



District 5: Summer News & Updates

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1221 Oak St., Suite 536
Oakland, CA 94612
Tel. (510) 272-6695
Fax (510) 271-5151
dist5@acgov.org

The Fifth District includes the cities of Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville and Piedmont; the West Oakland, North Oakland and Rockridge communities and portions of the Grand Lake, Manzanita, Dimond District and Fruitvale neighborhoods.

Dear Friends,

In June a final budget for the State and the County will be passed. This newsletter provides a summary about strategies being used to close the County's funding gap.

A health and wellness resource event took place earlier this month as part of the "Year of the African American Male" initiative and "Green Citizen" along with "Urban Furniture" were acknowledged by the Board of Supervisors as part of my "Let's Work" initiative.

Every year the California State Association of Counties honors innovative county programs. Highlights from the most recent awards can be found in this issue.

Also learn more about the Alameda County Health Pipeline Partnership (ACHPP), a collaborative network of programs that strives to increase diversity in health professions, as well as the upcoming Mental Health First Aid education program.

Check out the photos from our community activities and please share the highlights with your family, friends, and networks. I welcome your thoughts and feedback. You can reach us at (510) 272-6695 or dist5@acgov.org.

Sincerely yours,

Keith Carson

Supervisor, District 5

"LET'S WORK" CAMPAIGN



Supervisor Keith Carson honored Mr. James Kao of "Green Citizen" and Ms. Tracey Weaver and Ms. Sandy Carvahlo of Urban Furniture at the June 9, 2015 Board of Supervisors meeting as part of the "Let's Work" Campaign.

"Let's Work" is an initiative for recognition of diverse Employment in Alameda County. Quarterly I will be recognizing employers who demonstrate leadership by hiring individuals that have barriers to employment.

GREEN CITIZEN

Green Citizen, an eco-recycling company with recycling centers across the Bay Area, has been recognized and given many accolades for their commitment to sustainable environments and communities. Green Citizen works to stop the accumulation of electronic waste and refurbish usable parts and sell at an economically feasible price. Green Citizen also strives to create a sustainable workforce. For many years, Green Citizen has hired employees from job training sites across the bay area and many have been placed at Green Citizen's Berkeley Eco-Center.

URBAN FURNITURE

Urban Furniture was established in Oakland's historic Grand Lake commercial district to educate, employ, and empower its workforce. As a thrift store selling gently used furniture, Urban Furniture goes over and beyond to employ a workforce that reflects the diversity of the Bay Area.



Urban Furniture trains and employs low to moderate income single mothers in Oakland to empower them to become self-sufficient, economically and socially independent, but also contributing members of their communities. These mothers are empowered and trained to count money and negotiate prices and discounts with customers. These mothers are also trained to assess and identify the needs of customers.



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@Supervisor_KeithCarson

County News

ALAMEDA COUNTY BUDGET

Oakland—Alameda County Administrator Susan Muranishi announced plans to close the \$65 million funding gap for the 2015/2016 fiscal year in a special meeting of the Board of Supervisors on June 9, 2015. Proposed budget balancing strategies include reductions in the following program areas: \$14.8 million from General Government, \$15.8 million from Health Care, \$14.7 million from Public Assistance, and \$19.8 million from Public Protection.

Sales taxes, property taxes, and corporate taxes created a surplus revenue stream in the California State budget that will be used to fund education per Prop 98 and the state's rainy day fund, Prop 2. Other revenues have come in the form of vehicle taxes and personal income taxes.

However, as noted by Muranishi, much of the revenue will unfortunately not be used for the currently underfunded County social programs impacted by the recession. While the unemployment in the county has dropped to 4.5%, half of what it was in 2012, a recent report by the Economic Policy Institute states that income for the working poor has remained stagnant. This not only impacts county services such as Cal Fresh, Medi-Cal, and Cal WORKs but can have long term impacts on the County's revenues in the face of possible future recessions.

According to the County Administrator's memo to the Board of Supervisors regarding the proposed budget she notes; "We also know that when another recession hits, it will be double jeopardy for counties – as safety net providers, the demand for our services will rise at the same time that County revenues decline, severely limiting our ability to support the need."

Economic growth is anticipated for the next few years, yet the County will remain reserved in managing its budget. "While there is a surplus in the state budget the County is still dealing with a \$65 million dollar gap," noted Supervisor Keith Carson, Chair of the Budget Workgroup. "The County has to cut from major areas such as health care, public assistance, and public protection to balance the budget, and these are services we are still responsible for providing."

Supervisor Carson encourages individuals that receive County services as well as community based organizations that support constituents in the impacted budget areas to provide input at the upcoming budget hearings in June.

Budget hearings will take place in the Board Chambers at the County Building on the followings dates:

Monday, June 22, 2015 11:00am
Opening Comments, Health Care, Public Assistance

Tuesday, June 23, 2015 2:00pm
Public Protection, General Government, Other Issues

Wednesday, June 24, 2015 1:00pm
Final Deliberations

Friday, June 26, 2015 11:00am
Final Budget Adoption

All hearings are open to the public

For more information, please call (510) 272-6695
or visit <http://budget.acgov.org>

BOARDS/ COMMISSIONS VACANCIES

Human Relations Commission - Vacancy: 3 seats

The mission of this Commission is to preserve human rights and work to foster mutual respect for all people who live or work in Alameda County.

Consumer Affairs Commission - Vacancy: 1 seat

The purpose of this commission is to promote and protect the best interests of the consumer public, to encourage the highest standards in the business community and to develop a high level of consumer awareness.

Advisory Commission on Aging - Vacancy: 1 seat

This commission takes positions on matters pertaining to federal, state and local policies, programs and procedures, and any legislation affecting older persons.

Arts Commission - Vacancy: 1 seat

The Arts Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors concerning the arts and cultural environment in the County

For complete listings please visit <http://www.acgov.org/bc/>
Or call (510) 272-6695

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS
RESOURCE EVENT**

Alameda County Supervisor Carson hosted this event as part of his “Year of the African American Male” initiative to create opportunities for African American men to access free health screenings, including HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, prostate, dental, diabetes, and blood pressure, enroll in Cal Fresh and Medi-Cal, learn about preventive health care and enjoy a great, free dinner. Attendees were enthusiastic and grateful for these rare opportunities.



EMS Corps conducting blood pressure screenings at the event

Supervisor Carson spoke to the gathering and laid out a series of alarming statistics about the current status of the health of African American men. “According to a report released by the Alameda County Public Health Department,” he pointed out, “one in three African American males is obese; one in four has high blood pressure; their lung cancer death rate is 1.6 times the rate of other demographics; and, in terms of prostate cancer, there is a significantly higher death rate among African American and Latino males than among whites or Asians.”

In general, African American males in the United States are disproportionately affected by major health issues, including stroke, heart disease, HIV/AIDS and cancer, and have the least ability to access quality medical care. These dire health concerns impact life expectancy rates, the quality of life among African American males, and the ability for them to interact positively in their communities.

The preventive care panel included guest speakers Dr. Mark Alexander, addressing prostate health; Dr. Geoffrey Watson, who tested the audience with a health quiz; Dr. Anthony Jones, speaking on Hepatitis C and HIV; and Ms. Shelly Stinson of the Alameda County Public Health Department speaking on sexually transmitted diseases and safe sex practices for young adults.



Dr. Geoffrey Watson speaking at the Year of the African American Male Health and Wellness Resource Event

County Public Health Department speaking on sexually transmitted diseases and safe sex practices for young adults.

Panelist Dr. Geoffrey Watson, from Preventive Care Pathways, specifically addressed the need for African American men to overcome their nervousness with regards to getting regular preventive check-ups for health issues such as prostate cancer.



“We have a better chance of reducing the spread of prostate cancer if we have a vegetarian, low-fat diet,” said Dr. Watson. “A PSA test is helpful in diagnosing prostate cancer. A normal number is 4 or below, if it gets above 4 you may want to have further testing done.”

The “Year of the African American Male” initiative is a vehicle for individuals and organizations to work collaboratively towards improving outcomes in the areas of health, fatherhood, education, mentoring, workforce development, criminal justice and re-entry. This is one in a series of free community engagement events focused on the key areas that will take place throughout 2015. For a schedule of events please visit <http://keithcarson.org/Year-of-the-African-American-Male>.

CSAC AWARDS



California State Association of Counties Challenge award winner

Merit Award: H.E.A.T Watch Community Initiative - DA's Office

“Each year, CSAC honors the most innovative programs developed and implemented by California Counties through our Challenge Awards.

These unique awards recognize the innovative and creative spirit of California county governments as they find innovative, effective and cost-saving ways to provide programs and services to their citizens.”

<http://www.counties.org/challenge-awards>

ALAMEDA COUNTY HEALTH PIPELINE PARTNERSHIP

The Alameda County Health Pipeline Partnership (ACHPP) is a collaborative network of programs, educators, policymakers, foundations, and organizations in the Bay Area which strive to increase diversity in health professions by providing underrepresented youth with access to work based learning opportunities and resources. Among the partnership, there are over a dozen programs which serve youth with the vision to have a healthy workforce that reflects the rich ethnic and cultural diversity of the community. These programs serve a dual purpose by addressing inequities in racial and ethnic health, and providing underrepresented minority youth with a pathway to education and sustainable careers that is currently unmet.

The Health Excellence & Academic Leadership, or the **HEAL Program** promotes healthy living by exposure to health care industry careers. The HEAL Program provides exposure to experiential health care workforce development opportunities for more than 150 public school students/year ranging from eighth grade through college and representing 15 East Bay schools. HEAL has provided more than 1,200 paid internships and served more than 6,000 youth since 1991.

ACHPP is specifically looking to pre-select 2 young males of color in high school who are interested in taking a leadership role in the health care setting. These students would participate in the HEAL program at Highland Hospital under the direction of Andria Batise and work with a Health Career Connection college intern to fulfill another summer project. This is a paid summer internship.

Eligibility:

- Ninth graders** transitioning into 10th grade
- Tenth graders** transitioning into 11th grade
- Eleventh graders** transitioning into 12th grade
- Twelfth graders** transitioning into postsecondary education

Duration: Summer program throughout June 29-August13, 2015

To apply contact Darla Vang at Darla.Vang@acgov.org

ACHPP is also seeking stakeholders who share our mission to diversify the health workforce and want to serve on our industry advisory council. If you are interested or have questions, please contact 510-618-2043.



MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

Mental Health First Aid is a groundbreaking public education program that helps the public identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health issues and substance use disorders.

Mental Health First Aid presents an overview of mental health issues and substance use disorders in the U.S. and introduces participants to risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems, builds understanding of their impact, and provides an overview of common treatments.

You will be taught a 5-step action plan encompassing the skills, resources and knowledge to help an individual in crisis connect with appropriate professional, peer, social, and self-help care.

DATE: Monday & Tuesday, July 20-21, 2015
TIME: 9AM - 1PM

LOCATION:
Asian Community Mental Health Services
310 8th St, Room 101
Oakland, CA 94607

PRE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
For more information or to register, Contact:
Catherine Powell: Catherinep@acmhs.org
Tammy Leung Luster: Tammyl@acmhs.org

