A bust by sculptor Dana King at Tyrone Carney Park in the Sobrante Park neighborhood of East Oakland honors U.S. Marine Corps PFC Tyrone Carney who died while serving in Vietnam in 1968. Photo Courtesy of OBL.

Revitalized East Oakland Park Honors the Legacy of Tyrone Carney, Killed in Vietnam War

By Carla Thomas

After remaining closed for more than two decades, Tyrone Carney Park reopened Thursday Aug 27, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating a $5 million investment in recreation, wellness and community space in East Oakland.

Oakland Mayor Barbara Lee, District 7 Councilmember Ken Houston, city leaders, community partners and residents gathered at the half-acre park, located at 10501 Acalanes Drive, to commemorate its long-awaited revitalization.

"Revitalizing and reopening Tyrone Carney Park strengthens the Town by expanding youth programs, supporting job training, and improving public health," said Lee said. "Oakland is on

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Blacks and Latinos Clash Over LA's Barrio Run ...

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nity leaders, who said organizers had not adequately consulted local stakeholders. They were also concerned that the gathering, which included plans for a DJ and vendors, would disrupt the Leimert Park Sunday Marketplace and other scheduled activities.

Leimert Park is widely regarded as the cultural heart of Black Los Angeles. Its weekly marketplace, food vendors and drum circle have long provided an economic and cultural gathering place for Black residents. That history, compounded with lingering concerns about gentrification and the city's declining Black population, intensified sensitivity to the event's promotion.

"This is a historic Black district which we fought for and built up, its arts district, its cultural hub," KBLA radio host Dominique DiPrima told a local L.A. news station.

"You're saying that you're going to "take over" is sort of like the last stand for Black LA is problematic."

In another widely circulated video, a woman warned organizers, "We don't want you to come into Africa Town," adding that they would be "met with resistance from the Black community." A separate Black social media user suggested, "We should call ICE," drawing condemnation amid federal immigration enforcement concerns affecting Latino communities.

Barrio Athletics said it did not condone "racism, violence or hate." Black and Latino community organizers later joined the group for what local L.A. radio station KJLH described as a "tough but necessary conversation."

KJLH posted a video of the discussion.

Following "careful conversation with community leaders," Barrio Athletics relocated the run to Elysian Park "to respect Leimert Park and the surrounding community."

Bass denied claims that she had ordered the move, saying she had not known about the dispute before its resolution.

"Bringing people across racial, cultural and neighborhood lines together has been the foundation of my life's work," Bass said, "and it continues to guide how I lead this city today."

Opinion:

Legacy of Racial Terror Lives on in U.S. South

Nolan Wells. File photo.

By Krista Chan

The legacy of lynchings and racial terror in the American South persists in 2026 amid several suspicious deaths of young Black Americans that families say local authorities have inadequately investigated.

The most prominent case is that of Nolan Wells, an 18-year-old Black man whose body was found July 6 on Horn Island, off the Mississippi Gulf Coast, after a Fourth of July trip with three White friends.

The NAACP joined the legal team representing Wells' family alongside civil rights attorney Ben Crump. The family has raised questions about discrepancies surrounding Wells' final hours, including why his phone was found with one of his friends. An independent autopsy found that his "manner of death remained undetermined."

At a vigil commemorating Wells' 19th birthday, the Rev. Jamal Harrison Bryant said, "To go from Medgar Evers to Emmett Till, to Nolan Wells, the blood stops here."

Till's 1955 murder helped galvanize the Civil Rights Movement, but thousands of lynchings went unreported. According to the Equal Justice Initiative, 4,084 racial terror lynchings occurred across 12 Southern states from 1877 to 1950. White perpetrators were rarely held accountable.

The Congressional Black Caucus has urged U.S. Attorney General Todd Blanche and FBI Director Kash Patel to launch an independent federal review of Wells' death. That request comes as the Trump administration has dismantled diversity, equity and inclusion programs and shifted the Justice Department's civil rights priorities.

Wells' case is not isolated. Crump is also representing the families of Daniel Erving and Tyler Smith — three 18-year-old Black men who died within three months.

Erving, of Sachse, Texas, died April 14 at Lake Ray Hubbard after jumping from a railroad bridge with friends. His death was ruled an accidental drowning, a finding his mother disputes.

"The autopsy report shows my son had an unobstructed airway, so my son did not drown," Tameca Erving said.

Two people were later charged with tampering with evidence after allegedly discarding his clothing and cellphone.

Smith, of Lexington, Kentucky, died July 4 from what police described as an accidental self-inflicted gunshot. His family disputes that account. Police records indicate that the recovered firearm did not match the shell casing found at the scene. A 20-year-old man has been charged with tampering with evidence.

Crump has described the three cases as a troubling pattern requiring national attention.

On Aug. 3, Tasia Fortune, a 29-year-old Black mother of four, was found hanging from a tree behind a vacant home in Jackson, Mississippi. Her mother, Christy Spivey, insists her daughter did not take her own life.

Fortune's death follows two other cases involving Black people found hanging from trees in Mississippi within the past year. In September 2025, Demartravion "Trey" Reed was found hanging at Delta State University, and Cory Zukatis was found hanging in Vicksburg. Authorities ruled both deaths suicides.

This history explains why these deaths evoke fear and distrust. Fortune's case remains under investigation, while the Justice Department and FBI have not publicly announced an independent review of Wells' death.

About the Author

Krista Chan is a civic technology professional and Chinese medicine student in Oakland. She writes and organizes around global peace and racial justice.

Tarsha Jordan and Tarsha Jordan's Bonita the Bumblebee. Photos by Carla Thomas.

Tarsha Jordan's Bonita the Bumblebee Brings STEAM Learning to Life

By Carla Thomas

For educator, childcare provider and children's author Tarsha Jordan, Bonita the Bumblebee is much more than a colorful storybook character. The cheerful bee has become a teaching tool, a comforting friend and a creative way for children to explore their emotions, navigate life changes and discover the world around them.

Jordan's inspiration for Bonita grew from her lifelong commitment to children and education. With more than 30 years of experience as an educator and administrator, she operates Kindergarten Readiness Academy, a licensed family childcare program in Oakland's Longfellow neighborhood. The academy prepares young children socially, emotionally and academically for school.

Her firsthand experience has given Jordan a deep understanding of how children communicate, what captures their attention and how stories can open conversations young readers may not otherwise know how to begin.

Jordan describes her mission as developing lifelong learners who love reading while introducing children to relatable characters. Bonita fulfills that mission by addressing real-life experiences in language children can understand.

In "Bonita The Bumble Bee and the Quarantine," Jordan helped young readers process the uncertainty and isolation surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. In a later book about returning to school, Bonita guided children through changing routines, expectations and emotions. Designed to promote social-emotional development and mental health awareness, editions were made available in English, Spanish and Mandarin.

Bonita's impact becomes even more immediate when children meet the character in person. Jordan recently hosted a Mommy and Me children's tea party at Bay Street Emeryville, where Bonita buzzed around the event, greeted young guests and brought the literary character to life.

"The children can interact with the character, experience the excitement of seeing a familiar literary friend come to life and develop an even stronger connection with reading," Jordan said.

For children of color, that connection carries another important dimension: representation. Children benefit from seeing themselves reflected in books, educational environments, imaginative characters and the people creating those stories.

Jordan also believes Bonita expands children's imaginations and encourages them to envision new possibilities.

"When children of color see authors that look like them creating books, building educational programs and bringing original characters into their communities, they are exposed to the possibilities beyond the story itself," Jordan said. "They can begin to imagine themselves as writers, educators, entrepreneurs, artists and creators."

Founded to introduce STEAM, (science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics) to children in transitional kindergarten through third grade, Bonita The Bumble Bee also addresses neurodivergent behaviors.

Known to young learners as "Teacher Tarsha," Jordan combines Bonita's whimsical personality with hands-on experiments and activities for children ages 3 to 8. The experiences promote early literacy, strengthen problem-solving skills and give children tools for managing their emotional health.

Jordan holds master's degrees in education and public administration and is pursuing a doctorate in education. Her academic preparation and extensive classroom experience help her create programs that are both engaging and developmentally meaningful.

"We're hoping to take Bonita to the next level and welcome new partnerships," Jordan said.

Visit BonitaTheBumbleBee.com.

NOTICE AND DIGEST

ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REENACTING ORDINANCE NO. 13561 C.M.S. FOR THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION TO ENABLE QUORUM WITH A MAJORITY OF APPOINTED MEMBERS, ESTABLISH ITS AUTHORITY TO CREATE STANDING COMMITTEES, ALLOW THE COMMISSION TO APPOINT THE CHAIRPERSON, AND OTHER CLARIFYING EDITS

This Ordinance would amend and restate Ordinance No. 13561 C.M.S. to update the enabling legislation of the Cultural Affairs Commission. The Ordinance would clarify the authority of the Cultural Affairs Commission to create standing committees subject to City Administrator approval, make other clarifying edits regarding the scope of the Commission, allow the Commission to appoint the chairperson directly, and revise quorum to a simple majority of appointed members but no fewer than four members.

Notice of Publication

This Ordinance was introduced at the City Council meeting, Tuesday evening, July 21, 2026, and passed to print 6 Ayes; 2 Excused: Fife and Jenkins. Final adoption has been scheduled for the City Council meeting Tuesday evening September 15, 2026, 3:30 P.M., at One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Council Chamber, 3rd floor, Oakland, California, and via Teleconference.

Three full copies are available for use and examination by the public in the Office of the City Clerk at One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 1st floor, Oakland, California.

ASHA REED, City Clerk

Publication Date: **Friday, September 11, 2026.**

(One Time)

NOTICE AND DIGEST

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FORGIVENESS OF OUTSTANDING AND FUTURE RENT BALANCES IN AN AMOUNT OF UP TO $40,000 FOR SEMINARY POINT, LLC, PURSUANT TO A GROUND LEASE WITH THE CITY, CONTINGENT ON THE SALE OR TRANSFER OF THE LEASEHOLD INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY TO A QUALIFIED PURCHASER; AND MAKING CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT FINDINGS

This is an Ordinance (a) authorizing the forgiveness of the outstanding rent balance of Twenty-Nine Thousand Dollars ($29,000) and future rent up to Eleven Thousand Dollars ($11,000) for Seminary Point, LLC, pursuant to a ground lease with the City, as of the date of, and contingent on, the sale or transfer of the leasehold interest in the property to a qualified purchaser and (b) making California Environmental Quality Act findings.

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