

Cities Can’t Punish Outreach Workers...

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on homeless encampments. The City of Fremont earlier this year briefly made “aiding, abetting or concealing” an illegal homeless encampment a misdemeanor. Its City Council later walked back that language – after CalMatters first reported it – but it made a lasting impression on state legislators. The legislation follows a state-

wide push toward the increased policing of homeless Californians. In 2024, the U.S. Supreme Court gave cities more power to cite and arrest people for sleeping outside, even if they have no shelter available. Since then, arrests and citations for homelessness-related offenses have soared in cities across the state.

TICKETS ON SALE 01/02/26

INSPIRED ARTISTS

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

ERROLL JACKSON ENTERPRISE

Valentine's Weekend

Bay Area

Black Comedy

COMPETITION & FESTIVAL

2026

February 10th-15th

2020 FINALS

"UNFINISHED BUSINESS"

Tuesday 10th 7:00PM

PRELIMINARIES

Wed 11th & Thurs 12th

Round 1A & 1B Round 1B & 1C

6:00PM & 8:30PM

AWARDS

Sunday 15th

Inspired Artists Awards Reception

5:00PM

SEMIFINALS

Fri 13th & Sat 14th

Semifinales 2A & 2B

8:00PM

FINALS

Sunday 15th

Competition Finals

7:00PM

Get More Info and Tickets at: hjkarts.org

Henry J Kaiser Center For The Arts, 10 10th St, Oakland, CA

BLACKCOMEDYCOMPETITION.COM

GET TICKETS



Trump Administration Backs Away from Efforts to Federalize, Deploy California National Guard ...

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Court in a related case, Illinois v. Trump, rejecting its nearly limitless conception of presidential authority to federalize the National Guard and the activities those troops can engage in.

The deployment of California National Guard troops ended earlier this month after the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit refused to pause the District Court’s preliminary injunction order with respect to the deployment, but the troops remained federalized. With today’s filing, the Trump administration agrees to allow the District Court’s order with regard to the federalization of these troops to go into effect, allowing for the return of command of these troops to Governor Gavin Newsom for the first time since they were initially federalized in early June.

“For six months, California National Guard troops have been used as political pawns by a President desperate to be king. From the political display in MacArthur Park to their unlawful participation in indis-

criminate immigration raids, the militaristic deployment of National Guard troops to Los Angeles streets has left lasting scars in Angeleno communities.

“There is a reason our founders decided military and civilian affairs must be kept separate; a reason that our military is, by design, apolitical,” said Bonta. “Now, in the face of a stinging rebuke by the U.S. Supreme Court, the Trump administration is backing away from its efforts to federalize and deploy California National Guard troops.

“I’m incredibly proud of my team who worked nights and weekends to defend the Constitution and bring about an end of the President’s unlawful overreach of executive power. While our rule of law remains under threat, our democratic institutions are holding. My office is not backing down — and we’re ready for whatever fights lie ahead.”

California Attorney General Rob Bonta’s media relations office is the source of this report.



Youth Uprising’s Digital Program ...

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tal literacy resources, and support needed to thrive in today’s connected world.

Low-Cost Home Internet Is Available

You or someone in your household may qualify for low-cost home internet if you participate in an assistance program. Eligibility requires enrollment in at least one of the following:

- CalFresh
- Lifeline
- Medi-Cal or Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- NSLP (Free or Reduced School Lunch Program)
- Pell Grant

Find Internet Providers Near You

Search for affordable broadband options in your area at: InternetForAllNow.org

Need help enrolling or have questions? Get Connected Call Center: 408-716-3811

Free Digital Literacy Classes

Build your digital skills with free online classes, available to youth, adults, and families: getconnected.digitallearn.org

Access for Our Whole Community

This program is available to youth, families, and community members, with information and support offered in English and Spanish, helping reduce barriers to connectivity and opportunity.

Why It Matters

Reliable internet access opens doors—to school success, job readiness, telehealth, and staying connected to loved ones. Youth UpRising is proud to partner with community and statewide initiatives to ensure digital equity for East Oakland and beyond.

grappling with uncertainty.

This year’s BOEN event brought together elders, families, and youth from across the Bay

Brotherhood of Elders Network Honor Tradition, Resilience ...

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and youth from across the Bay Area for an evening that blended ceremony, reflection, and togetherness. Attendees gathered around the symbolic kinara for the lighting of the Kwanzaa candles, each flame representing one of the Nguzo Saba, the seven principles of Kwanzaa.

The principle of Kujichagulia – self-determination – gave the celebration its theme and guided the stories, performances, and lessons shared throughout the evening.

Guests enjoyed the rhythmic pulse of African drumming and the grace of traditional African dance. Dancers at one point invited audience members to join in.

Speakers and storytellers offered powerful reflections on identity and perseverance, drawing connections between the struggle of previous generations and the challenges of today.

The community paid tribute to cultural icons and elders through a libation ceremony, honoring the spirits of multiple community members including the late D’Wayne Wiggins and park ranger Betty Reid Soskin, and others whose legacies of artistry and activism inspired those present.

Speakers also reflected on the deeper meaning of Kwanzaa’s 59th anniversary. They recalled the era of segregation and the hard-won integration that, while opening doors, also disrupted the self-sustaining Black communities that once thrived.

Invoking Frederick Douglass’s wisdom, “It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men,” elders emphasized the urgent need to strengthen families and reinvest in youth development.



Undated photo of Oakland Mayor Barbara Lee with U.S. Rep. Ayanna Pressley. Image courtesy National Impact Spotlight.

Legacy of Black Women in Congress Highlighted in New Film Premiering in Oakland in 2026

By Post Staff

As part of the 2026 National Impact Spotlight, Oakland Mayor Barbara Lee’s ‘Speaking Truth to Power’ community will expand its work with the launch of the new film “She Dared to Dream: Ayanna Pressley.”

Released in August, the documentary is about U.S. Ayanna Soyini Pressley, 51, the first Black woman to serve on the City Council in Boston, Massachusetts, who would become the first Black woman to elected to Congress in the state in 2019.

She rapidly became known as one of the members of ‘The Squad,’ a group of newly elected progressive women of color that included New York’s Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Minnesota’s Ilhan Omar, and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan who were all pushing for Medicare for All and the Green New Deal.

Her tenure overlapped with Lee, who represented California’s 12th District until 2024 when she stepped down after running for the U.S. Senate. The women,

They urged the audience to embrace the concept of Sankofa by the Akan people of Ghana, which means to look back and reclaim the lessons of the past in order to move forward with purpose.

Throughout the evening, a spirit of Ubuntu, “I am because we are,” anchored the gathering. Elders spoke about collective healing and the importance of relearning emotional intelligence as a means of strengthening community bonds.

“Service is the rent you pay for your time on earth,” one speaker reminded the crowd, echoing generations of Black leaders who linked personal responsibility with community survival.

Guests enjoyed a buffet-style dinner of smoked chicken, roasted vegetables, beans, rice, and hibiscus tea. Children’s activities gave families a chance to connect and celebrate together, reinforcing BOEN’s mission to create spaces where the divine masculinity of Black boys and men is a foundational strength in the community.

BOEN continues to enact the principles of Kwanzaa on a daily basis with its commitment to advocacy, cultural preservation, and community wellness through its early support of the African American Male Achievement Initiative, now Kingmakers of Oakland.

BOEN’s Bese Saka Initiative in partnership with the San Francisco Foundation, supports 18 Black-led organizations. Rise East’s 40 x 40 Council implements the infrastructural reinvention of Deep East Oakland and creation of the Black Youth Development (BYD) Program.

For more information visit BrotherhoodofElders.net

NOTICE AND DIGEST

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SALARY SCHEDULE OF ORDINANCE NO. 12187 C.M.S. (“SALARY ORDINANCE”) TO: (A) ADD THE FULL-TIME CLASSIFICATION OF PAYROLL ADMINISTRATOR; AND (B) ADD THE FULL-TIME CLASSIFICATION OF PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTS ADMINISTRATOR; AND (C) AMEND THE SALARY OF THE FULL-TIME CLASSIFICATION OF PARK EQUIPMENT OPERATOR; AND (D) AMEND THE SALARY OF THE PART-TIME CLASSIFICATION OF SENIOR AIDE, PT TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE CITY OF OAKLAND’S MINIMUM WAGE ORDINANCE.

This ordinance authorizes changes to the City’s Classification Plan as shown in the City’s Salary

Schedule to add new classifications and amend existing titles and salary rates. One department is requesting new classifications to align with operational and service delivery needs. This applies to the Payroll Administrator and Procurement and Contracts Administrator classifications. The pay rate for the Park Equipment Operator is being modified to align with the salary rate of the similarly situated classification of Heavy Equipment Operator due to changes in the City’s equipment and the need to comply with commercial driver’s license requirements as governed by the California Department of Motor Vehicles. Lastly, the pay rate for the Senior Aide, PT classification is being raised to align with the City of Oakland’s new minimum wage rate that will take effect January 1, 2026 per requirements in Measure FF and the Oakland Municipal Code Section 5.92.

Notice of Publication

This Ordinance was introduced at the City Council meeting, Tuesday evening, **December 16, 2025**, and passed to print **8 Ayes**; Final adoption has been scheduled for the City Council meeting Tuesday evening **January 6, 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

NOTICE AND DIGEST

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OAKLAND CAMPAIGN REFORM ACT (OAKLAND MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 3, MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, ARTICLE III, CHAPTER 3.12) TO 1) AMEND SECTION 3.12.045 TO INCREASE THE CONTRIBUTION LIMITS TO OFFICEHOLDER FUNDS TO MATCH THE TEMPORARILY INCREASED LIMITS TO CANDIDATES AND CANDIDATE-CONTROLLED COMMITTEES AND TO EXTEND THE SUNSET DATE; AND 2) AMEND SECTION 3.12.150 TO CLARIFY THAT OFFICEHOLDER EXPENDITURES MAY NOT BE USED FOR MAILING WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF ANY ELECTION FOR WHICH THE ELECTED OFFICIAL IS RUNNING FOR CITY OFFICE.

This Ordinance amends section 3.12.045 of the Oakland Campaign Reform Act, Title 3, Article III, Chapter 3.12 of the Oakland Municipal Code, to temporarily increase the contribution limits to officeholder expense funds to match the temporarily increased limits to candidates and candidate-controlled committees set forth in 3.12.045 and to extend the sunset date of that temporary section (3.12.045) by six months to December 31, 2029. This Ordinance also amends OMC section 3.12.150 to clarify that officeholder expenditures may not be used for any mailings within three months of any election for which the elected official is running for City office.

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