

# Inglewood *N*ews



The Weekly Newspaper of Inglewood

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## Inside This Issue

Certified & Licensed Professionals ..... 8

Classifieds ..... 3

Community Briefs ..... 3

Hawthorne Happenings ... 3

Legals ..... 6-7

Pets ..... 5

Sports ..... 4

## Formerly Incarcerated Adults Graduate from Career Pathways Academy



The 26 proud graduates of the South Bay Workforce Investment Board-sponsored Career Pathways Job Preparation Academy posed with instructors and SBWIB Chairman of the Board Wayne Spencer (at top left) April 21 at the Inglewood One-Stop Business & Career Center. The week-long Career Pathways 180 Job Preparation Academy helped the recent parolees overcome barriers in preparing for job interviews and provided them with tools to get back into the workforce. Photo Provided by SBWIB

## Inglewood Mayor Adjourns Council Meeting After Only 15 Minutes

By Cristian Vasquez

In a very short but eventful city council meeting, Inglewood Mayor James T. Butts adjourned the proceedings early when a resident speaking during the public comment period didn't walk away from the microphone fast enough. Shortly after the beginning of the weekly meeting, Michael Wilson with the Youth Justice Coalition approached the podium and directed a question to City Treasurer Wanda M. Brown. Upon answering the question, Wilson's timer reached zero at which point Mayor Butts told Wilson to step away from the microphone.

"In my eyes I wasn't hostile or rude--I was speaking to an elder [Brown], so I show respect to her," Wilson said. "I was very interested in her investments and when she spoke about how her investments did well and had a turnover, I wanted to give her accolades. Instead I was vilified instantly."

When Wilson asked if he could have an extra 20 seconds, which ticked away when Brown was answering his question, Mayor Butts repeated that Wilson's time was over only to shortly thereafter adjourn the meeting. Immediately after, a group of six police officers walked into the room and stood between the Council dais, which at that point was empty, and Wilson--and what was left of an audience. At that point one person in attendance held up pictures of Kisha Michael and Marquintan Sandlin, who were shot and killed by Inglewood Police officers in February 2016. Another gentleman recorded the incident as several other attendees stood in solidarity with the woman holding the pictures of the slain couple.

"I was here in solidarity with people who want questions to be answered regarding these questionable deaths of two young people sleeping

in their car," Wilson added. "Is Inglewood turning into a cover-up from the top city?"

The meeting, which was adjourned at 2:15 p.m., ended with the mayor and councilmembers leaving the chambers, not to return, in response to a resident's ongoing request for more time to speak. After a 20-minute wait, the lights were turned off and doors to the council room locked as the group of six asking questions about the police-involved shootings took the elevators downstairs.

In the past Wilson has used public comment to demand answers regarding the death of Michael and Sandlin and was present at this week's meeting in solidarity with Black Lives

Matters supporters, who ask the community to do the same during every council meeting. "Inglewood shouldn't be scared of a community wanting more communication," said Wilson. "We have an absolute right to give open comments in an open forum."

Michael (31), a mother of three boys, died at the scene while her partner Sandlin (32), a father of four girls, died later in a hospital. They were killed on February 21, 2016, but few to no answers have been provided regarding the police officers' actions that night on Manchester Boulevard and Inglewood Avenue.

See City Council page 8

## Weekend Forecast

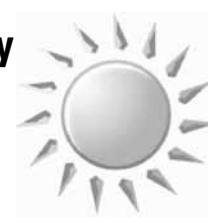
Friday



Sunny

66°/55°

Saturday



Sunny

68°/55°

Sunday



Partly

Cloudy

67°/54°

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