelling story of his incarceration, expressing how gracious he was for the experience that held him 41 years behind bars to learn life lessons and to allow his creative talent to flow through his expressive art—he had never painted a day in life prior to his incarceration.

Meux's artwork has been featured nationwide for its brilliant honesty in accentuating soft details and the emotion of the moment, as each painting tells a story relevant to his experiences in his life.

Also highlighted for their dedication to the community and going above and beyond their job duties included peace officers Captain Phil Cooley, Lt. Ronald Hayes and Marianne "Tiny" Burks. Each of them humbly spoke about their passion to be the solution in the community and continuing to strive to bridge the communication gap between our black youth and police officers.

The public and AAHCMSJV members are welcome to view the exhibit until the end of July.

*For event highlights, watch exclusive video on the ONME Network.*

## Civil Rights groups strategize as police accountability bill is gutted to research



**SACRAMENTO, CA**--Civil rights groups took to a conference call to strategize on how to breathe life into AB 284, a law that would have forced all police shootings to be investigated by independent prosecutors assigned by the California Attorney General's office.

AB 284 was introduced by Assemblymember Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento) earlier this year. But sources on the call suggested that McCarty has done little to advance the bill and criticized concessions he made to make it a five million dollar research bill, a day before many people were getting ready to celebrate the Fourth of July.

One of the main arguments for AB 284 is that local district attorneys, who are assigned to prosecute police shootings, are too close to the cases and reluctant to charge officers. This is one of the reasons why prosecutors often fail to win convictions if the cases are even brought to trial. Philando Castile, a Minnesota motorist, was gunned down by a police officer while he was carrying a licensed weapon. But prosecutors failed to win a conviction, even though the incident was captured on tape and broadcast on Facebook Live.

However, California has its own share of questionable police shootings, such as Alfred Olango, an unarmed black man shot dead by El Cajon police, Oscar Grant shot by a Bart transit officer in Oakland and Joseph Mann a mentally ill unarmed man shot 16 times by Sacramento police. According to the Guardian, last year the Los Angeles Police Department recorded the highest number of police shootings in the nation.

AB 284 is supported by several organizations such as the Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Network (NAN) and Sacramento NAACP. In May, Sharpton held a press conference at the State Capitol alongside the Rev K.W. Tulloss, NAN western regional director, and the Rev. Shane Harris, San Diego president of NAN, to urge legislators to pass AB 284.

Sharpton said although California claimed to be a progressive state, it leads the nation in police shootings.

"California has this image of progressivism but is not up to par with other states in the union, like New York, like Wisconsin, who have made toward a special prosecutor," said Sharpton. He also pointed out that

district attorneys often depend on the support of police unions during local elections.

AB 284 was opposed by several law enforcement organizations such as the Fraternal Order of Police and the California Statewide Law Enforcement Association. The Police Officers Research Association of California (PORAC) dismissed AB 284 as a "waste of taxpayers dollars."

Civil rights groups are expected to speak at the hearing room 3191 and hold a press conference after the hearing Tuesday, July 11, on the West steps of the Capitol.

## CLBC Backed Legislation Will Help Minority Owned Businesses Obtain Contracts for Transportation Projects

July 7, 2017| ONME NEWSWIRE



**Sacramento (CA)** – Today, the California State Legislature passed legislation, SB 103, championed by the California Legislative Black Caucus that will increase procurement opportunities from the California Department of Transportation for minority owned small business enterprises.

"Taxes on gas and transportation hit disadvantaged communities the hardest," said Assemblymember Chris Holden (AD-41), Chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus. "Senate Bill 103 helps empower these communities by making sure minority owned small businesses are included in contracting opportunities for transportation projects made available through these funds."

Specifically, Senate Bill 103 mandates the Department of Transportation to develop outreach plan intended to increase procurement opportunities for small business enterprises owned by women, minority, disabled veterans, LGBT, and other disadvantaged groups, in all the department's transportation programs. This plan will be reviewed and audited by the Inspector General while CalTrans actively reports on its diversity progress.

SB 103 will also create greater opportunities for marginalized groups in apprenticeship programs, pre-bid meetings, and trainings for new contractors. Through targeted outreach efforts, recruitment and retention of diverse talent in the transportation industry is inevitable, especially for minorities, women, disadvantaged youth, and formerly incarcerated individuals.

"We were able to pass this legislation thanks to the leadership and hard work of Assemblymember Shirley Weber and Senator Steven Bradford," said Holden.



## African-American Museum law enforcement exhibit also to feature former inmate's exquisite art

July 6, 2017| [ONME News Wire](#)

*Recently released Marion Meux who served 41 years in the California prison system painted beautiful works of art*



**FRESNO, CA** – Upcoming African-American Historical & Cultural Museum of San Joaquin Valley, (AAHCMSJV) exhibit starting Saturday, July 8th will not only feature prominent African-Americans in law enforcement from throughout the Central Valley, but talented artist, Marion Meux, who was a former inmate in the California prison system for 41 years will feature several of his most exquisite pieces he crafted while incarcerated.

According to news source *Inside the CDCR*, Meux never painted a day in his life prior to his incarceration. Encouraged by correctional officers to participate in Arts-in-Corrections programs, he took the time to nurture his newfound talent of artistic expression, which eventually expanded across many different genres of painting styles. Meux started painting at the San Quentin State Prison in the 1990s, and has been painting every day since.

“I had never done anything on this scale before,” said Marion Meux. “I jumped at the chance – it was an opportunity. It’s an extremely therapeutic endeavor for me. It allows me to explore my inner self, my inner soul.”

AAHCMSJV Executive Director, Gwen Morris, felt Meux’s paintings have a unique story to tell the masses, as every twist and turn of his life’s journey appears to be manifested through each brush stroke on his canvas.

“What a great opportunity to show and highlight not only the dedicated African-American police officers in our community because that’s who our founder was, but our founder, Jack Kelley, was much more than that,” explained Morris.

“He was always about the rehabilitation of individuals who have learned from their mistakes and want another opportunity in life to make a difference in our society. We are welcoming such folks back into our community with open arms, and letting the public know about their innate skills and talents such as Mr. Meux,” said Morris.

As the AAHCMSJV begins its 25 years celebration for its one-of-a-kind, pictorial gallery, the FPD has joined in partnership with the Museum for the upcoming opening reception with the intention to continue the exhibit as an annual event.

**WHAT: Opening Reception; A tribute to Jack Kelley and the African-American Law Enforcement Officers of the Central Valley featuring the artwork of Marion Meux**

**WHEN: Saturday, July 8, 2017, 4:00 PM -6:00 PM**

**WHERE: African-American Historical & Cultural Museum of SJV 1857 Fulton St., Fresno, CA, 93721**

**COST: \$60.00 membership**

[View some of Meux’s artwork and story:](#)

The Pictorial Exhibit will be available from June 26th - July 29th.

Membership is available on the AAHCMSJV website: [www.aahcmsjv.org](http://www.aahcmsjv.org)

### **About the AAHCMSJV Museum:**

The AAHCMSJV which houses hundreds of historical photographs, artifacts and memorabilia dating back to the 1880's, is known for its documentation of the numerous contributions of local African-Americans from throughout the San Joaquin Valley, profiling them through pictorial exhibits.

**For media inquiries call Gwen Morris: 559-544-1857 -or- visit: <http://www.aahcmsjv.org/>**

## **California's Democratic leaders rebuke Republican Senate health care plan**



**SACRAMENTO, CA --**Three of the Golden State's top Democrats denounced a Republican Senate-promoted health care bill making the rounds in the nation's capital during a conference call with media members on the morning

of June 27.

Governor Jerry Brown and U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris spoke out against the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017, which supporting politicians have geared towards using to overhaul the nation's health care system and rollback the Affordable Care Act (ACA), former President Barack Obama's signature legislation.

Feinstein called the Republican legislation the most indefensible bill she had seen in her 24 years in the Senate. The senator recited the number of Americans that would lose health insurance if the act

became law according to a June 26 report by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

"Twenty-two million Americans would lose their health coverage by 2026," Feinstein said. "That's between three and four million in California with 1.6 million losing insurance next year. California would see the nation's biggest increase in uninsured people next year."

Harris said the health plan gives states a loophole where insurance companies aren't required to cover essential benefits.

"It would not be mandatory to cover treatment for pre-existing conditions," she said. "For example, maternity care for pregnant women, mental health treatment for depression, and outpatient care for folks addicted to drugs including opioid."

During the 27-minute call, the California lawmakers described the 25-page legislation authored by Republicans in closed-door meetings in Washington D.C. earlier this month as "disastrous" and a "junk plan."

Feinstein said there were no public hearings on the measure and didn't know a single word in it until it was unveiled on June 23.

"On lesser bills we hold hearings," she said, "but this bill that impacts everybody and one sixth of our economy is done in secret by 12 white men."

Harris said the act's architects have nothing to be proud of.

"It's no wonder they did it in secret," she said. "It takes health insurance from millions of people. The combined population of 16 states."

The senators and Brown said if the bill is legalized in its current form California's health system - Covered California, the state's health exchange, and Medi-Cal, California's safety net health program – would face dire problems including:

Having to replace around \$24 billion in federal monies by 2026 for Medi-Cal.

Premiums increased by \$619.

One in three or 14 million Californians losing Medi-Cal coverage, including one in two children and special needs people and three in five seniors.

Hospitals facing \$1.6 billion in uncompensated care in 2018. Planned Parenthood barred from receiving federal money.

Feinstein said California would pay more money for less.

"All these cuts are used to make the top one percent richer by giving them billions in tax breaks," she said. "This is a terrible bill, and we must defeat it."

Brown said \$400 billion of the measure's \$700 billion budget reduction would go to tax relief. The governor said if Republicans' goal were to reduce the economy's deficit, they wouldn't give a tax break.

"This is such a political bill," Brown said. "It is very divisive. As I look across the political landscape of California and across the country we're more and more polarized. This is a time when the country should be united. This bill would cut right into the heart of what is a divided nation."

The trio's tongue-lashing of the Republican legislation fell a day after the CBO announced that the

bill would cause 15 million more people to be without insurance compared to the current health law; out-of-pocket expenses and premiums to skyrocket for some low-income Americans and people approaching retirement and reduce Medicaid spending by \$772 billion over the next decade, which is something the administration of President Donald Trump said the proposed health market wouldn't do. The budget office said average premiums would go down mostly because the insurance citizens would pay for would be less valuable. Most Americans buying insurance under the bill would pay more for their care.

The CBO's 49-page report left Republicans with so few promising points that the next day, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky announced a delayed vote on the legislation, which would repeal the ACA, also known as Obamacare.

If a vote on the measure had taken place on Friday, as originally planned, McConnell and other Better Care Reconciliation Act supporters would not have accumulated the necessary votes to move the legislation forward. That pushed Senate consideration of the bill until after a planned recess for Independence Day.

A poll by USA Today and Suffolk University released on June 28 found that only 12 percent of Americans support the controversial health plan. Fifty-three percent say Congress should leave the ACA intact or work to fix its problems while leaving its framework alone.

Feinstein said the fight against "their terrible health care bill" is not over.

"Senator McConnell said he'll continue to try to strike a deal, which is why Democrats will continue to fight against this legislation," she said. "No amount of tinkering will change the fact that this bill would devastate health care in America, and we can't let that happen."

Brown said millions of people will suffer if the legislation becomes law.

"The human impact is we would be a more divided California and more divided America," he said. It's really bad; it's toxic. I just hope the word reaches Republicans."

Feinstein encouraged Californians to call-on U.S. representatives to vote against dismantling President Barack Obama's signature legislation.

"I've always believed there are a couple of things that maybe can be fixed with Obamacare, but the basic bill is a good bill," she said. "It has worked and we have over 10 million more Americans with Obamacare today. Well over, probably 20 million by now."

## Over 40 African-American judges come to Capitol to meet with CLBC

June 28, 2017 | [CBM Staff](#)



**SACRAMENTO, CA--**45 judges come to the State Capitol for their legislative day Monday, June 26.

Judge Michael Carter from the Los Angeles region organized the statewide legislative day to bring the third branch of government to the statehouse.

Judges came from almost every region of the state, and many are appointed or elected. They met with African-American lawmakers and others because of shared interests and helping to share their experience with laws enacted.

Many of the judges were able to participate in tracing their family history in an event held later in the day hosted by the California Legislative Black Caucus celebrating the digital and searchable records of the Freedman's Bureau.

According to the History.com web site the Freedmen's Bureau was established in 1865 by Congress to help former Black slaves and poor whites in the South in the aftermath of the U.S. Civil War (1861-65). Some 4 million slaves gained their freedom as a result of the Union victory in the war, which left

### FREEDOM SCHOOL SUMMER HARVEST CELEBRATION!







**SAT  
JULY 22  
9:00 AM-  
NOON**

**Harvest  
Program**

*Freedom School  
Welcome, Food Tasting,  
Cold Lemonade, Music,  
Special guests and much  
more!*

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Rev Floyd Harris @  
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many communities in ruins and destroyed the South's plantation-based economy. The Freedmen's Bureau provided food, housing, and medical aid, established schools and offered legal assistance. It also attempted to settle former slaves on Confederate lands confiscated or abandoned during the war. However, the bureau was prevented from fully carrying out its programs due to a shortage of funds and personnel, along with the politics of race and Reconstruction. In 1872, Congress, in part under pressure from white Southerners, shut the bureau down.

## Top Cannabis Organizations Declare War with Los Angeles City Council

June 27, 2017 | [Special to CBM by Lukas Lucas](#)



**LOS ANGELES, CA** --The UCBA, UFCW 770 and LA Cannabis Task Force (and their association leaders in Los Angeles) organized a call to arms Monday June 19. The revolution was destined to start at the Los Angeles Athletic

Club because rush hour traffic and expensive parking makes the venue the most inaccessible part of downtown for the public.

The purpose of the workshop was to create a new “hostile” coalition to speak out against the city council’s new proposed cannabis regulations.

Michael Chernis is hailed as one of California’s foremost experts in both federal and California laws relating to cannabis and the growing legal cannabis industry. As Lead counsel for the LA Cannabis Task Force, he sent out a warning to the city council. Chernis said when wanting millions in tax revenue, member stakeholders bring to the cannabis industry to remain in Los Angeles city coffers.

The city council will have to buckle to demands, or the businesses will move outside of Los Angeles. Chernis maintains that the majority of the regulations are “ridiculous” and that the city council is treating stakeholders like “children and second-class citizens.” He repeatedly said that he was just outright “angry,” sentiments in which the association leaders were laying on thick to the stakeholders in attendance.

At one point, Chernis even dipped into the realm of propaganda by saying that Los Angeles city council is more vested in preserving policies to protect the cities controversial sanctuary city status—as opposed to creating policies to protect the well-being of cannabis stakeholders in the same town. All the leaders express extreme disdain and mistrust of the proposed Non-Retail Registry Program.

It simply says, if there is involvement in the commercial medical cannabis industry in Los Angeles as a small or medium grower, or a person who makes cannabis edibles for sick people, notify the city and they will give special consideration and license priority. Jerrod and the new coalition declared war against the proposed Social Equity program, a program in development by the City Council. He whined about how the implementation will “bottleneck” the licensing process.

Jerrod, the UCBA, and their private stakeholders believe the program could impede their opportunity to be first movers in the Los Angeles retail market. He made it clear that he and many of the members of the UCBA are tired of the cannabis business and want to cash out now; but the new proposed regulations would make their golden parachutes impossible.

Ariel Clark, chair of the LA Cannabis Taskforce, shared that building a business on these new rules would be akin to using quicksand for the foundation of that building. Coloured Cannabis is a watchdog group. Founded by Los Angeles cannabis stakeholders.

Our goal is to bring to the public's attention the many disparities suffered by African Americans and Latino families across the United States by the War on Drugs. For more information on how minorities can be successful in the cannabis business in Los Angeles, visit <http://www.colouredcannabis.org>

## California families help convene gathering for justice in Detroit

June 26, 2017 | [By Charlene Muhammad](#) | CBM



**DETROIT, MI**— He's been praying, organizing, protesting, and fighting for justice for almost a decade now; but each

time Cephus "Uncle Bobby" X Johnson embraces a new family affected by police violence, he weeps as if his nephew, Oscar Grant III, was killed by Johannes Mehserle just yesterday.

The tears of many mothers and fathers flowed—not just Johnson's—during the Families United 4 Justice (FU4J) Network gathering held at Allied Media's 19th Annual Conference at Wayne State University.



They wept during a community organizing workshop facilitated by Cat Brooks, a Bay-Area activist/organizer. They told how police killings have and continue to impact them and their families. Many pled for support, particularly when the media and protestors have vanished.

FU4J's one day gathering also featured workshops on topics like legal strategies, addressing shock, self-care, and how to deal with the media. Throughout the day, families worked on the Families Affected by Police Violence Workbook and future toolkit.

Breaks included a wholesome lunch, and much-needed spiritual sessions, which included yoga, and healing techniques, including reiki, acupuncture, and massages.

"What made the major impact in my life, was when Nicholas (Heyward, Sr.) came all the way to L.A. This brother embraced me, didn't even know me from Adam, to let me know he was here to support us, and I never forgot that," Johnson sobbed as he spoke to his unwitting peers about the affliction on his family by the former BART officer on New Year's Day 2009.

"I made sure that I wanted to do the same thing for any family that I could get to help," Johnson said as

he thanked Heyward, who marked the 25th year of his son's death at the hands of Brooklyn, NY police on Sep. 27, 1994.

"For me, it's a very sad—but joyous—occasion because I am so honored to be in the presence of all of these families that refuse to give up the fight and the struggle," Heyward stated, invoking applause from the families.

His 13-year-old son was playing cops and robbers with other children, wielding a colorful, plastic toy gun. "I really felt and believed that this officer was going to jail. I didn't believe that this system was going to allow the police to shoot and kill an innocent child, and not do anything about it," Heyward recalled.

"I've come to learn that they are not here to do any type of protection for us ... It is really going to take us uniting in order to really put an end to this, because we cannot accept the fact that the officers shoot and kill our loved ones and they still are allowed to patrol certain communities. It's just something that no human should accept," he continued.

Johnson and his wife, Beatrice X, co-founders of the Oakland-based Love Not Blood Campaign, co-organized the event so families could connect and unite to support each other, he stated.

The compilation of their experiences and best practices will be made available to those affected by police violence.

"Our volunteers, and our activists, and our organizers, and our volunteers are all so committed, and I think the fact that everybody showed up is a real testament to how strongly they feel about this issue, and how much they really want to support the families on the front lines," said Vanessa "Nissa" Chan, co-organizer of FU4J.

For Janet Baker of Houston, TX, being with families suffering similar ordeals and having access to the attorneys and other resources was everything she's prayed for, ever since her son, Jordan, was killed by police.

Police claimed he matched the description of recent robbery suspects, and an officer who stopped him claimed the 26-year-old charged at him.

Baker said she suffers panic attacks, and her grandson, "Little Jordan," seven at the time, has had stomach problems and trouble sleeping, since his father was killed. Sometimes he goes 24 hours without sleep, she said.

"It's sort of surreal, because I'm in complete and utter amazement of the emotion that drives all of the families for being here ... every little nuance," she said. "I'm getting emotional now just because everybody is pushed in this environment, and you don't know what to do."

Attys. Adante Pointer of Oakland and Angel Harris of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund listened intently as families asked for tips on navigating civil proceedings and what to do about gag orders that prevent them from obtaining necessary information to fight their cases.

Pointer stated two of the biggest challenges he faces in litigating police brutality cases are denial and ignorance.

"The institutions that do not want to accept that they've done wrong, and do everything they can within their power to justify criminal, unlawful, immoral conduct of the police officers and all that they do to try to protect those officers and criminalize the victim of the police brutality," Pointer said.

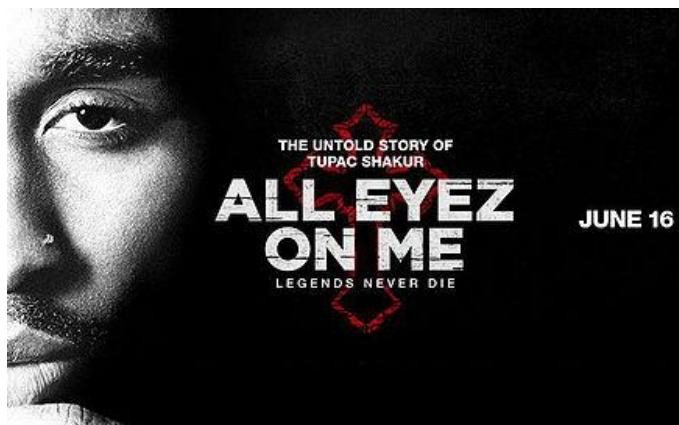
The second is then overcoming the public's ignorance and hesitance to acknowledging the fact that this is a person who was harmed, killed, or

victimized by the police and that it's not a criminal, he continued.

"They didn't do anything to deserve this. They didn't provoke the officers to behave in a particular way. Often times, the public's questions start from what did they do, as opposed to what did the police do," argued Pointer.

## 'All Eyez On Me' is a must see, no matter the opposing reviews

June 22, 2017 [|ONME News - Julia Dudley Najieb](#)



In the carriage of time, the untold stories are remembered and retold by the ones who are left over. Whether it be as accurate as one would want, these stories have many levels of truths and many levels of interpretations recorded through books, oral accounts and films.

*So whose truth does one believe when an icon more famous in death is memorialized through tall-tales and sighting of life, like the singer Elvis?*

New **Tupac Amaru Shakur** biopic movie, *All Eyez On Me*, directed by Benny Boom, screenplay by Steven Bagatourian produced by L.T. Hutton, David C. Robinson, and James G. Robinson with a \$40 million



budget, so far has accumulated \$27 million within the first weekend release in the United States, and the numbers keep climbing: It will be released worldwide at the end of the June.

The astounding storyline of young, talented hip-hop icon, "2PAC," who rose to extreme influential fame within 5 years, selling over 75 million albums worldwide, is too compelling not to watch on the screen. The incredible fact of ripping out four successful albums while he was alive, and seven after his death is even more mind blowing: up to the year 2007, Tupac's estate banked \$9 million. And remember, he was only 25 years-old when he died ...

As a remnant of this past where Tupac was only one year older than me, the movie's timeline, rap song selections and historical placements resonated with my memories so vividly as if I was there—because I was there, in that moment of time.

However the movie reviews express from complete excellence to total disdain: fans are corrupted by their memories which clash with the creative scope of the director's picture painted on the screen. Emotional reviews without reasoning are blasted on blogs, Facebook and other social media platforms. Key players during the life of Tupac Shakur are either unsettled by the depictions in the movie such as his high school friend actress Jada Pinkett Smith or resolved like rappers Snoop Dogg and MC Hammer.

Emotional scenes such as depictions of Tupac's 8 months in a maximum penitentiary facility at age 23 (4 months before his 24th birthday) for an alleged sexual abuse crime (touching the buttocks) which he vehemently insisted on his innocence, helped to explain why he had to sell his soul to record producer, music executive Marion Hugh "Suge" Knight Jr. to get out of jail on bail, signing a three-page handwritten recording contract September 16, 1995 for \$1.4 million dollars to produce 3 albums.

It would be the final blow most fans already knew about when Tupac was shot a second time in a drive-by shooting on the streets of Las Vegas, NV while riding as a passenger in the car with Knight that fatal night of September 7, 1996. He would die six days later an infamous death under his changed name and way of life he coined from his prison experience, Makaveli, the same name of his posthumous successful album.

But there are some positive takeaways from *All Eyez On Me* that cannot be ignored, such as the astounding intelligence, book smarts and exceptional writing skills Tupac had; his mother presented him with tough love through encouragement of writing his thoughts, reading on a variety of world and life topics.

Although not portrayed in the movie, Tupac was fond of the way political philosopher Niccoló Machiavelli would think, and would therefore derive his name "Makaveli."

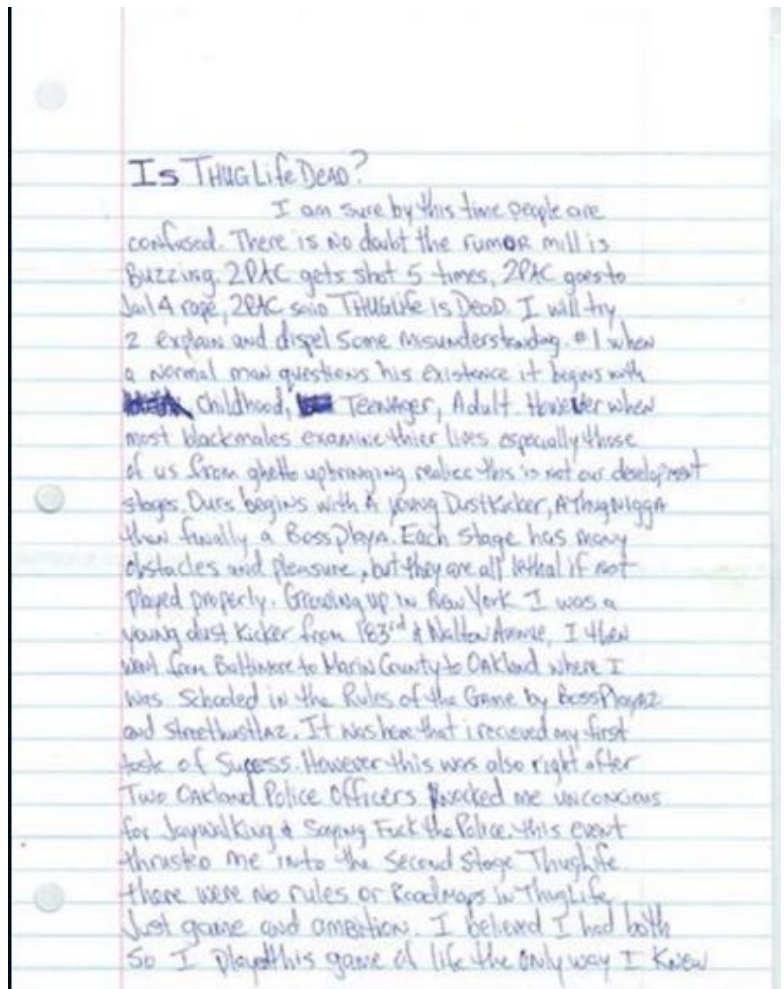
The movie briefly displayed his love of words and affinity for performing and citing Shakespearean plays.

Tupac was a true artisan, dropped in different landscapes as a child where he would have to repaint the picture of his life over and over again, before his masterpieces were complete—his mother's intermittent drug problem implied the interruption of his childhood straight to manhood.

One thing the movie *All Eyez On Me* consistently described was his love for his people, ancestry and history; being proud of who he was as a Black man, instilled graciously by his mother and step-father who were Black Panthers. His upmost respect for women,

especially Black women, as he would mount his mother on the Queen's pedestal in the movie, would serve as an obvious irony for the bunk sexual abuse charge involving an arbitrary woman.

2PAC was an authentic fearless reporter of his daily



reality; he was the voice for the masses of people who had no voice, and no one to hear their echoing pains – and this was revealed in the film. It also depicted the hardship of the Black man and the Black woman—harassment from the FBI, harassment from the local corrupted police, the unfair justice system toward people of color, the devastation of drugs in poor communities, and the severe economic constraints by design in the ghettos.

2PAC was the 20th century lyrical William Shakespeare who created a threatening platform that the majority establishment feared because they did not understand him or his constituents. It was raw. It was uncut. But it was a voice that millions could hear, feel

and know it was real—that is why he sold millions of records. He was born to be the outspoken poetic justice for his time, although short lived – we ALL heard him and still do today.

Perhaps every aspect of Tupac's life was not in this picture, but the essence of the truth was apparent, real and depicted clearly in the film.

Go watch *All Eyez On Me* for its important historical and political indifference references, and portrayal of "2PAC's" talent, drive and success as a role model for the voiceless.

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## **SoCal Music Scene: Dr. Dre Donates Big Dollars to Compton School; LAUSD Music Instructor Worry About Shrinking Budget**

June 20, 2017 | [By Madlen Grgodjaian/CBM](#)



**COMPTON, CA--** Hip-hop and business mogul Dr. Dre has committed to donate \$10 million to help build a performing arts complex at the new Compton High School.

Born and raised in Compton, the six-time Grammy Award-winning artist promised to give all the royalties from his last album, "Compton," to the school to fund the new performing arts and entertainment facility.

"My goal is to provide kids with the kind of tools and learning they deserve," the artist, whose real name is Andre Young said in a statement. "The performing arts center will be a place for young people to be creative in a way that will help further their education and positively define their future."

The June 15 announcement of the hip-hop hit-maker's gift to Compton High, came five days after directors of the Los Angeles Unified School District Beyond the Bell All-City Jazz Band, voiced concern about the lack of funds directed towards music and the arts in schools at the 39th annual Playboy Jazz Festival in Hollywood.

The policy discussion came after the band composed of LAUSD high schoolers gave a rousing performance in front of hundreds of spectators at the Hollywood Bowl.

Vice President of Education and Curriculum Development at the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, Dr. J.B. Dyas, the music group's director, said when music programs are cut academics suffer.

"So much of the argument is, well we need to cut these music programs so we can focus more on academics, but that's not what happens," he said. "Often times, it's these music programs that get these kids to want to go and believe in school in the first place."

The Beyond the Bell Program was created to ensure all LAUSD students have access to enrichment programs that inspire learning beyond regular school hours.

Coordinator for music education at LAUSD Beyond the Bell Branch, Tony White, said it's his job to work with partners such as Dyas to connect kids with quality experiences and education through music and the arts.

"There's been rhetoric about after school programs not being effective," he said. "Here's one program that you heard today that is very effective that is called Beyond the Bell and it goes beyond the walls."

On the national level, the Trump administration proposed budget for the 2018 fiscal year seeks to cut education funding by \$9.2 billion. The cuts would spread across k-12 and aid for higher education.

The administration wants to channel part of the savings into priority top schools. This includes a \$400 million spending increase for charter schools and vouchers for private and religious schools.

To U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, the plan is "an historic investment in America's students."

The budget cuts would come from eliminating at least 22 programs. Cuts will include a \$190-million literacy program, \$27 million in arts education programs, and \$1.2 billion for after-school programs that serve 1.6 million children.

The administration justifies these cuts by saying these programs are duplicative or show no evidence of success. Dyas does not agree with the proposed budget cuts and believes music aids students to become responsible adults.

"It never ceases to amaze me that all the empirical studies that have been done show that the more arts and music education the higher the academics are, less truancy, fewer drug problems, and more kids going to college," he said. "Virtually all these kids you heard today are getting big scholarships. All the graduating seniors; and that's how it's been for the last seven years we've been doing this program."

Among one of the performers at the Playboy Jazz Festival was upright bass player and composer Miles Mosley. Mosley performed with his Los Angeles-based group, The West Coast Get Down.

The Inglewood native learned to play the upright bass in junior high school and was a member of the school orchestra.

"As soon as I picked up that instrument, and my 13-year-old body played the A string, I fell in love with it," he said.

Mosley said when he was in high school, former President Bill Clinton injected quite a bit of funds

towards public schools to supplement for programs that were missing from the curriculum.

Mosley had an affinity for the base and played all through high school. Unbeknownst to him, his dedication to the instrument would land him a huge opportunity.

Mosley graduated from UCLA with a degree in music, and now tours the world with his band, scores for film and television, and works with an array of Grammy-winning artists.

"We were always put into these honor groups or multi-school ensembles, and they would take the best players from all the different schools and put them in one group," said the highly acclaimed bassist. "Through these programs some of which were started by my now managers Barbara Sealy and Bob Brodhead from the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, I received a full ride to UCLA."

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